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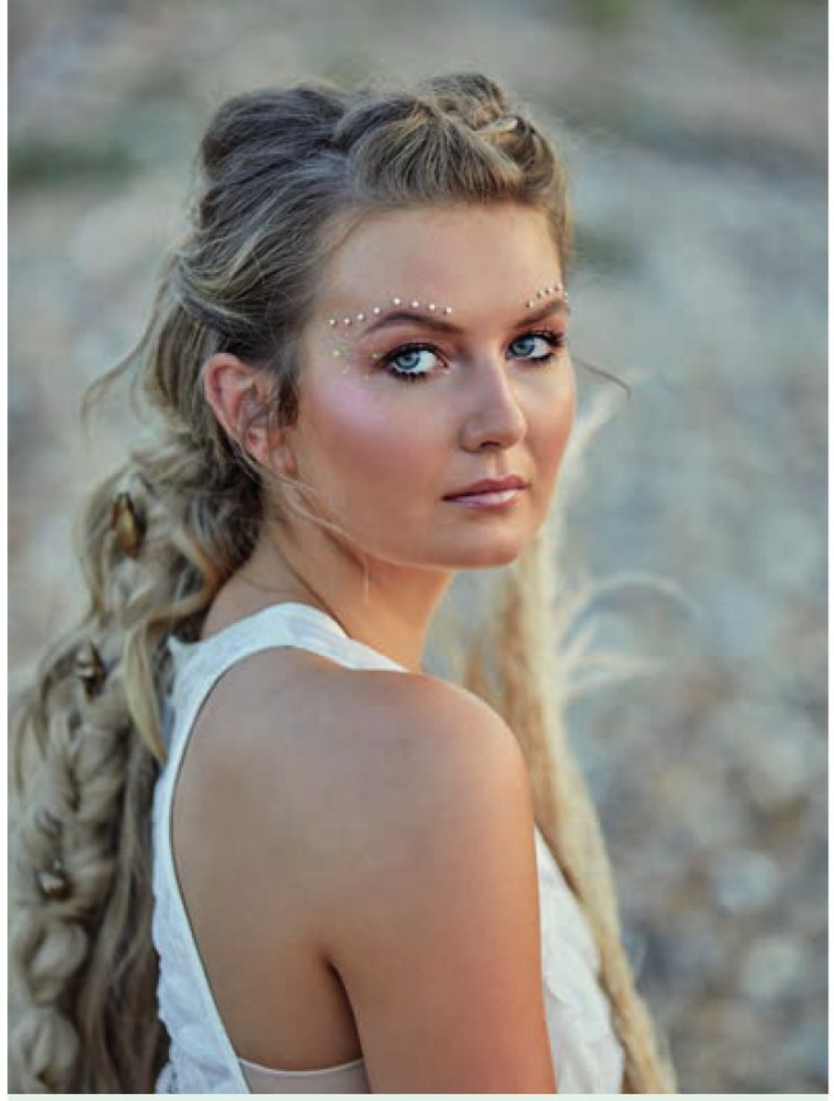
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Together we'll win



Firstly, I hope all of our readers have been keeping well during this surreal, unprecedented time. It would be hard for me to not mention the dreaded c-word, however, I admire how everyone, particularly in our wedding industry, no matter how badly they're affected, has come together to support one another. The tide will start turning, and we can all begin to re-plan postponed weddings, re-book honeymoons and get back to our wonderful world of "I dos" – supporting local couples and businesses finding their feet again.

This issue, will hopefully give you some light relief, and offer up some inspiration for your big days at the end of this year and beyond. The wedding suppliers of Kent have been hard at work, and to celebrate our 90th issue we have no less than six fabulous styled shoots for your delight and delectation. Every trend is covered from urban glam to boho chic, so they're sure to get your creative juices flowing.

I hope you'll find something to make you smile amongst these pages.

Kelly x

Kelly Andrews, editor



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www.dreamphotography2012.co.uk

Sleek and chic: I love this ultra-modern bridal look, not to mention the stunning starry head piece. Find out how to create this look in our Beauty Q&A feature over on page 113.



68

www.fleurchallisphotography.com

Proteas make an excellent focal point in a bridal bouquet. Did you know, they're said to represent change and hope?



81

Elegant stationery designs can really bring a wedding theme together.

www.nataliedphotography.com



Inspired by Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, the flowergirls in this magical styled shoot are reminiscent of fairies. Imagine them flitting up the aisle ahead of you.

94

www.kerryannduffy.com



www.billfarnhamphotography.com

It's great to make use of local landmarks in your wedding photos: Katy and Harry popped over to the Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells, to capture some character-filled snaps with their photographer.

As you all know food is a matter dear to my heart, so I very much enjoyed compiling this issue's catering feature. Check out our mouth-watering menu suggestions on page 89.



www.olegssamsonovsphotography.com



What could be more romantic than making your very own wedding rings? Discover more heartfelt handmade touches on page 73.

I adore this shot of Clare making her way down the stairs at the beautiful Sprivers Mansion, her frothy gown flowing behind her. Discover more about her big day on page 49.



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Bold pops of pink and purple brought this boho shoot to life.



65

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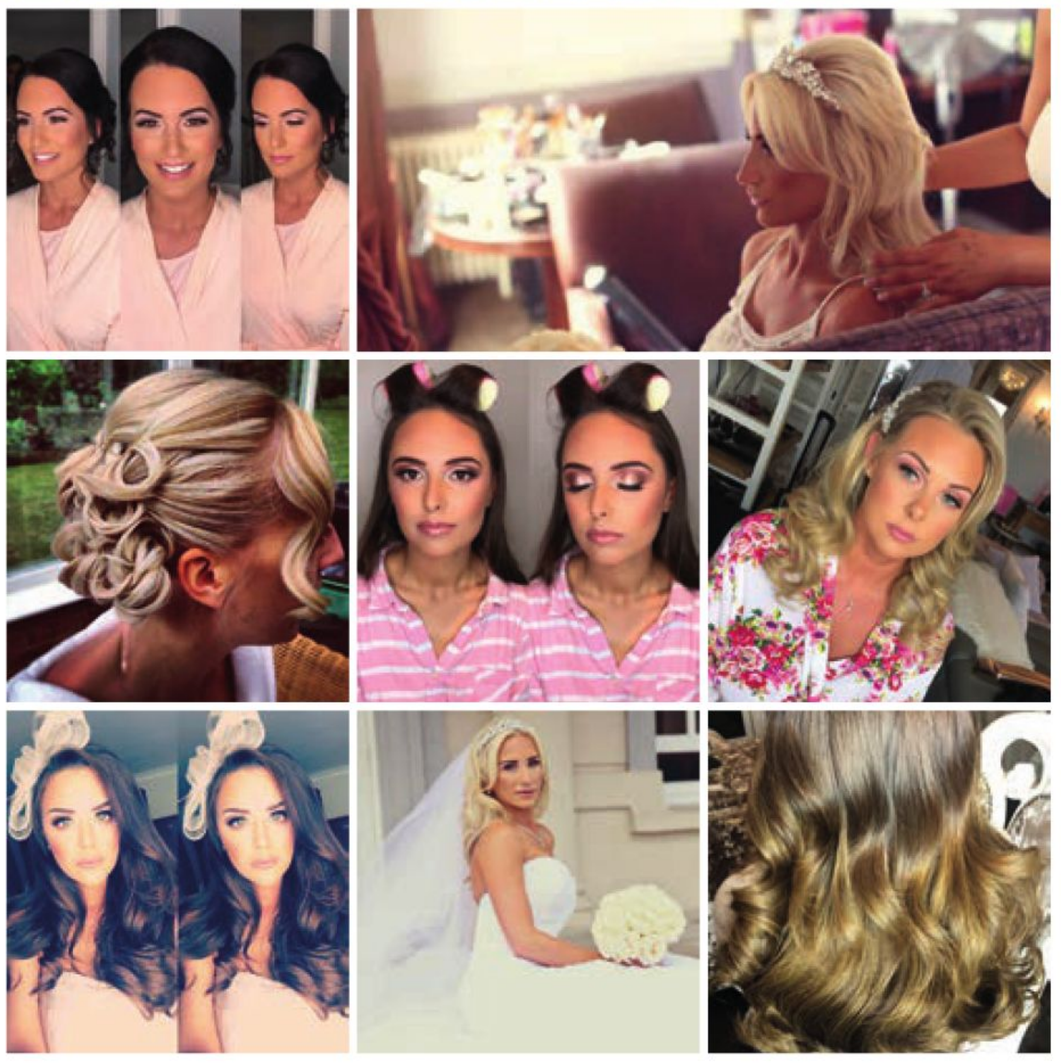
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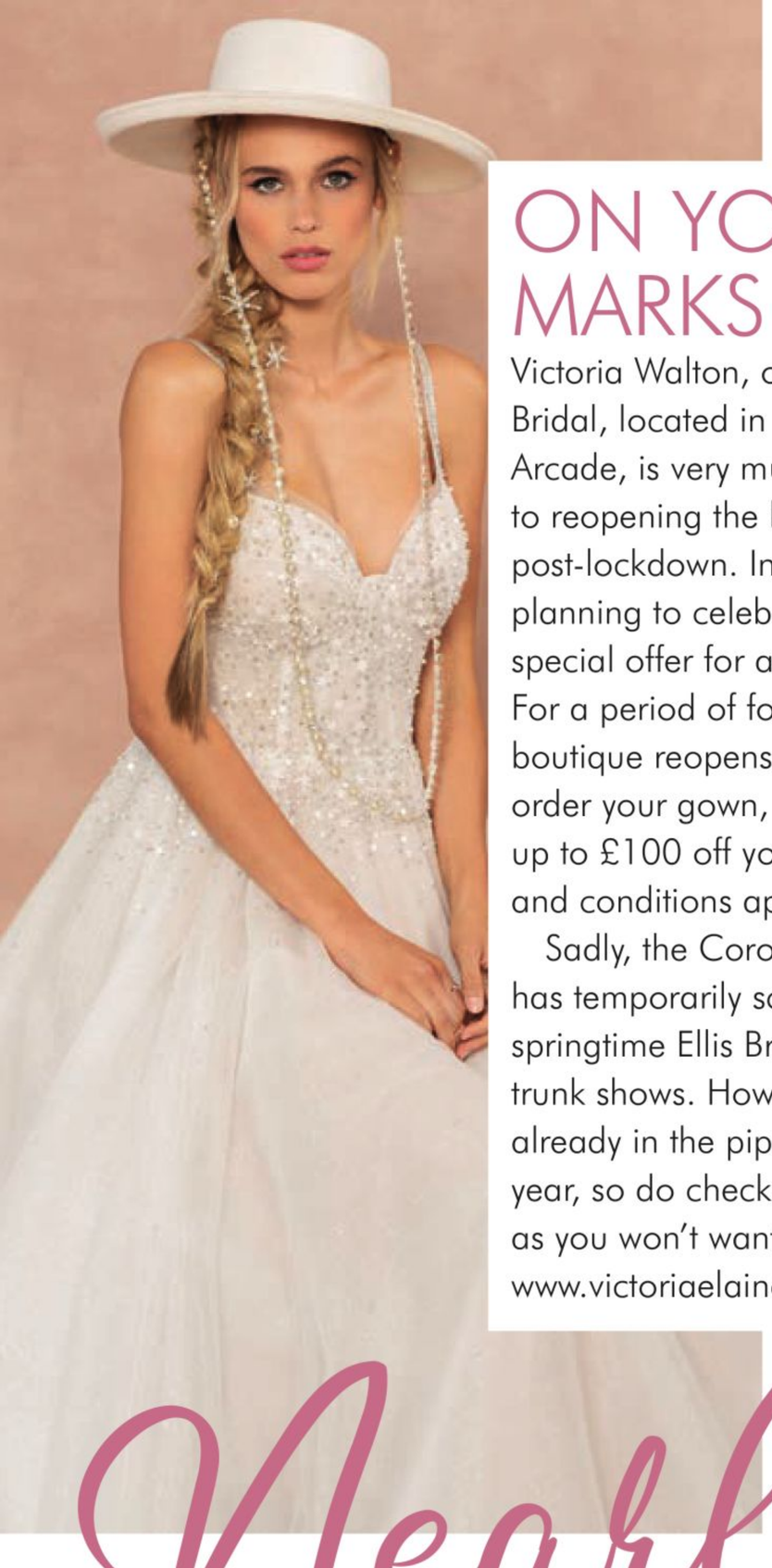


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ON YOUR MARKS

Victoria Walton, owner of Victoria Elaine Bridal, located in Maidstone's Royal Star Arcade, is very much looking forward to reopening the boutique's doors, post-lockdown. In fact, she's already planning to celebrate in style with a very special offer for all of her lovely brides. For a period of four weeks after the boutique reopens, when you go in and order your gown, you'll be treated with up to £100 off your accessories (terms and conditions apply).

Sadly, the Coronavirus outbreak has temporarily scuppered plans for springtime Ellis Bridal and Hayley Paige trunk shows. However, new dates are already in the pipeline for later in the year, so do check the website regularly, as you won't want to miss these: www.victoriaelainebridal.co.uk

Every cloud



We caught up with Zdena Clark of White Rabbit Cakes in Hawkinge for her take on wedding planning during the current Coronavirus crisis. She told us: "Although this is a challenging time of unprecedented proportions and deeply disappointing if you've been forced to postpone your big day, remember that those hopes and expectations are still very much alive, just deferred to a later than imagined date. Thankfully, most venues and suppliers are doing their utmost to accommodate new dates for their couples, helping to minimise further disruption to your plans.

"I do believe in silver linings though, and whilst this cloud hangs over our heads, many couples may even benefit from the extra time to tweak their wedding plans to perfection. Maybe it allows all of us time to hit the pause button, take stock and reflect; a luxury that many of us do not usually have in our fast-paced society. Above all, take care of yourselves, body and mind, and stay safe and well. We are certainly all in this together."

Check out www.facebook.com/WhiteRabbitCakeStudio

Nearlywed NEWS

Catch up on all the latest from around the county



LOCAL LOVELY

I visited award-winning luxury salon 27 Two 6 Beauty in Welling (pre-lockdown I hasten to add), to put a bespoke facial and massage treatment to the test…

The salon offers each bride a bespoke solution to their big-day beauty needs. Owner Kristina Shepherd says, "Every appointment starts with a consultation. We need to find out what their concerns are, and to understand the skincare journey they've been on so far." I was to try the perfect pre-wedding facial, intended to give my skin that sought-after glow and smoothness.

After settling down in the calming oasis of the treatment room the first step was a melting gel-to-milk cleanser, which soaks in to even out skin tone by stabilising pigment-producing cells.

The next step was the enzyme peel, gloriously fragranced with pineapple and papaya. This eats away at dead skin, but doesn't affect any live layers, so it's beautifully gentle. I could feel it turning from a thick, smooth cream into, what I thought was an exfoliator, but actually turned out to be my dead skin!

The peel was removed and next came the oxygen mask that I'd been looking forward to. You can actually feel the foamburst technology making it bubble and fizz away on your face, which I loved. Millions of tiny bubbles work away at the dry areas first as they absorb the oxygen and nutrients. This is a great solution for breakouts, which don't occur in oxygen-rich environments.

The Vital C serum goes on next, full of vitamins A, C and E, followed by a broad-spectrum SPF. These heroes protect against environmental and sun damage respectively. And finally, a lip cream containing broken collagen. This tricks your lips into thinking they're being damaged, causing the skin to go into overdrive and produce more collagen. The benefit ladies, is that with regular application, it can help you gain a plumper pout.

My treatment was finished with a deep, relaxing hot stones massage, aiding lymphatic drainage and blood flow, as well as relaxing the facial muscles where we hold a lot of tension. Then, the coolness of the rose quartz roller directly afterwards shocks the face, firming and tightening, making pores smaller.

I left 27 Two 6 Beauty with a glow on my face and a spring in my step. To find out more and book your consultation call 020 8301 2726 and check out www.2726beauty.co.uk







A MATCH MADE IN MEAD

Kent winery, Mereworth Wines, has launched Marourde Spritz and Rosé Spritz, set to be the perfect match for the contemporary wedding. Dubbed "the world's oldest new drink," Marourde Spritz is medium-dry and bursts with citrus and honey flavours, complemented by woody undertones, with a bright, crisp finish. By popular demand, the newly perfected Marourde Rosé Spritz explodes with honied hedgerow black fruits, with the delicate infusions of elderflower and elderberry lingering on the palate.

One of the most common associations with honey wine is its union with weddings, and as the first ever alcoholic beverage, it has a history dating back 9,000 years. The original drink of the wedding toast, it's been supped to bring assurances of good luck and happiness to newlyweds for generations.

Blessed with such a rich heritage, the team at Mereworth Wines have ignited their passion for fermentation and wine-making techniques, setting out to rejuvenate this old drink for a very modern occasion. Find out more at www.marourde.com


www.lincolnpictures.co

FROSTED FANCY

Local cake maker Emma Page has won Buttercream Cake of the Year in the National Cake Professionals Awards. Previously a business journalist, she has been creating luxury wedding cakes in buttercream since 2012. At the time the norm was rustic and plain creations, dressed with fresh flowers, which came as an alternative to the sugarpaste-covered fondant weddings cakes that dominated the market. Emma succeeded in driving the trend forward using piping, painting and sculpting techniques to elevate her bakes to luxury, decorative and flamboyant creations.

She says, "Buttercream is hugely versatile and can be manipulated into lavish, realistic or abstract floral designs, which are full of character. My own recipe Italian meringue version of this particular frosting tastes nothing like the super-sweet version found in the supermarket. It's delicate and can be flavoured successfully with extract."

Adapting to the current situation, Emma is currently offering video consultations. Find out more at www.emmapagecakes.co.uk

JUST A BLIP


www.davidfenwick.co.uk

Wedding caterer, Debbie Green, of Chives has been working to help her couples through the current crisis via her Kent Wedding Advisor Facebook page. "I've already found new venues for brides, so it's really good to feel useful. I'm trying to communicate the key message to couples that this is no more than a blip in their lives together."

So, if you've had to change your wedding date, and need to find a new venue or accommodating local suppliers, Debbie can access her vast network of contacts to check availability for you. She says, "If you just want to offload, rant, talk and let it all out you can do that too! With all of my weddings moved to new dates, I can help you just to feel calm again."

Simply, send a message through the page and Debbie will get back to you asap. Best of all, she is very kindly offering this service free of charge. So, head over to

www.facebook.com/kentwedadvisor

Keep calm and carry on



The team at KC Weddings and Events are staying positive and supportive whilst the pandemic continues. Owner Marcus Collings and Daniel Kyte told us, "We're still going and expanding our team. We have no intention of slowing down!" In fact, the immediate break has allowed them to focus on their online presence via the website, which will soon allow you to access even more information and images, never seen before. There'll also be a virtual opportunity to see the lovely faces of the KC team, watch them at work and hear what they enjoy most about making your dream day become a reality. So, keep your eyes peeled for the all new updated site coming soon.

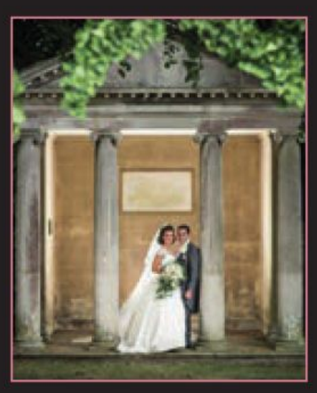
That's not all, as the venue stylist has also added plenty of new stock to its wedding warehouse including artificial cherry blossom trees, linen sashes and cheesecloth drapery, pushing this year's colours and themes into a new dimension. Marcus and Daniel say, "Don't give up on this year's colours. This is only temporary, so now's the time to be searching for perfect fabrics, textures and tonal values that will correspond with your special day."

The team are always on had to discuss your ideas so head over to www.kcweddingsandevents.co.uk



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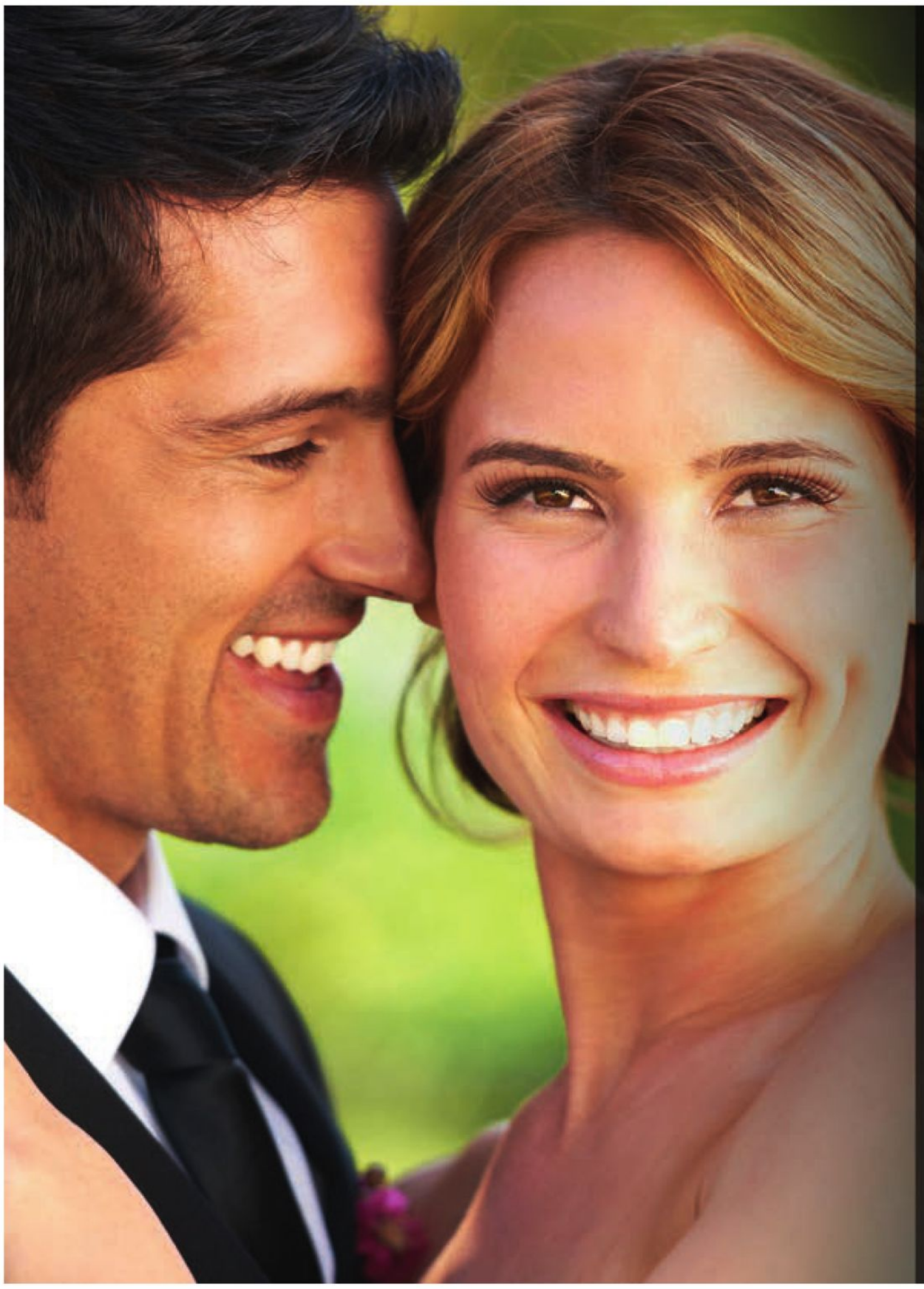


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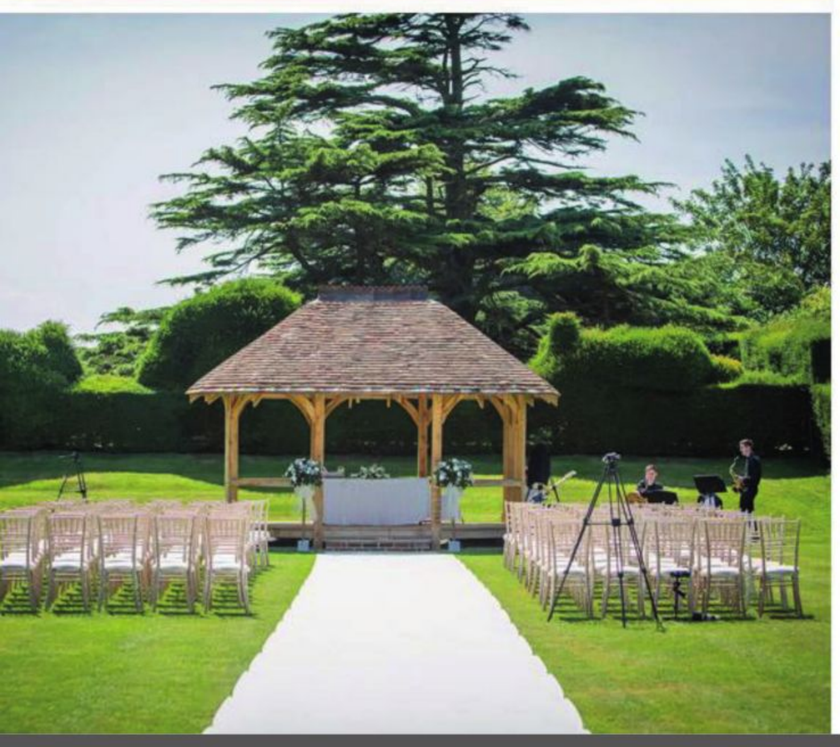
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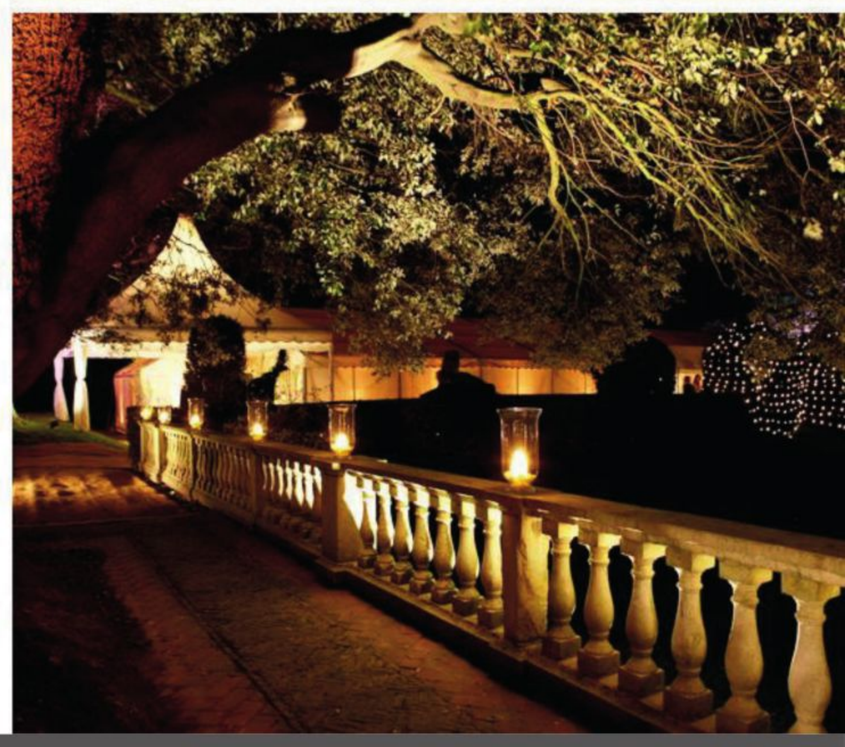












Knowlton Court, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT3 01304 842402 www.knowltoncourt.co.uk

The Castle Westenhanger

Kent Wedding Awards Finalist 2020



Images courtesy of: David Fenwick Photography







Westenhanger Castle is an exclusive use venue nestled within 14 acres of Kent countryside with a stunning blend of romance and history.

On the main lawn, alongside the picturesque Rosamond's tower stands our beautiful thatched, oak framed gazebo a stunning location for your outside civil ceremony. The manor house with its Georgian façade, medieval turret and castle walls offer an enchanting alternative.

The wedding breakfast is served in our luxury marquee where you and your guests can enjoy a sumptuous feast prepared by our professional catering team. The sweeping drapes, glistening chandeliers and starlit ceiling create an idyllic atmosphere as day moves into night and you enjoy an unforgettable party.

If you would like to know more, why not book a no obligation showround? Our team can tell you all about our special offers, chat about your plans and discover what would make the perfect package just for you.

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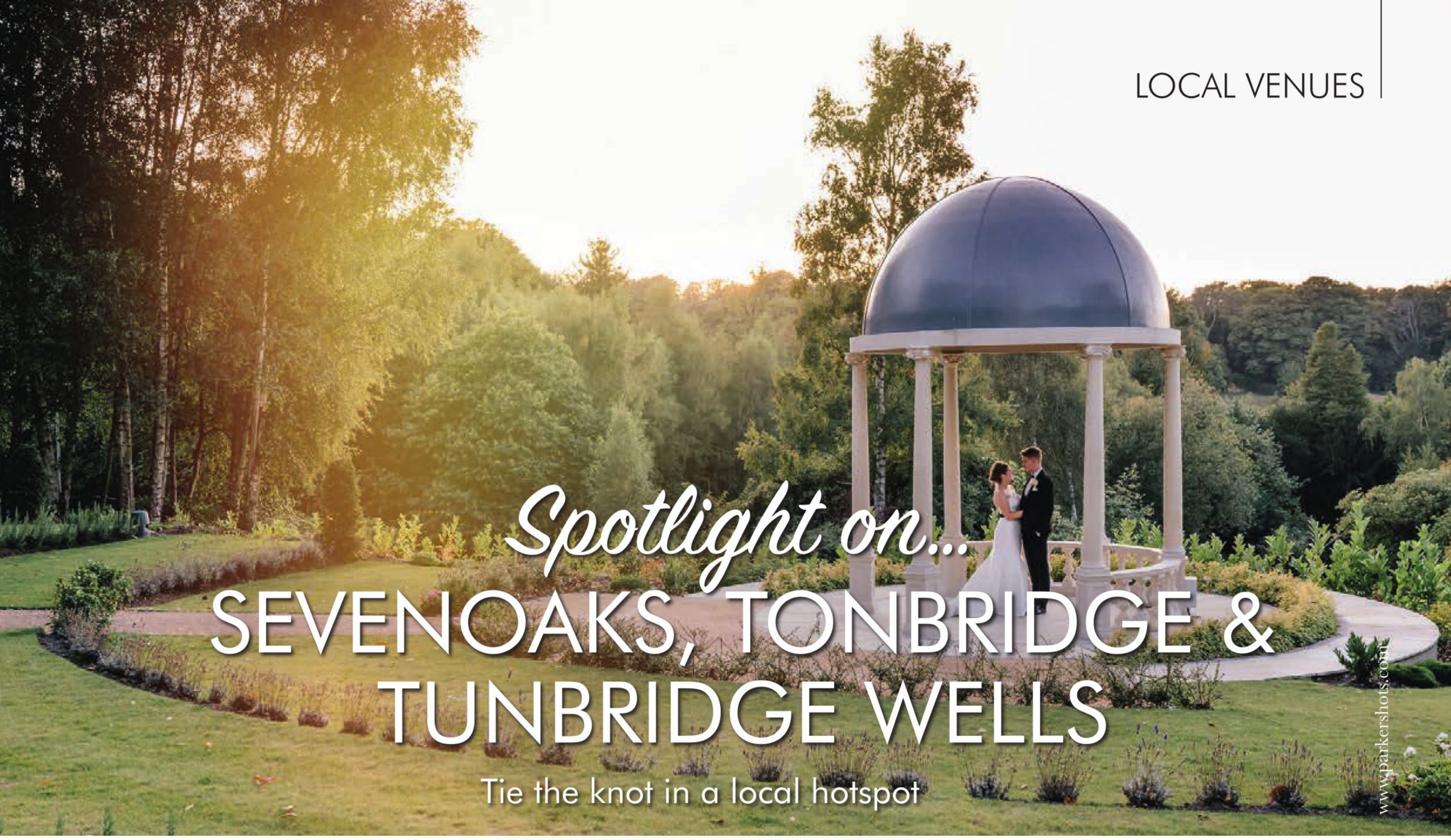






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Spotlight on... SEVENOAKS, TONBRIDGE & TUNBRIDGE WELLS

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THE SPA HOTEL

01892 520 331 | www.spahotel.co.uk

This hotel is a classic, elegant and grand venue with a rich history. Built in 1766 as a country mansion, The Spa Hotel has a grand Edwardian-style exterior that's truly breathtaking. It's recently been refurbished in a way that's sympathetic to the age and style of the building, creating a welcoming period feel with modern comforts. Nestled within 14 acres of glorious grounds and gardens, this is a stunning setting for your big day and a beautiful backdrop for those all-important photos.

If al fresco vows are your preferred option, you can tie the knot in the gorgeous Spa Temple overlooking the gardens and lakes. It can accommodate 250, plus extra capacity for standing. The Kings Room is also able to welcome 250 ceremony guests and is the venue's largest space. It oozes grandeur and boasts a classic style with royal blue, gold features and stunning chandeliers. The Orangery was built in 2008 and is a more modern, bright room offering panoramic views of the grounds with its very own terrace, ideal for reception drinks. It can host 120 for your "I dos" and 100 for the reception. Finally, for more intimate occasions, The Churchill Room has space for 45 for both ceremony and celebrations. It's classically furnished and overlooks the rear of the hotel. There are further options for your reception in shape of The Royal Suite, which can host a whopping 300 loved ones, and the Yorke Suite with room for 120.

The venue offers overnight accommodation in the bridal suite with champagne for yourselves as well as discounted rooms for your guests. You'll also be treated to a wedding menu tasting, and you can relive those wonderful memories on an overnight stay for your first anniversary.







THE HOP FARM

01622 870 801 | www.hopfarm.co.uk/weddings

The Hop Farm is one of Kent's quintessential, landmark wedding venues. With the famous backdrop of the county's traditional oast houses, and surrounded by beautifully manicured gardens, it's an idyllic location for your special day. The wedding gardens and terraces are exclusive to each wedding and provide a wealth of jaw-dropping backdrops for your photographer to utilise.

You have the luxury of choice when it comes to your ceremony, with outdoor and indoor options available. In the gardens, the wedding gazebo can host 140 guests and indoors the Whites Wedding Suite can hold the same number.

Receptions, on the other hand, can also be hosted in either of the above two places with capacity for 150 loved ones, or alternatively in the Shires Wedding Suite filled with beams and facing the outdoor terrace. It's a bright space and wonderful for hosting celebrations for 150 guests.





MERCURE TUNBRIDGE WELLS HOTEL

01892 628 298 | www.mercuretunbridgewells.co.uk

Built around an original Georgian dower house, this charming four-star hotel offers an ideal combination of the traditional and modern, providing a spectacular venue for your W-day. The oast house makes for a grand entrance for you and your guests, while the original Georgina part of the building and terrace lends a relaxing, warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The venue's largest function space is the Parkside Suite, situated on the ground floor, with capacity for 150 ceremony and reception guests. It's fully accessible and has neutral décor to suit any theme. The Park Avenue Suite is situated in the Georgian dower house, boasting original arched windows, creating the perfect backdrop for your "I dos," surrounded by 70 of your loved ones. Located on the first floor, it can also host wedding breakfasts for 50. The Park View Suite is ideal for more intimate ceremonies and can host 40. There's a complimentary menu tasting on offer along with an overnight stay on your wedding day. Discounted accommodation is available for your guests. Plus, you'll be treated to a very special one-year anniversary meal.

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TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

01732 304 268 | www.tonbridge-events.co.uk

Tonbridge School's main buildings feature original architecture from 1553 to the present day, which is all immaculately kept. Set in 150 acres, the site has a selection of beautiful gardens, sculptures, and tranquil spots. It's also conveniently located close to town with ample parking for your guests.

There are six stunning locations to choose from for your vows from the headmaster's library, to the quirky cricket pavilion. For post-ceremony celebrations you have the option of The Lowry Room, with its vaulted ceiling, minstrel's gallery and large feature windows. It can accommodate 80 of your nearest and dearest for the wedding breakfast, with 120 joining you for the evening bash. Next the OBC Art Gallery is a modern space, boasting leaded windows, which provide a light and airy location for 120 diners and 150 reception guests. The Big School on the other hand is a traditional wood-panelled hall complete with stage and stained-glass windows. The space is ideal for seated buffet menus for 150 nearest and dearest, or evening celebrations for 300. Finally, there's the Orchard Centre. A fully air-conditioned, modern dining room, it overlooks the central school grounds, and can host 150 seated or 300 for the evening. The venue offers a complimentary tasting menu for two and an event planner, as well as a wedding post box and garden games, plus a selection of table decoration options.





www.stephaniechapmanphotography.co.uk/
www.sarahcaponphotography.co.uk

ST JULIANS CLUB

01732 458 261 | www.stjulians.co.uk

St Julians is an elegant Georgian country house situated just outside of Sevenoaks, which has been a private members' club since the 1950s. The venue offers a beautiful and intimate location for your wedding, filled with old-world charm and a bohemian atmosphere you'll love. There's even an elegant Steinway grand piano, available for use on the big day.

Overlooking the Weald of Kent St Julians offers breathtaking views across the rolling countryside, along with 70 acres of woodland and landscaped gardens – an exceptional natural backdrop for your big day.

Options for both the "I dos" and reception include The Lounge. The house's original drawing room, it boasts bay windows, which open out onto the flagstone terrace and is suitable for 110 guests. The Conservatory, with its incredible canopy of wisteria, is connected to The Lounge by double doors and can be used in conjunction with this neighbouring space for a larger ceremony area, or with The Gallery when used for pre-reception drinks. The Gallery is also licensed for ceremonies and can also be used for your drinks reception accompanied by 62 loved ones.

You'll also benefit from the club's social membership, gifted to the both of you when you book your wedding here. Plus, there's access to bespoke menus planned alongside the experienced team and a dedicated wedding co-ordinator to assist in preparations.

BILSINGTON PRIORY

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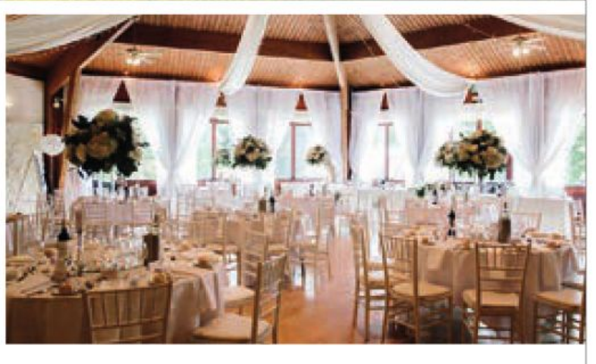
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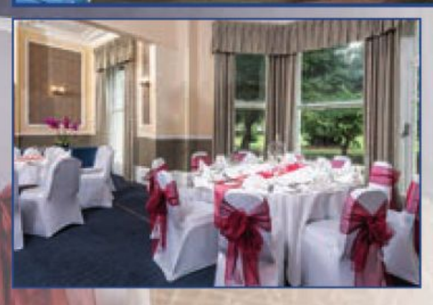


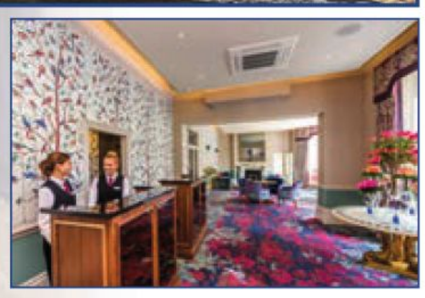
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www.thecliftonhotel.com
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Romantic REFLECTIONS

Our roundup of local waterside and coastal venues



INN ON THE LAKE

01474 823 333 | www.fcdhotels.co.uk

The Inn on the Lake sits on the edge of 12 acres of woodland. Its glorious gardens are built around three natural lakes, providing stunning backdrops for your all-important photos. The floor-to-ceiling and wall-to-wall windows flood the hotel's large wedding room with natural light and offer stunning panoramic views over the lakes and gardens.

The lakes are the focal point for weddings here, from nuptials at the water's edge and beautiful photo opportunities on the jetty through to barbecues on the lakeside terrace. You could even wake up to coffee on your bedroom terrace looking out at this gorgeous scenery.

The ultimate romantic spot, the Lakeside Gazebo is set on the edge of the largest lake and permits 200 loved ones (with an additional 50 standing) to witness your vows. Then there's the Fountain Suite - an intimate room it's stylishly decorated with soft drapes, chandeliers and a natural-wood floor. Here, 100 can join you for the ceremony, with space for 30 more standing. Finally, the Lakeside Suite is an ideal spot for larger weddings, with panoramic lake views and exclusive access to the Lakeside Terrace. It can accommodate 250 for your "I dos," 250 for your wedding breakfast and 200 for the evening do.

When you book your wedding at Inn on the Lake, you'll receive two complimentary tickets to a tribute event, where you can sample the food and the DJ. You can also enjoy a complimentary stay in the spa suite, where the bride also gets an inclusive wedding evening stay with her bridesmaids.









THE MINNIS BAY BAR & BRASSERIE

01843 841 844 | www.theminnis.co.uk

The Minnis Bay Bar & Brasserie is a relaxed, stylish venue, designed with a cool coastal vibe and offers outstanding views accompanied by incredible sunsets. A modern, recently-refurbished space, it boasts a sun terrace and picnic area overlooking one of the finest sandy beaches on the North Kent Coast. There's even a children's play area and ice cream hut, open in the summer, within a minute's walk.

Receptions take place on the first floor in the Bay View Suite, complete with private bar, dancefloor and breathtaking vistas. It's capable of accommodating 70 for a wedding breakfast.

The venue offers a range of all-inclusive wedding packages, as well as free wedding breakfast tastings for the happy couple.





LEAF HOTEL DOVER

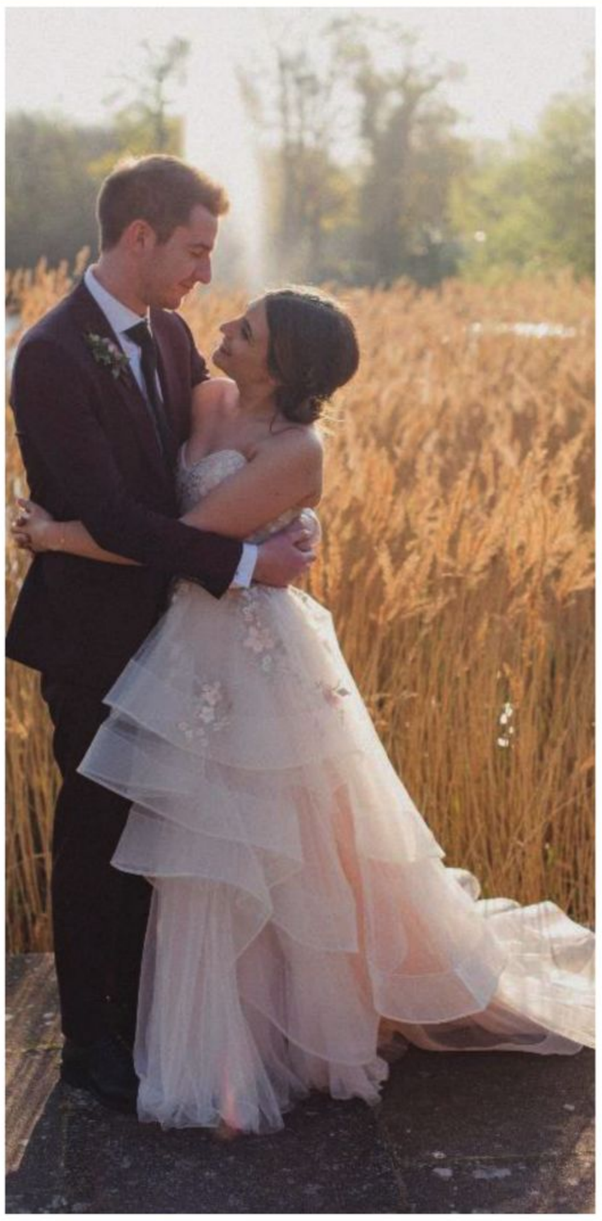
01304 821 230 | www.leafhoteldover.co.uk

When looking for a venue to accommodate any style of wedding from the traditional right through to the quirky, you'd do well to check out Leaf Hotel Dover. Set in four acres of landscaped gardens, which serve as some impressive backdrops for your photographs, the hotel offers a relaxed environment from ceremony to celebrations.

The Grand Marquee is an inspiring location, where you and your guests can dine in style and comfort. Packed with modern facilities, it has the capacity to cater for up to 300 guests, and is one of the largest marquees in Kent. Inside you'll find a luxurious space illuminated by natural daylight, a starlight ceiling, and walls draped in fairylights, there's also a private bar. It's a wonderful place to indulge, mingle and celebrate with your loved ones.

For more intimate gatherings there's the Channel Suite (50 guests) and Olive Tree Restaurant (70 guests). All of the function suites at Leaf Hotel Dover are licensed for ceremonies, including the Grand Marquee, alternatively you can opt to say "I do" outside in the romantic garden gazebo.

Inn on The Lake





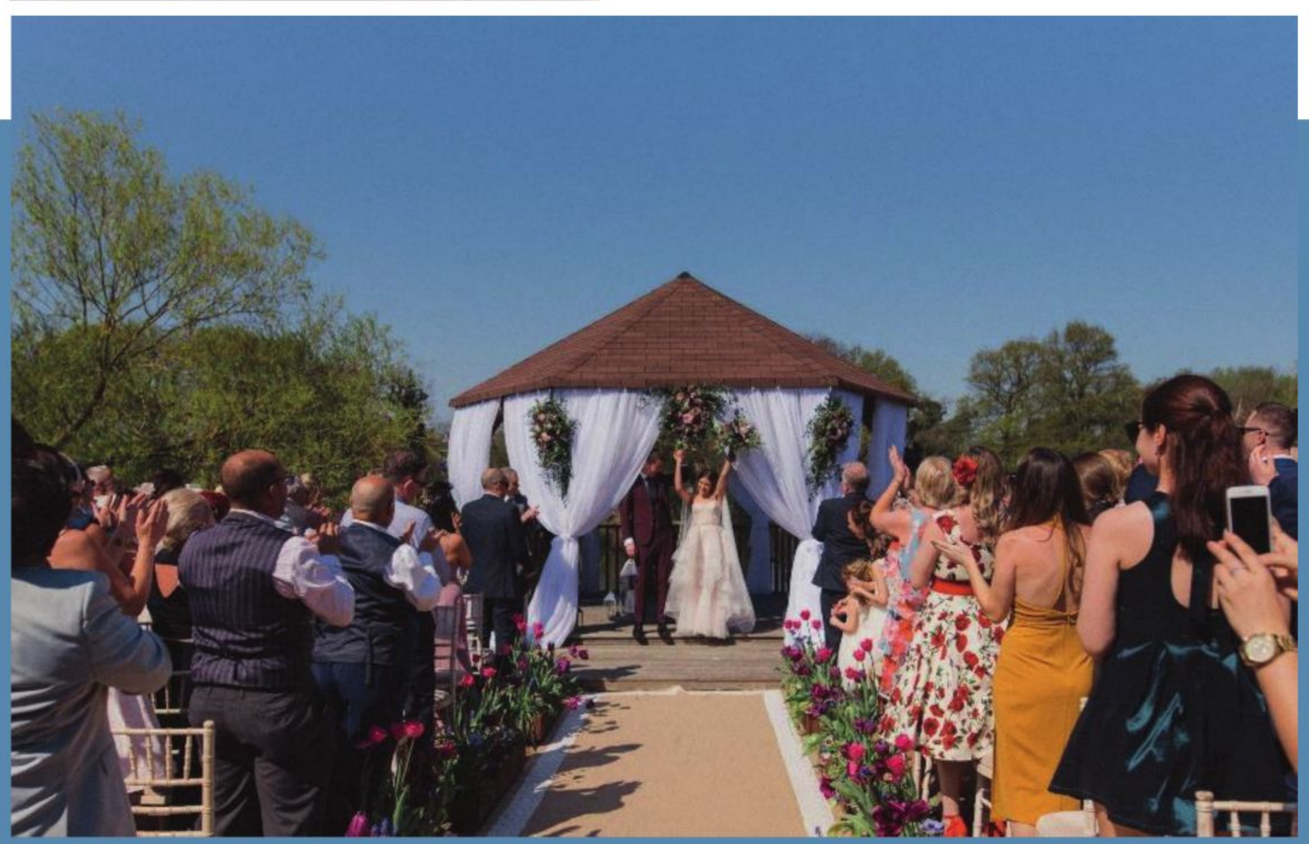
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With 37 stylish en-suite bedrooms and cottages Judd's Folly is a great place for you and your guests to relax after your day of celebration. A unique venue, which prides itself on offering facilities which are very flexible, and can cater for a wide range of events and budgets.

A lovely welcoming venue combined with great food and great service to create your perfect day to remember. 6 to 130 Seated and 250 for an evening party.

01795 591818 | reservations@juddsfollyhotel.co.uk | www.juddsfollyhotel.co.uk





HYTHE IMPERIAL HOTEL

01303 267 441 | www.hytheimperial.co.uk

The stunning four-star Hythe Imperial is a beautiful classically styled hotel situated on Kent's seafront, with the beach a mere stone's throw away. It boasts uninterrupted panoramic vistas across the English Channel from the rear, whilst the front looks out over the hotel's perfectly manicured gardens. As a point of interest, it also boasts the tallest chandelier in Europe, created by Royal Warrant holders Wilkinson and Co. It's a stunning confection of 25,000 individual crystals. How's that for some impressive wedding-day opulence?

When it comes to your vows, you've a whole host of options from the gorgeous gazebo (130 guests), located amongst the spectacular gardens, to the glamorous Imperial Ballroom, a spectacular space that can also host 130 guests for your reception. There are spaces too, ideal for more intimate "I dos," in the shape of the Coast Restaurant (30 guests), which offers a majestic carpeted entrance, and the Elizabeth Room (100 guests), offering a lovely light blank canvas.

Alternatively, if you're after something a little bit different, the Afternoon Tea Parlour is the perfect setting, with a touch of the traditional. It can host 50 for your ceremony. Plus, you'll love The Moët and Chandon Champagne Bar, the hotel's pièce de résistance! Think glitz and glamour with a laid-back attitude. It can hold 40 loved ones at your ceremony.





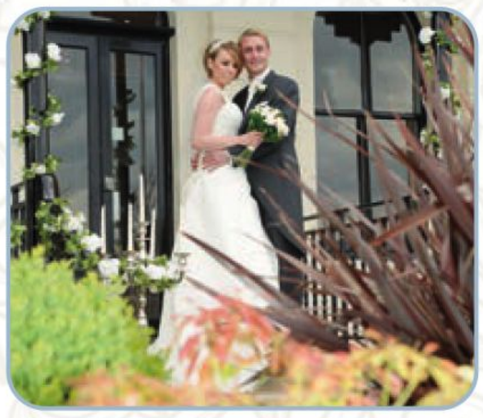
BEST WESTERN CLIFTON HOTEL, FOLKESTONE

01303 851 231 | www.thecliftonhotel.com

Built in the 19th century, the Clifton Hotel is known for its scenic views and grand style. Bringing together elements of modern style and traditional charm, The Clifton Hotel is located on The Leas in Folkestone, next to the Clifton Gardens. Both offer glorious setting for your all-important wedding photos. The grand Georgian façade is painted in the traditional cream hue, common in buildings of the era, and there are terraces surrounding the front, which make it an inviting place to visit and spend time. In recent years this coastal hotel has introduced new facilities such as the Marco Pierre White Steakhouse Bar and Grill, along with the Ocean Bleu lounge bar, all while retaining the period charm of the architecture.

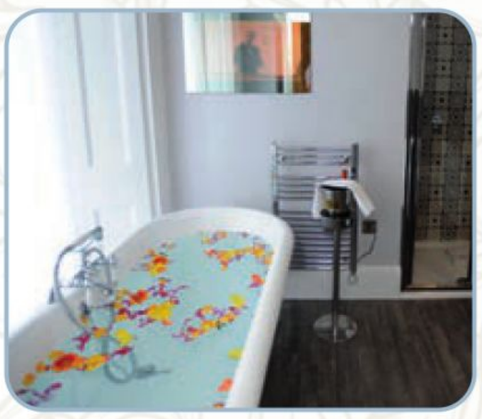
The Pleydell Suite and The Romney Suite are both licensed for ceremonies, as well as offering ideal spaces for your afternoon and evening celebrations. They can accommodate 50 and 30 guests respectively.











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www.theorangerymaidstone.com



the Orangery

One stunning venue – three amazing ceremony options
The Gazebo, The Lapa, The Garden Room



Photo credit: Louisa Dettmer Wedding Photography



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Kent Wedding Awards Finalist 2020

Bright and beautiful

Sunita and Simon married on 30th June 2019 at Chilham Village Hall

Images courtesy of Your Choice Photography







Sunita and Simon met online in 2015. "When we started talking, Simon seemed very sweet and kind, showering me with lots of attention. Even though we'd only been messaging back and forth for a week, when we met up for our first date, it was as though we'd known each other for years," Sunita remembers.

Leeds is a city the pair hold close to their hearts, as it's here that Sunita completed her postgraduate studies, where she was living when they met, and where they went on their first date. Life had moved on after three years as a couple, and they decided they'd like to return for a day out together. After lunch, they went for a romantic walk in a nearby park and Simon produced the most beautiful emerald cut diamond ring Sunita had ever seen, as he got down on one knee to propose. "I simply couldn't say no to that," she says.

While Simon's family hails from Yorkshire, Sunita's live in Kent, so it was important for the bride to have the wedding close to them. She explains, "We're an intercultural couple it was of utmost importance to me that I have a Buddhist priest bless our union." So, once ceremony arrangements were settled, the venue search was next on the agenda. The bride says, "I absolutely fell in love with Chilham Village Hall. It's a listed building with a black and white interior, which really appealed to me. What's more, we could hire the entire premises from Friday for my Mehendi, through to Sunday for the wedding."

We were excited to find out more and caught up with Sunita for all the details of the big day…

LOOKING THE PART

The bride wore a stunning red and gold saree purchased at the bazaar in Kathmandu, Nepal, for the ceremony. This was paired with a tailor-made green blouse, and accessorised with a red embroidered velvet belt, also from Nepal. For the reception she changed into a white Lehenga Choli with a red velvet shawl to symbolise the fusion of Nepali and English tradition.

Simon also had a change of looks from the ceremony to the celebrations. For the "I dos" he wore a traditional Nepali Daura-Suruwal, with a tweed jacket, green and yellow belt, and a black hat with a Khukuri knife pin to symbolise the father-of-the-bride's service in the British army. For the reception he wore a navy suit with burgundy tie.

The bridesmaids looked beautiful in coral sarees complemented by potli bags in a matching hue. Following the vows, they were given the option to change into a more comfortable cream gharara suit, lest their dance moves be impeded later on in the evening!

SETTING THE SCENE

Red is an auspicious colour in Nepal, so it was important for Sunita that it should be included in their wedding palette. The bride describes their theme as, "bright and colourful with red and green accents."

The altar was put together according to tradition, with a beautifully decorated arch of voile, flowers and greenery. "I absolutely loved planning the wedding and the DIY projects inspired by Pinterest," Sunita says. She even attended a modern calligraphy course by Sally Jane Calligraphy, so that she could self-scribe the invitations.

The pair chose luxury bouquets, arranged in carafes for the centrepieces. Both Simon and Sunita's father are whisky and

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bourbon fanatics, so she'd accumulated an assortment of cute bottles that the pair had polished off over the previous six months, and used them to hold additional blooms and greenery for the tables.

The big-day bake boasted three tiers in different flavours including vanilla, lemon, and Belgian chocolate. Sunita remembers, "It was a beautiful cake, decorated with a ruscus garland, and sat on a wooden stand atop a whisky barrel."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The morning of the wedding, guests were served tea and coffee with butter croissants in the venue's small hall. There was no formal seating plan as the wedding breakfast was buffet-style dining, catering for all dietary needs. The couple's nearest and dearest helped themselves to an array of traditional Nepali food laid out in the servery, before heading into the main hall to tuck in. Sunita recalls, "It was such a lovely sight to see loved ones from both sides of the family striking up conversation, and bonding over the meal." For starters guests were treated to vegetable pakora, vegetarian spring rolls, chicken tikka masala, chili chicken, aaloo ko achar (spicy potato salad), sel roti (rice flour doughnuts), and tomato chutney. For the main course they enjoyed a feast of basmati rice, chicken curry, mutton curry, muttar paneer (paneer with peas), tadka daal (lentils), aaloo gobi (cauliflower and potato curry), naan, poppadoms, tomato chutney and mixed salad. Gulab jamun with vanilla ice cream was served for dessert.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Violinist Amanda Wyatt played classical and contemporary pieces prior to the ceremony, as guests awaited the bride's arrival. Sunita says, "I loved walking down the aisle to my brother playing *Canon in D* on his acoustic guitar."

The bride and groom were lucky to be joined by friends and relatives who'd travelled from far and wide to be there. Having an opportunity to catch up surrounded by the beautiful Kentish countryside was entertainment in itself. A DJ played a mix of Nepali and English music in the evening, which was enjoyed by all.

SUNITA'S WORDS OF WISDOM

"We have numerous email accounts in this day and age, so I allocated my icloud address to wedding planning exclusively, which helped me keep track of everything.

"Don't forget to stay hydrated, especially at a summer wedding. Assign a bridesmaid or a friend to help you out. You get so busy, that hours pass by before you realise you've had nothing to drink. When a friend offered me a drink, I was extremely grateful – even more so when it turned out to be prosecco!"



























SUNITA AND SIMON'S WEDDING SUPPLIERS

Venue, Chilham Village Hall, www.chilhamvillagehall.co.uk | **Photography**, Your Choice Photography, www.yourchoicephotography.com **Bride's dress**, Ason Bazaar Nepal | Aakarshan Boutique Nepal | **Bride's accessories**, New Laxmi Jewellers, www.facebook.com/newlaxmijewellers | **Hair and make-up**, Sarita Gurung | Yamuna Thapa | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, Diya Online, www.diyaonline.com | **Groom's attire**, Lagankhel Bazaar Nepal | Moss Bros, www.moss.co.uk | **Cake**, Sally4Cakes, www.sally4cakes.co.uk | **Flowers**, Lady Penelope's, www.lady-penelopes.co.uk | **Transport**, Lobster Van Hire, www.lobstervanhire.co.uk | **Stationery**, Vista Print, www.vistaprint.co.uk | **Entertainment**, Amanda Wyatt, www.amandaviolinist.com | DJ BC Rai | **Catering**, Rara Caterers, www.raracaterers.co.uk | Namuna, www.facebook.com/NamunaRestaurantAshford | **Furniture hire,** Ambassador Marquee & Furniture Hire, www.ambassadorfurniturehire.co.uk | **Wine**, Majestic Wine, www.majestic.co.uk | **Mehendi props**, Namaskar Events, www.namaskarevents.co.uk

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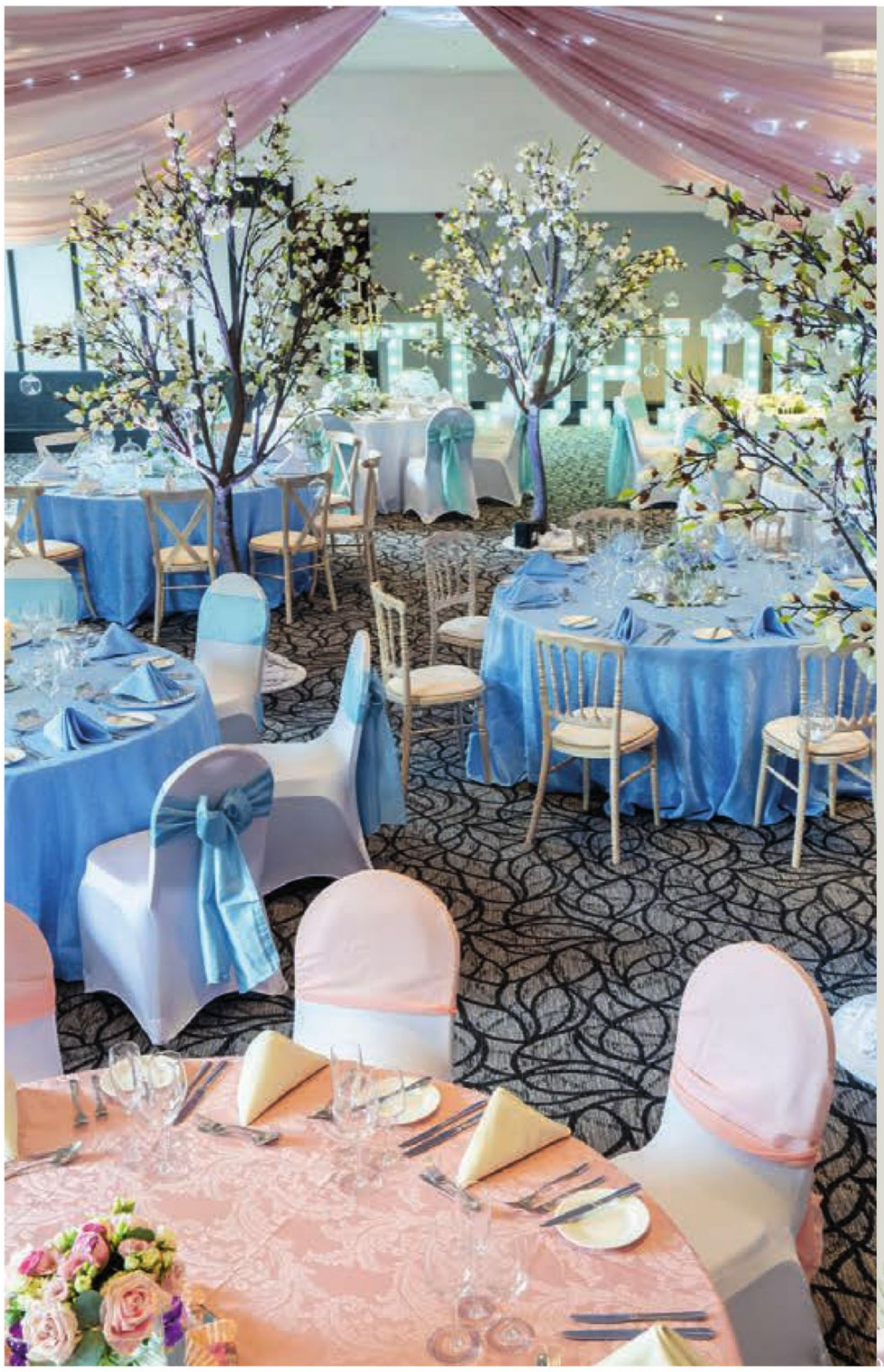
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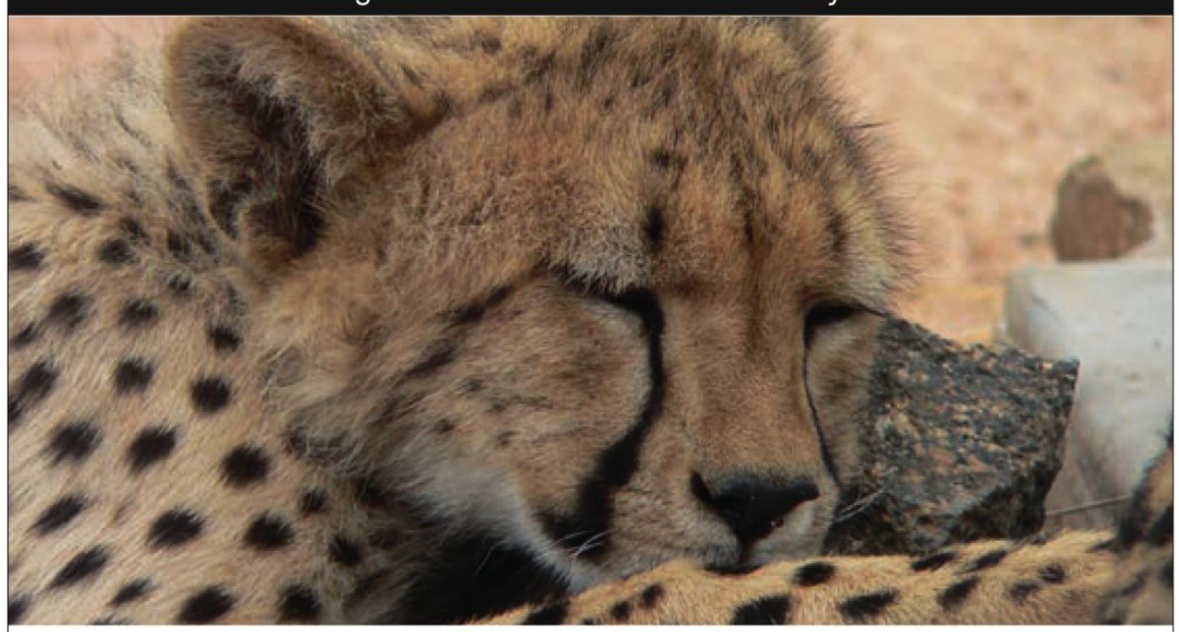
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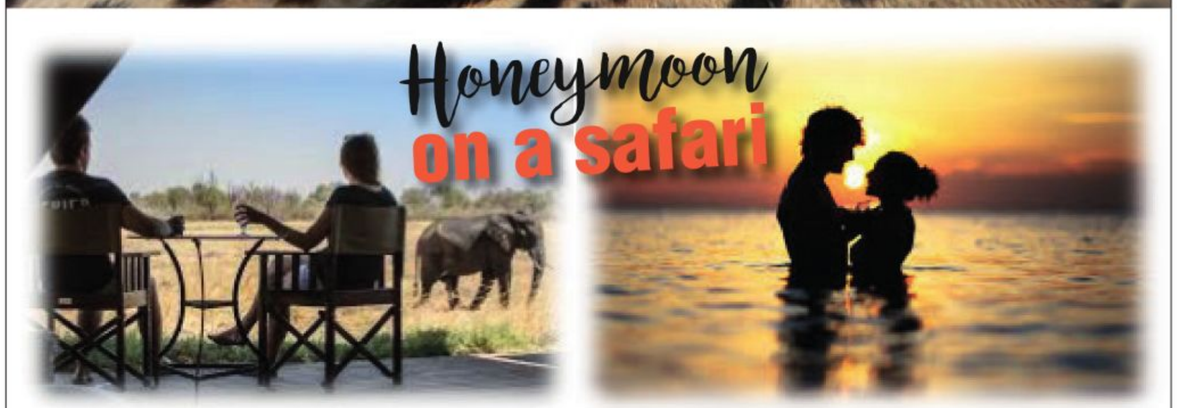
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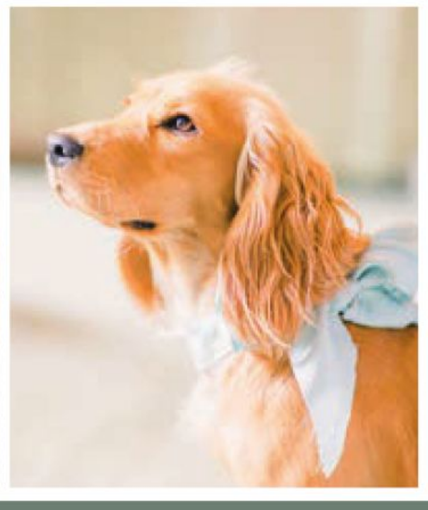
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Hannah and Chris.









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THE *perfect* DAY

Katy and Harry said "I do" at St. James Church, Tunbridge Wells, followed by celebrations at One Warwick Park

Images courtesy of Bill Farnham Photography

With a champagne hamper on Padstow beach, Harry proposed to his childhood sweetheart Katy. She remembers, "It was incredibly romantic, especially as Cornwall is one of our favourite places in the world. It means a lot to us."

It wasn't long before the date was set for 20th July 2019, and the couple started visiting possible venues. As they set foot inside Tunbridge Wells' One Warwick Park, they instantly felt at home. The bride explains, "It was clean and modern, with beautiful candles lit all around. But it still had bags of character with its brick walls and beams, all located in the historical Pantiles."

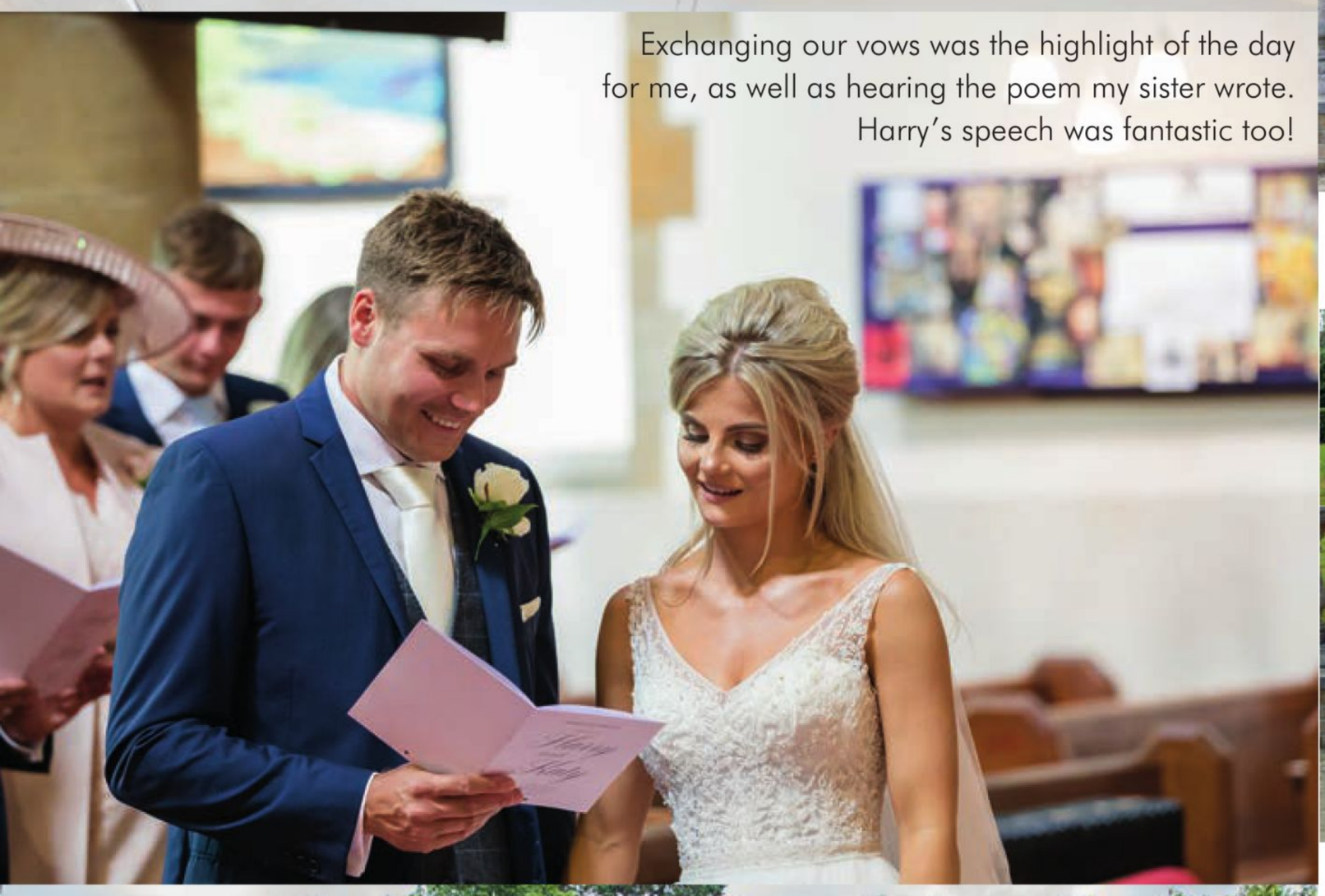
Join us as we find out more about Katy and Harry's beautiful big day from the bride herself…







Exchanging our vows was the highlight of the day for me, as well as hearing the poem my sister wrote. Harry's speech was fantastic too!



Harry was dressed in a three-piece tweed suit with checked waistcoat and an ivory tie.



The bridesmaids wore pretty tulle dresses in pale pink that complemented mine.



A red London bus transported our guests to the venue and we travelled in a Rolls Royce Silver Cloud.



I wore a Mark Lesley dress. It was everything I wanted - bridal, elegant and romantic. I accessorised with diamond earrings to keep the look simple.



We had flowers everywhere. They were all in various shades of pink, including the flower arch and wall.

Our centrepieces were large domes of beautiful blooms.



I put together and assortment of pick 'n' mix sweet jars, which served as our wedding favours.



Our big-day bake featured edible glitter, pearls and cream-coloured icing, decorated with fresh pink roses.

A saxophonist entertained our guests at our drinks reception, and we also had a gin bar which people loved. We'd created the perfect summer vibe.





I made the table plan to complement the design of our invitations and added artificial flowers to the top of it.





We dined on bruschetta and arancini, followed by a charcuterie selection with breads, olives, and various cheeses. The meal was finished with a delicious chocolate ganache.





The whole day was amazing. We were surrounded by our favourite people and everyone was so happy. We both felt so loved. I'd love to do it all over again!



We spent 10 days in the Maldives for our honeymoon – the most wonderful holiday we'd ever been on.



THE W-DAY TEAM

Venue and catering, One Warwick Park, www.onewarwickpark.co.uk
Photography, Bill Farnham Photography, www.billfarnhamphotography.com
Bride's dress, Yours Truly Bridal, www.yourstruly.uk.com
Accessories, Burrells Jewellers, www.burrells.co.uk
Bridesmaids' dresses, Next, www.next.co.uk
Groom's suit, Moss Bros, www.moss.co.uk
Groomsmen's ties, Swagger & Swoon, www.swaggerandswoon.com
Cake, Little Boutique Bakery, www.littleboutiquebakery.co.uk
Flowers, The Floral Workshop, www.thefloralworkshop.com
Venue styling, Your Beautiful Day, www.your-beautiful-day.co.uk
Transport, Traditional Travel Ltd, www.traditional-travel.co.uk
Entertainment, Richie Plays Sax (via Warble Entertainment), www.warble-entertainment.com

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Love thy neighbour

Clare and Andrew celebrated their nuptials at Sprivers Mansion on 3rd August 2019, after exchanging vows at St Margaret's Church, Horsmonden

Images courtesy of Penny Young Photography

Clare and Andrew became neighbours when they moved in next door to each other during the second year of university. They both felt an instant attraction, but spent 16 years in the friend zone before admitting it to each other and becoming a couple. Clare says, "This came as a huge relief to our friends who had endured a decade and a half of listening to each one go on about the other!"

Andy surprised his love with a trip to Rome where he proposed, down on one knee, in front of the Colosseum. Clare remembers, "It was late at night, so no one else was around. He knew I would have hated an audience. I was absolutely shocked!"

With such a romantic start to this story, we were desperate to find out more. So, we caught up with the bride to get the lowdown on W-day…



My mum lives in Horsmonden, and Andy and I would walk her Great Danes through the grounds of Sprivers, even before we started dating. It felt like a very personal place to us, and after meeting Jo we just knew it was the venue for our big day. It felt like our own magnificent home for the weekend.



The table plan was surprisingly easy to lay out. A good friend, who happens to be a graphic designer, created it for us to fit in with our pale pink theme.



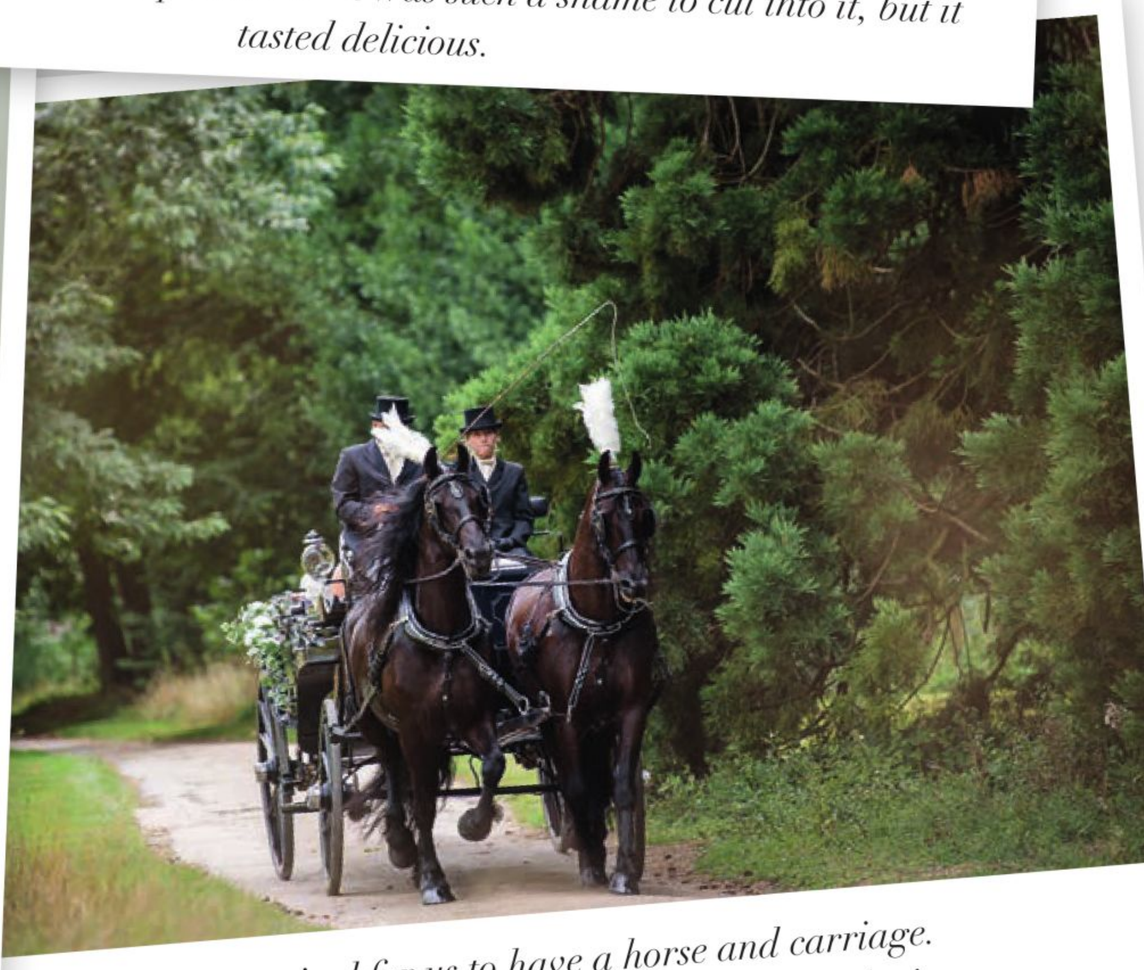
Lisa from Lily & Myrtle astounded us with our flowers. She created six high design centrepieces in tall vases and six lower designs centred around candles. We also had large flower spheres hanging from the ceiling, which I absolutely fell in love with. Plus, my bouquet was simply beautiful and guests commented on how stunning the church flowers were.



My auntie very kindly made and decorated our cake. We were so grateful for all of the hard work she put into it. It was such a shame to cut into it, but it tasted delicious.



About eight months before the wedding we started collecting our favourite photos of our guests taken with us throughout the years, and used these as their place names. It broke the ice with people who didn't know each other, as well as bringing back some brilliant memories.



My uncle organised for us to have a horse and carriage. The horses were stunning and impeccably behaved – it was the perfect way to travel. It also gave us a bit of extra time, just the two of us, following the ceremony.



The bridal party travelled in a Rolls Royce from Distinctly Vintage. The owner, Nigel, was wonderful. We loved the fact that King George VI and the Queen Mother had once travelled in it.



We used Sprivers' in-house caterers, The Curious Eatery. The food was amazing. Nicole and Lesley like to create unique menus for each couple, so you're free to make suggestions, which is brilliant, and means you don't feel like you're on a conveyor belt.



I wore Pracatan by Ian Stuart. My seamstress sewed one of my dad's cufflinks into the dress so he was there with me as I walked down the aisle, and I borrowed my mum's bracelet. My shoes were ivory peep toe heels from Harriet Wilde. They were the most comfortable shoes I've ever worn. I didn't even think about changing into the wedges I'd bought for the evening.



Andy and his two best men wore three-piece indigo woollen suits, with pink ties to match the bridesmaids, and brown shoes. The groom had a special buttonhole to set him apart.



As the bridesmaids' ages ranged from 12 to 42 it was tricky to find a dress to suit them all, but we found the perfect ones at Matchimony. While they were all made from the same material, each bridesmaid was able to choose their own style ensuring everyone was comfortable and happy.



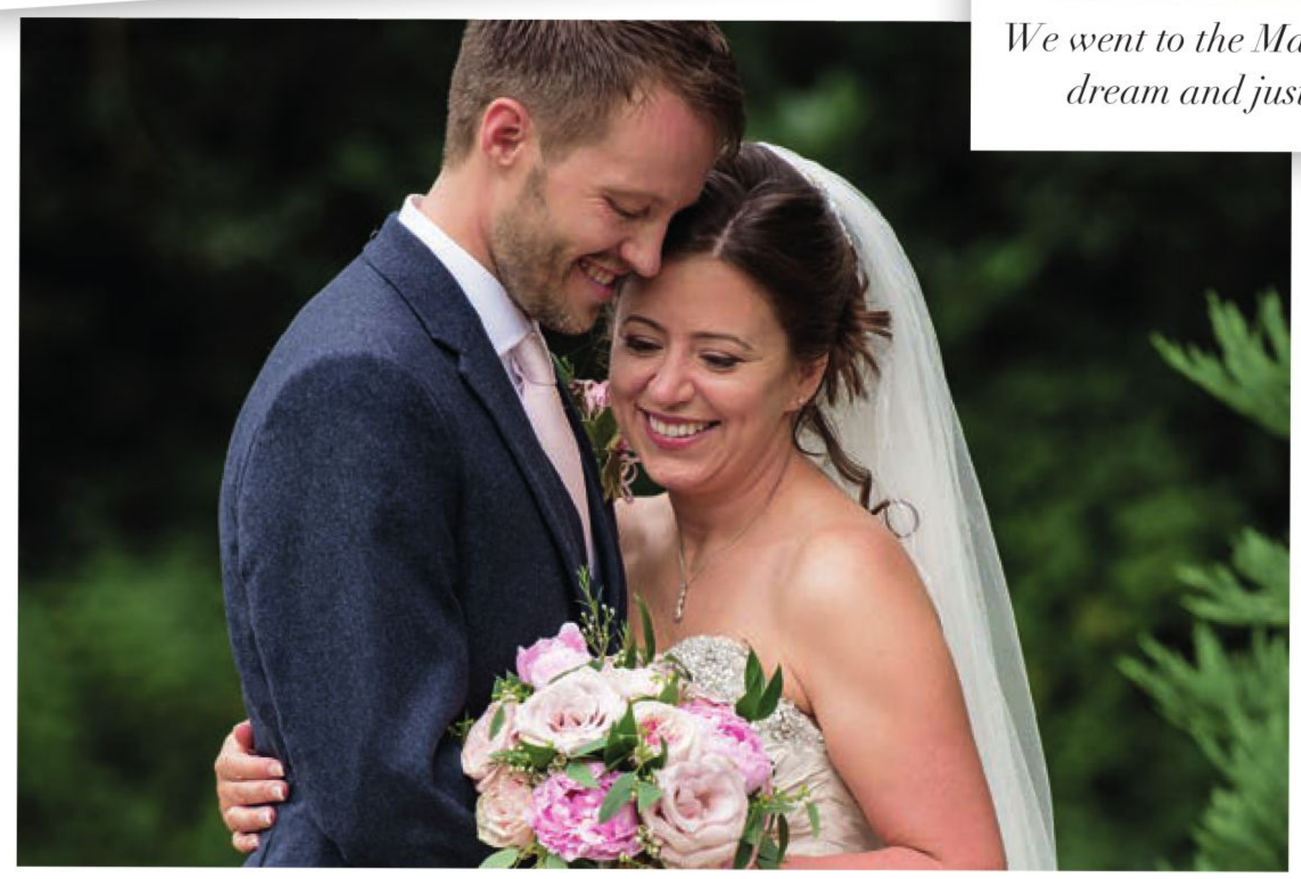
We put together a playlist of songs that had meaning to us for the welcome drinks and canapes, then had a DJ in the evening. There were also lawn games including a giant tug of war and croquet.



We'd practised our first dance in the weeks leading up to the big day but hadn't accounted for how big my dress would be, and Andy kept getting his feet tangled. He put me on his shoulders for the final dance, then promptly dropped me, but the dress cushioned my fall!



We went to the Maldives for 10 days and stayed in a water bungalow. It was a dream and just what we needed after being so busy with the planning.



Try to enjoy the planning and do what feels right for you both, rather than what you think you should do for everyone else. Take in every moment, as the day will fly by. Try to have some time out, just the two of you. Also, go with the flow – some things won't go to plan, but don't let them overshadow your day. Finally, wear comfortable shoes, as you'll be on your feet most of the day.



CLARE AND ANDY'S WEDDING SUPPLIERS

Venue, Sprivers Mansion, www.spriversmansion.co.uk
Photographer, Penny Young Photography, www.pennyyoungphotography.com
Bride's dress, Go Bridal, www.gobridal.com
Bride's accessories, Ivory & Co, www.ivoryandcotiaras.co.uk
Wedding rings, R&R Stevenson, 01444 416801
Make-up artist, I Do Bridal Hair & Make up, www.gemmapass.com
Bridesmaids' dresses, Matchimony, www.matchimony.co.uk
Groom's suit, Marks and Spencer, www.marksandspencer.co.uk
Flowers, Lily & Myrtle, www.lilyandmyrtle.co.uk
Transport, Distinctly Vintage, www.distinctlyvintage.com | Maple Leaf Carriage Company, www.mapleleafcarriages.com
Catering, The Curious Eatery, www.thecuriouseatery.co.uk
Videographer, Cut Above Productions, www.cutaboveproductions.co.uk

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GOOD OLD-FASHIONED *love*

Joanna and Robert styled their big day in navy, rose gold and blush, with a touch of Gatsby glam

Images courtesy of Rebecca Carpenter Photography

Robert told Joanna the very first night they met that he was going to marry her. After meeting via a dating app, the spark was instantaneous and, Joanne says, "We felt like we'd known each other for years, rather than two weeks."

Robert proposed, surrounded by friends and family, at the end of the church aisle following their son George's christening. Joanne shares, "It was a total surprise. He even chose the ring himself; it was perfect."

Fittingly, given their engagement spot, the couple decided to say "I do" at their local village church - St. Margaret of Antioch, Lower Halstow. The bride explains, "It was important for our ceremony to have religious elements. Plus, it's beautifully quaint, and located right on the estuary." They had a fully immersive experience planned for the ensuing celebrations for which they chose The Barnyard in Upchurch. The pair knew this was the spot for them thanks to the large open space of the marquee there, enabling them to host the reception of their dreams with everyone together in one place.

Join us as Joanna shares her memories of 5th September 2019, the wedding day…

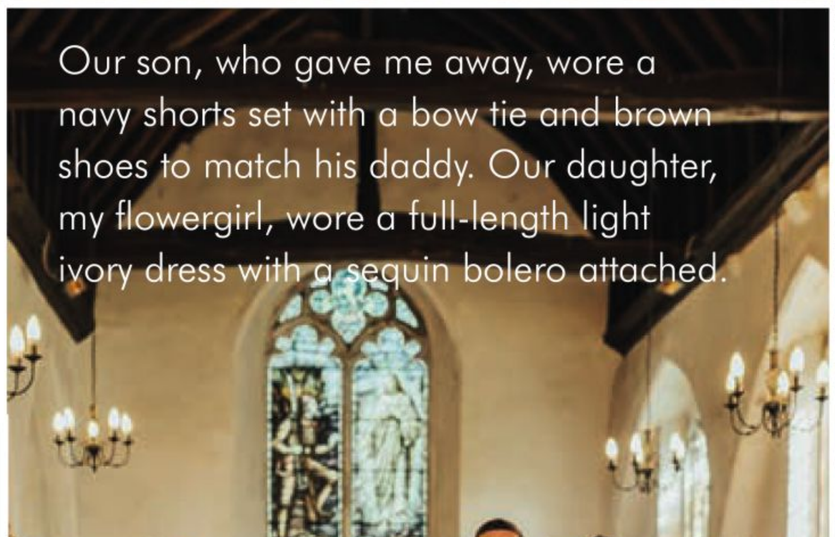




Rob was dressed in a navy Ted Baker suit, with dark brown brogues and navy bow tie. The groomsmen wore the same suits, paired with ties, allowing the groom to stand out.



I wore a full-length A-line wedding dress by Kenneth Winston. It was adorned with an Art Deco pattern in crystals and beads. My dress supplier came in the morning to help me into it so that it would look perfect. I accessorised with a two-tier veil and a side hair piece to complement my Hollywood waves.



Our son, who gave me away, wore a navy shorts set with a bow tie and brown shoes to match his daddy. Our daughter, my flowergirl, wore a full-length light ivory dress with a sequin bolero attached.





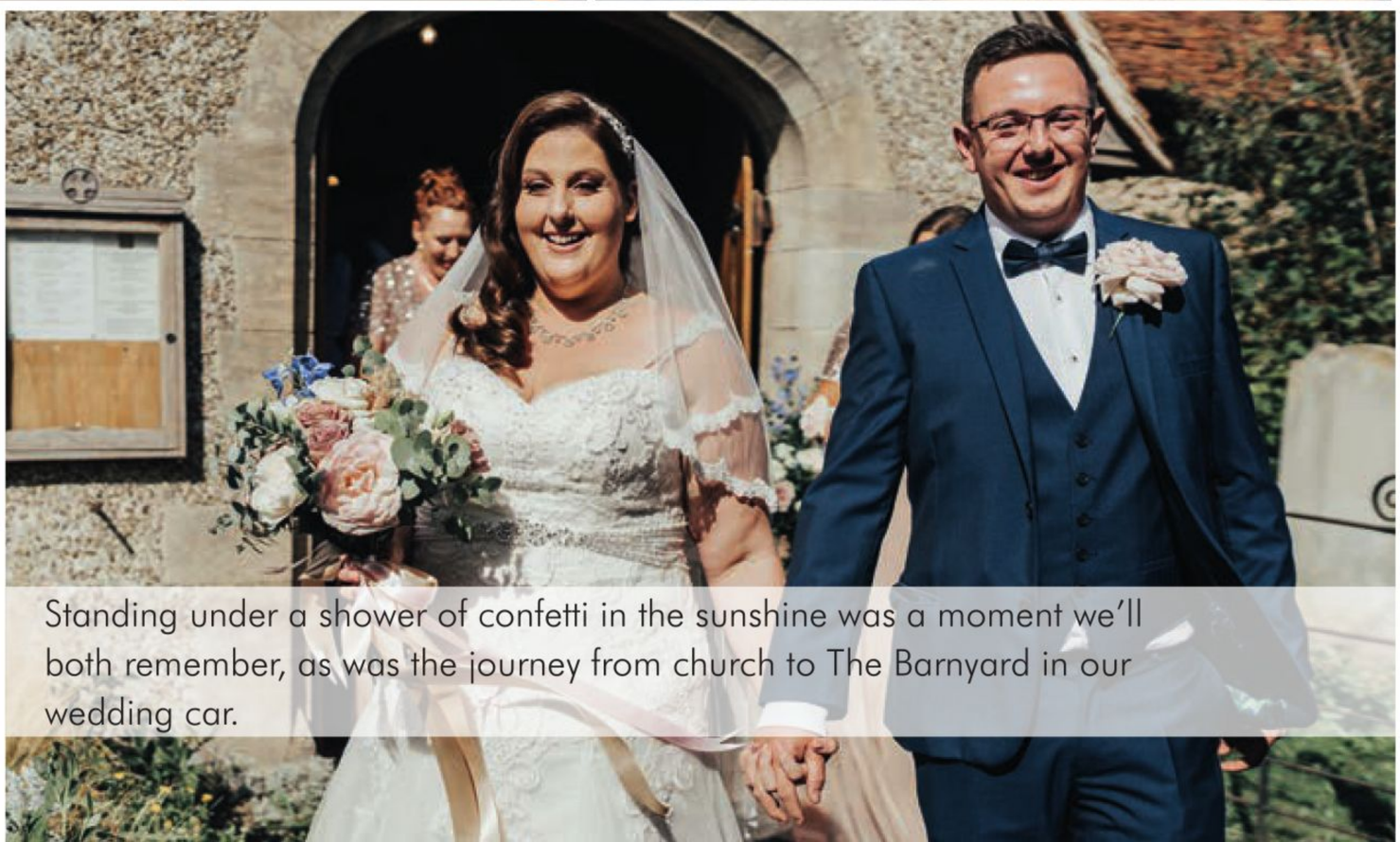




My bridesmaids wore sequinned dresses in taupe blush. Some of the girls chose long sleeves, others short. I had six bridesmaids, so it was nice to have a mix.

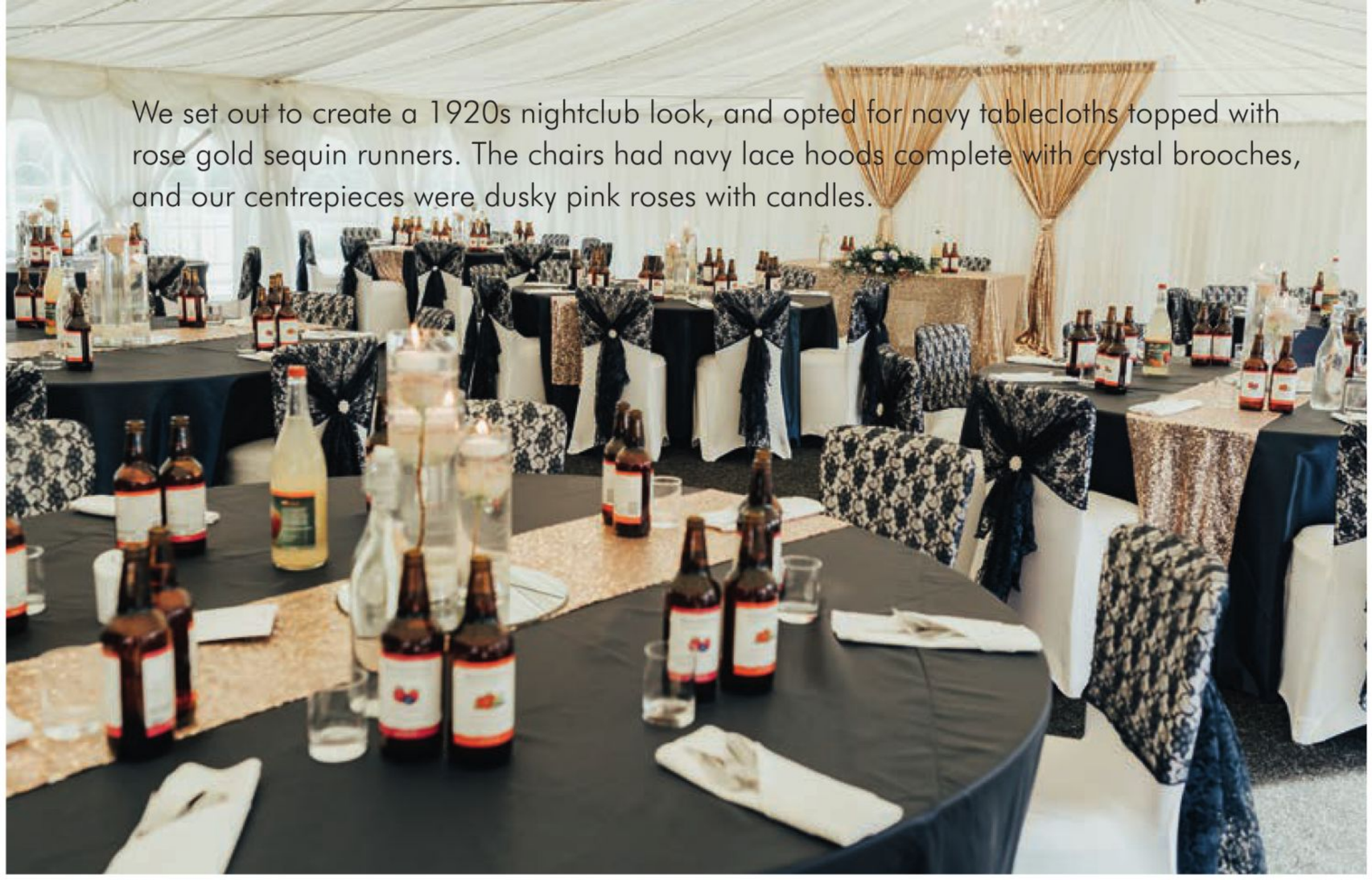


One of Rob's highlights was hearing my friend and professional singer, Alice Kattner, start to sing *A Thousand Years*, as that was the moment he knew he was about to see me in my dress.



Standing under a shower of confetti in the sunshine was a moment we'll both remember, as was the journey from church to The Barnyard in our wedding car.

We set out to create a 1920s nightclub look, and opted for navy tablecloths topped with rose gold sequin runners. The chairs had navy lace hoods complete with crystal brooches, and our centrepieces were dusky pink roses with candles.

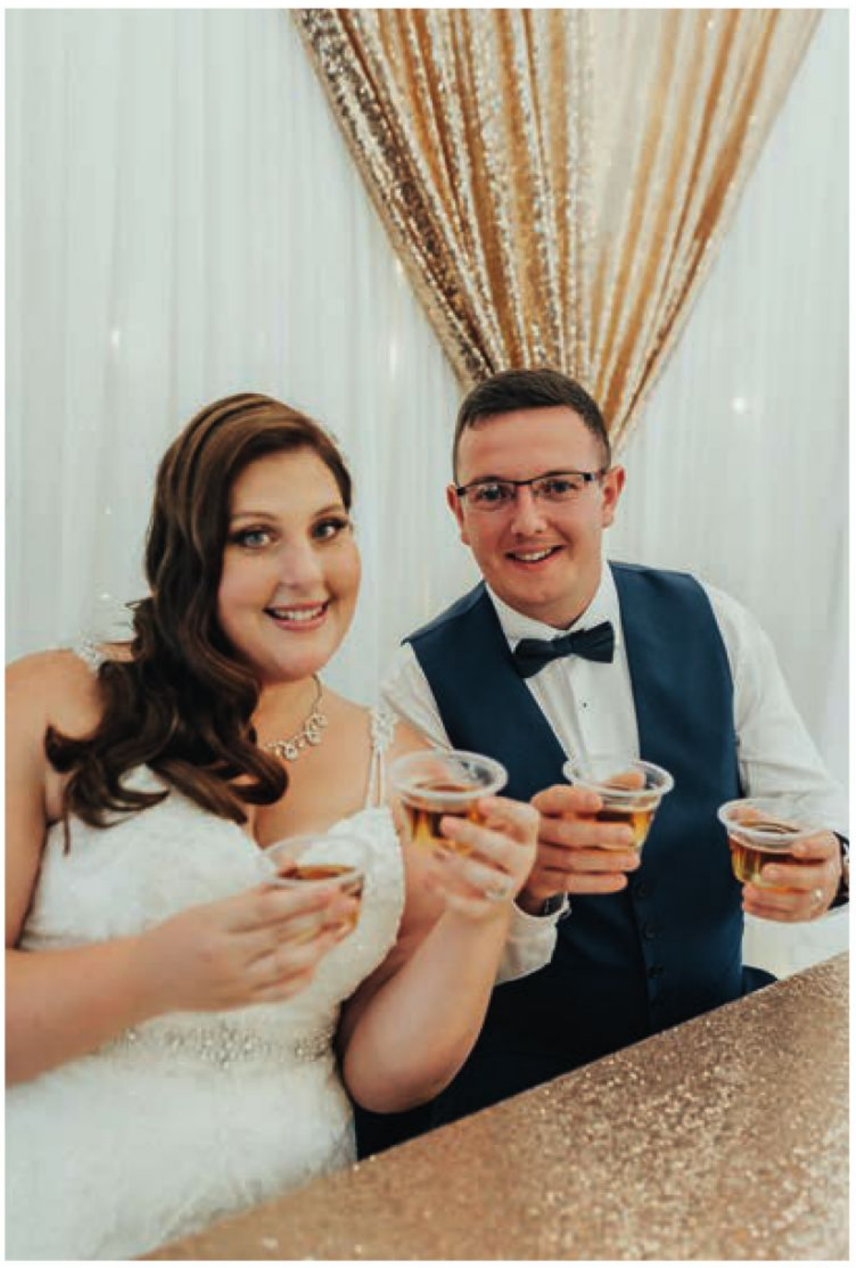




The table plan was decorated with dusky pink roses, with rose gold writing. Each table was named after Gatsby-era cars, and complemented the design of our invitations.



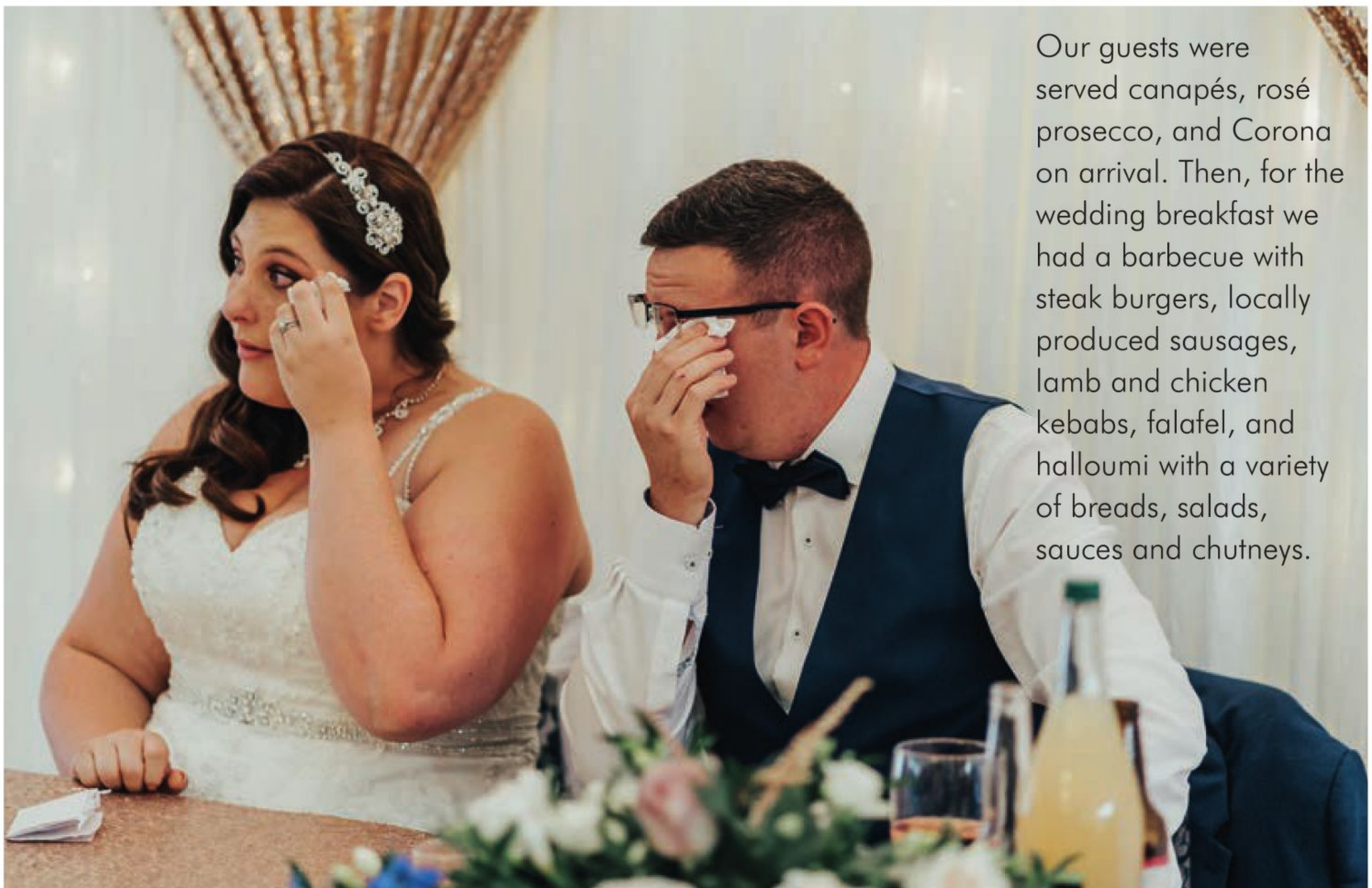
We opted for fruit cider on the tables instead of wine, and our toasting drink was Jagerbomb! It suited us perfectly, and our guests loved it.



We asked our guests to write their date night and holiday suggestions in our guest book, rather than standard messages of congratulations. We now have some fantastic ideas. We also had a bucket of sparklers ready for our send off later in the evening.

Our three-tier wedding cake was a black forest gateau, except the top tier which was a black forest eton mess with meringue, fresh cream and cherries. It was topped with a rose gold quote, which read, "And so the adventure begins."





Our guests were served canapés, rosé prosecco, and Corona on arrival. Then, for the wedding breakfast we had a barbecue with steak burgers, locally produced sausages, lamb and chicken kebabs, falafel, and halloumi with a variety of breads, salads, sauces and chutneys.

The barn looked perfect, it was just how we imagined it.





We had an amazing magician, Matty Evans. Our guests all commented on how fantastic he was.

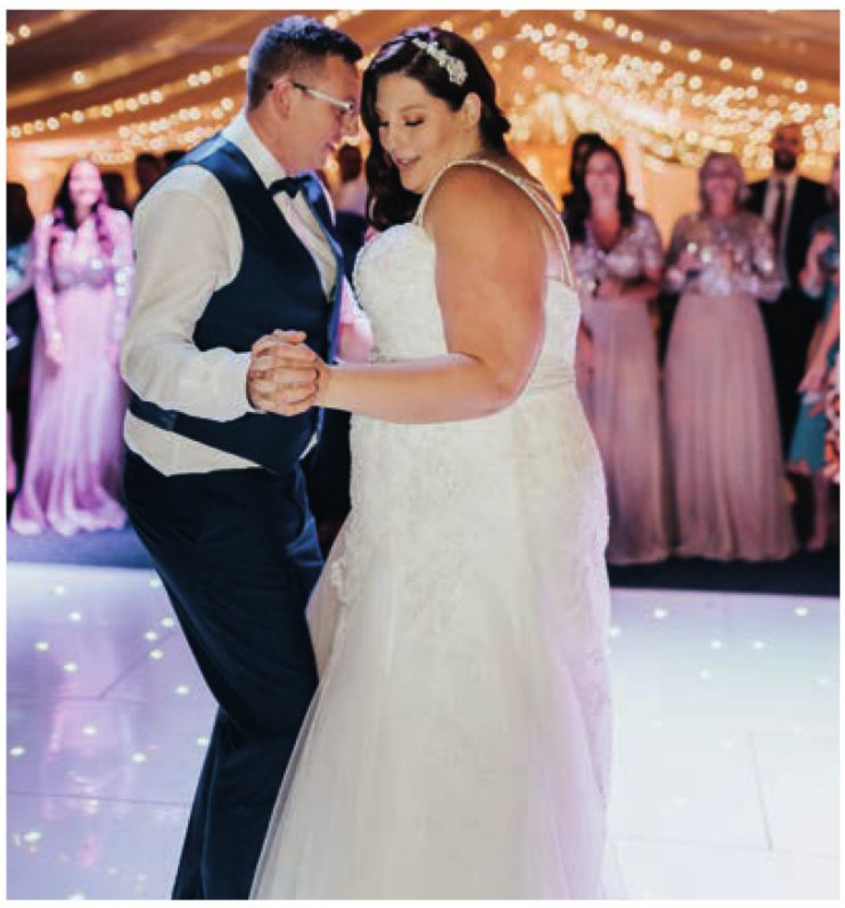
JOANNA'S TOP TIPS…

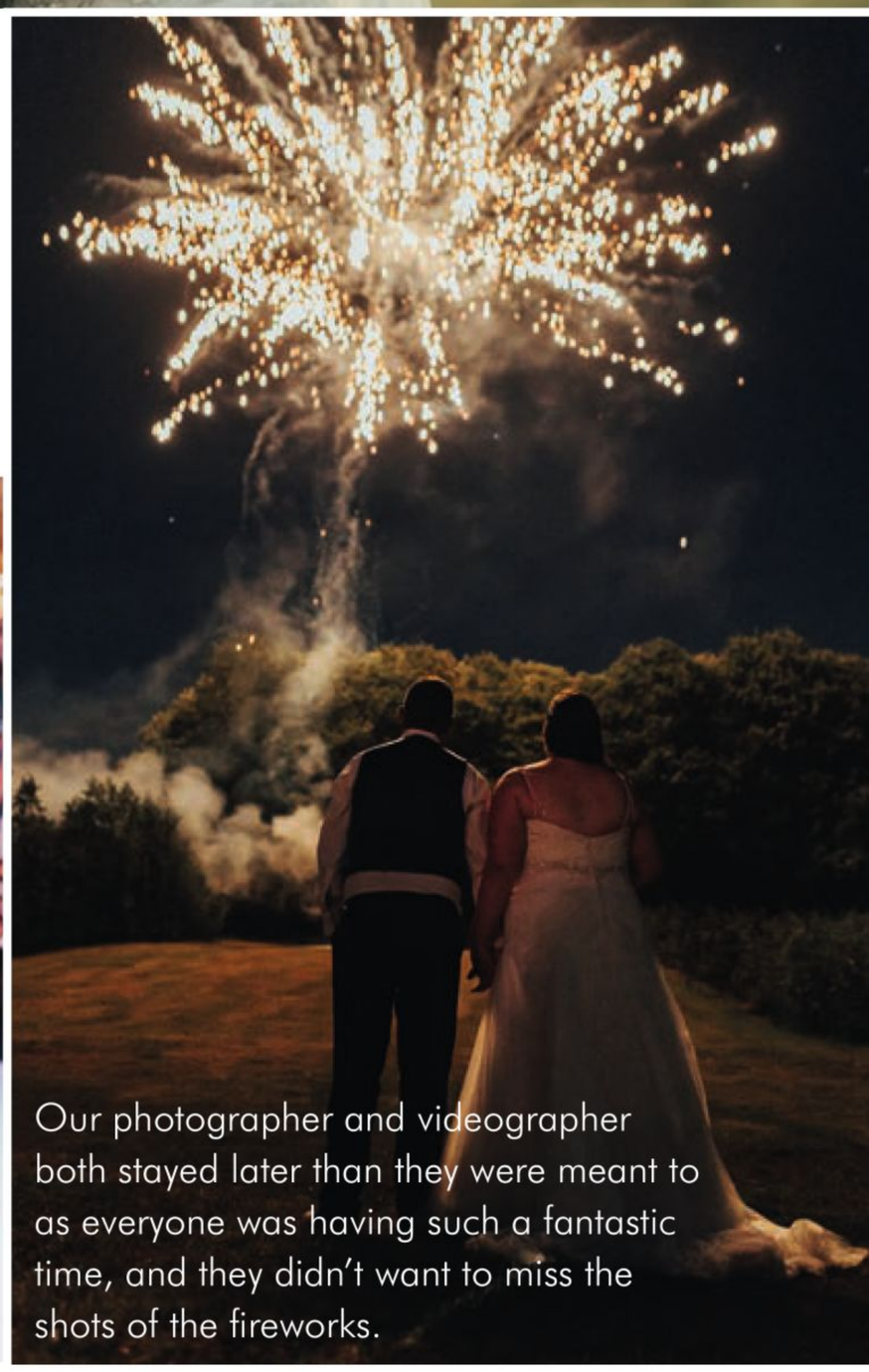
Set a date and book everything as soon as you can after your engagement. We got engaged in July 2017 and by December 2017 we'd booked all of the suppliers we wanted. Oh, and if you smile as you walk down the aisle, you won't cry as much!



Our photographer, Rebecca, suggested we take some golden hour sunset shots. We had to travel to the other side of the village, but I'm so glad she did as we got some stunning photographs.

Our DJ, Tim Cullen, known for having a regular set at Ministry of Sound and for performing at Prince Harry's birthday party, played a laid back daytime set, before picking up the pace in the evening with a personalised playlist of 90s, RnB, garage, and UK grime. We wanted a club DJ rather than a wedding disco, which paid off as the dancefloor was never empty.





Our photographer and videographer both stayed later than they were meant to as everyone was having such a fantastic time, and they didn't want to miss the shots of the fireworks.

ROLL CREDITS!

Reception venue, The Barnyard, www.the-barnyard.com
Photographer, Rebecca Carpenter Photography, www.rebeccacarpenterphotography.com
Videographer, Luke Batchelor Productions, www.lukebatchelorproductions.com
Bride's dress, Victoria Grace, www.victoriagracebridal.co.uk
Hair stylist, Kent Bridal Hair, www.kentbridalhair.com
Make-up artist, Clare Lake Makeup Artist, www.clarelakemakeupartist.co.uk
Bridesmaids' dresses, www.asos.co.uk
Groom's suit, Moss Bros Bluewater, www.moss.co.uk
Flowers, Emily & Me, www.emilyandme.co.uk
Cake, The Original Flake 'n' Bake
Transport, Vintage Rolls Royce Wedding Hire, www.vintagerollsroyceweddinghire.co.uk
Stationery, The Invite Shack, www.theinviteshack.co.uk
Entertainment, Mint DJs, www.mintdj.co.uk | Matty Evans Magician, www.mattyevansmagic.co.uk | Alice Kattner, www.kattner.co.uk
Venue styling, Your Beautiful Day, www.your-beautiful-day.co.uk
Illuminated letters and dancefloor, Sweetness & Light, www.sweetnessandlight.co.uk
Sound and lighting engineer, Steve French

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GREAT EXPECTATIONS

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

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

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

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

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

ON THE DAY DELIGHTS

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

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

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

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

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

Sarah x

Sarah Ellis, Sales and Events Director County Wedding Events.

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

SPABREAKS.COM

A date for your diary...

THE BRENTWOOD CENTRE, 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2020
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, 27TH SEPTEMBER, 2020
WEMBLEY STADIUM, 4TH OCTOBER, 2020
ASCOT RACECOURSE, 25TH OCTOBER, 2020

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

Signature WEDDING SHOW

cwe COUNTY WEDDING EVENTS

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

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

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

SPABREAKS.COM

IN ASSOCIATION WITH cwm COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

A date for your diary...

Sunday 13th September 2020, 11.00AM - 4.00PM

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

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

Follow us on /CountyWeddingEvents @CountyWedEvent @countyweddingevents

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COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

Signature WEDDING SHOW

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- Demonstration areas
- Entertainment
- Refreshments

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

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH cwm COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

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SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2020, 11AM TO 4PM
ASCOT RACECOURSE, BERKSHIRE

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

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

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

ASCOT Racecourse

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

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Signature WEDDING SHOW

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IN ASSOCIATION WITH cwm COUNTY WEDDING MAGAZINES

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



SUNDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020, 11AM TO 4PM
MERCEDES-BENZ WORLD, SURREY

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

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

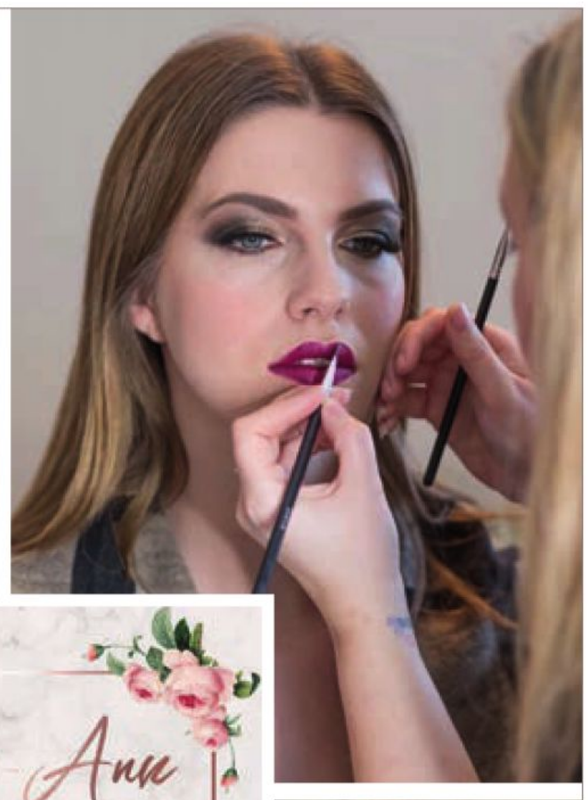


Hosted at Mercedes-Benz World, Brooklands Drive, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 0SL

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

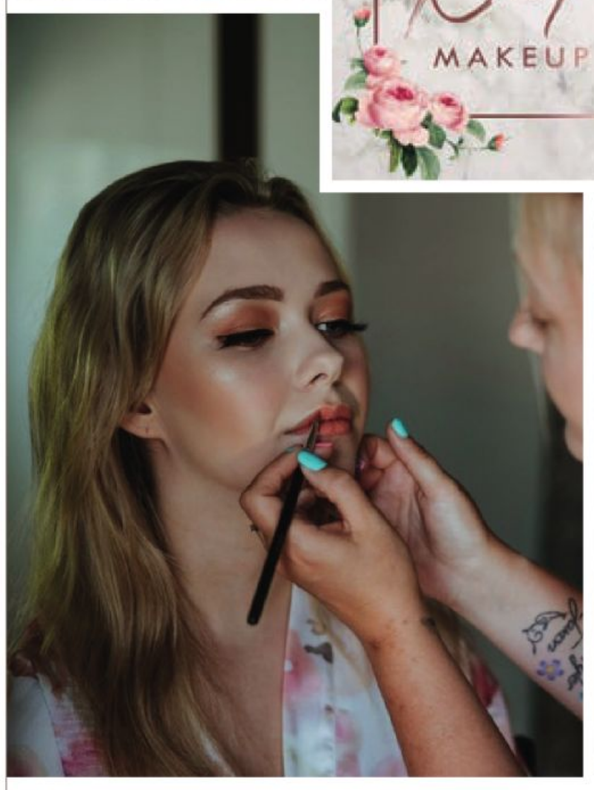
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PHOTOGRAPHY



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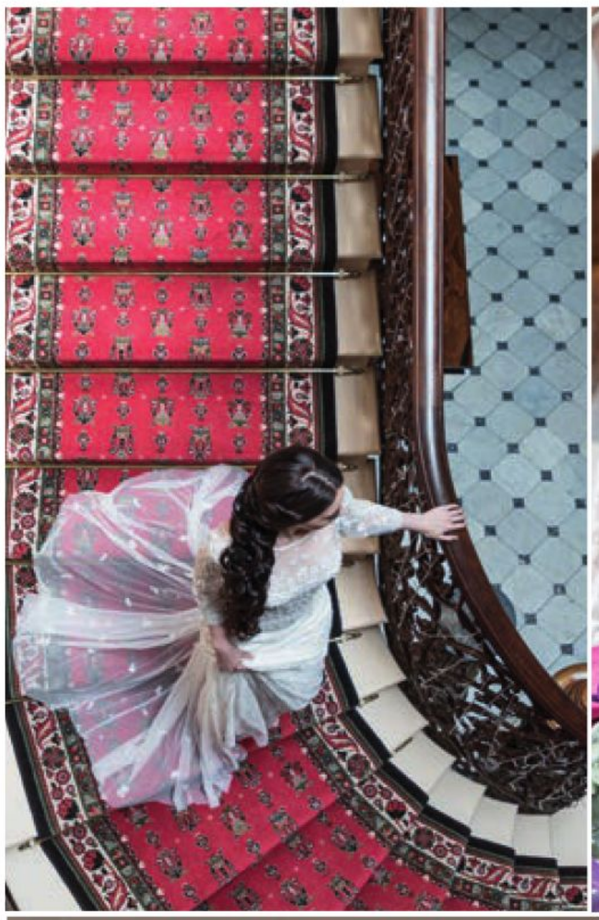
info@carouselcreche.co.uk

www.carouselcreche.co.uk

BOLD BOHO

Shoot coordinator and make-up artist Kerry Ann Wells set out to create a boho big-day look with a difference. With the trend for all things bohemian and beautiful still going strong in 2020, we're all used to seeing the pretty pastels that characterise the style. However, this fabulous team of local suppliers decided to add a new twist of colour using bright pink and purple tones amongst the glorious rural surroundings of Knockwood, near Canterbury. From the model's make-up to the cake, the flowers to the grazing table, every element sings from the pages, and it helped to cheer us right up during these difficult times. Summer is coming!

This talented team's use of bright pink and purple brought a welcome riot of colour to the boho trend
Images courtesy of Emma Stokes Photography



















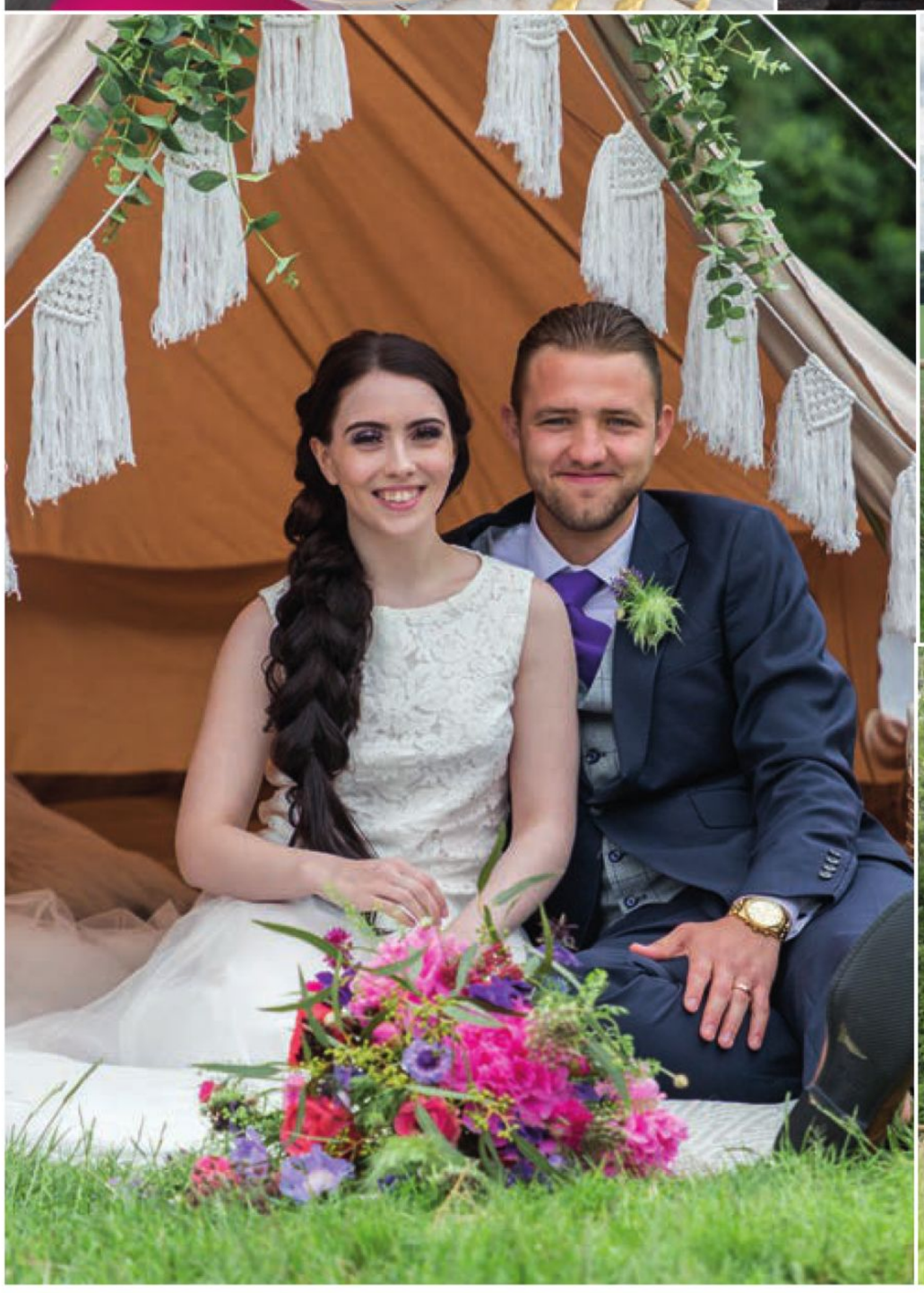
















SHOOT CONTRIBUTORS

Coordinator and make-up artist, Kerry Ann Wells, www.kerryannmakeup.com | **Photographer**, Emma Stokes Photography, www.emmastokesphotography.co.uk | **Cake**, Coastal Cake Company, www.instagram.com/coastalcakecouk | **Venue**, Knockwood Bespoke Receptions, www.knockwoodbespokereceptions.co.uk | **Bridal prep venue**, Mount Ephraim Gardens, www.mountephraimgardens.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, Kirsten Hair and Makeup, www.kirstenhairandmakeup.com | **Dress**, Eliza Jane Howell, www.elizajanehowell.com | **Bride's top, skirt, and robe, plus groom's accessories**, Matchimony, www.matchimony.co.uk | **Suit**, The Kent Wedding Centre, www.thekentweddingcentre.com | **Flowers**, Wild Bloom, www.wildbloom.co.uk | **Flower crown**, Honey V, www.honeyv.co.uk | **Bell tent, grazing table, peacock chairs**, The Hip Hooray Co., www.instagram.com/thehiphoorayco | **Moongate, tipi and cake table**, Bay Wedding Props, www.bayweddingprops.co.uk | **Grazing platter**, Fabulously Fed, www.instagram.com/fabulouslyfed | **Personalised napkins**, Extra Special Touch, www.extraspecialtouch.co.uk | **Models**, Ellie Fox, www.instagram.com/litte_missfox | Mihai Mitroiu, www.instagram.com/mihai_mitroiu

URBAN *edge*

Even if you're tying the knot in a countryside venue, you can still create a modern city-inspired celebration

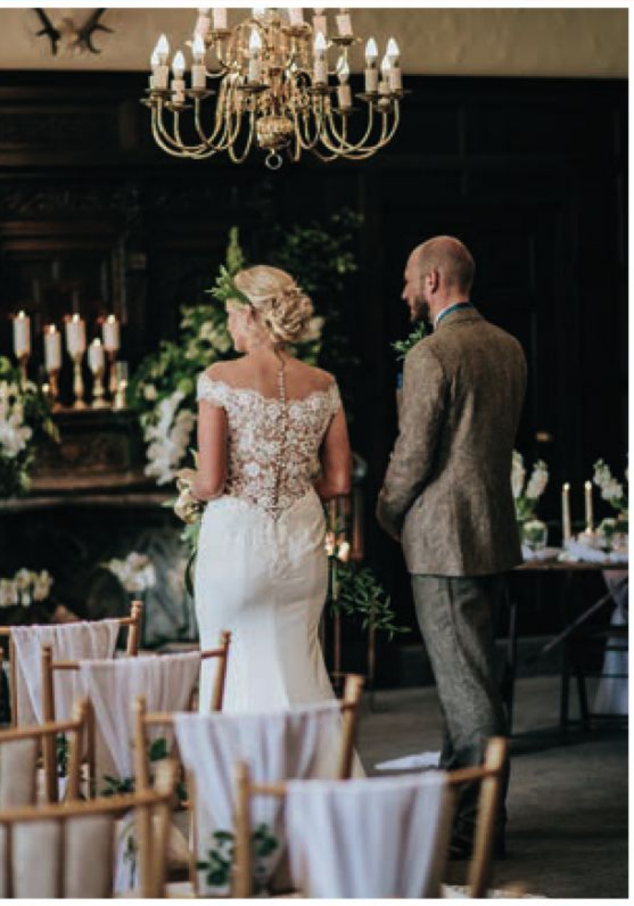
Images courtesy of Fleur Challis Photography

Inspired by life in the city this styled shoot set out to capture the culture, parks, dining experiences and street life of a perfect modern romance, set against the impressive backdrop of the neo-Elizabethan, Eastwell Manor. The colour palette was inspired by a city landscape, featuring urban greys combined with natural elements including green representing urban parkland, as well as blue and white to mirror the sky. The talented team also factored in a combination of purple and lilac - the colours you'd experience on an elegant night out on the town as city lights illuminate the night sky from below.























THE DREAM TEAM

Venue, Eastwell Manor Champneys, www.eastwellmanor.co.uk | **Photographer**, Fleur Challis Photography, www.fleurchallisphotography.com | **Videographer**, Film Our Day, www.filmourday.co.uk | **Dress**, **veil and shoes**, Bows Bridal Boutique, www.bowsboutique.co.uk | **Accessories**, What Katy Did Next, www.what-katy-did-next.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Sharon Owens Bridal Makeup, www.sharonowensbridalmakeup.com | **Hair stylist**, L A Styling, www.facebook.com/lastylinghair | **Flowers**, Mimi Fleur, www.mimifleur.co.uk | **Transport**, Oaklands Wedding Car Hire, www.oaklandsweddingcarhire.co.uk | **Entertainment**, 2 of Harps, www.2ofharps.com | **Chair dressing and props**, Bows Chair Covers, www.bowschaircovers.co.uk | **Cake**, Bluebirds Bakehouse, www.bluebirdsbakehouse.co.uk | **Stationery**, Heather Corthine Design, www.heathercorthinedesign.com | **Furniture hire**, Locate to Create, www.locatetocreate.com | **Tableware**, White House Crockery, www.whitehousecrockery.co.uk | **Balloons**, Balloonista, www.balloonista.co.uk | **Uplighters**, Harry Kilb Wedding DJ, www.harrykilbweddingdj.co.uk | **Models**, Adele Elwin and Ross Colman

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Kent Wedding Awards Finalist 2015

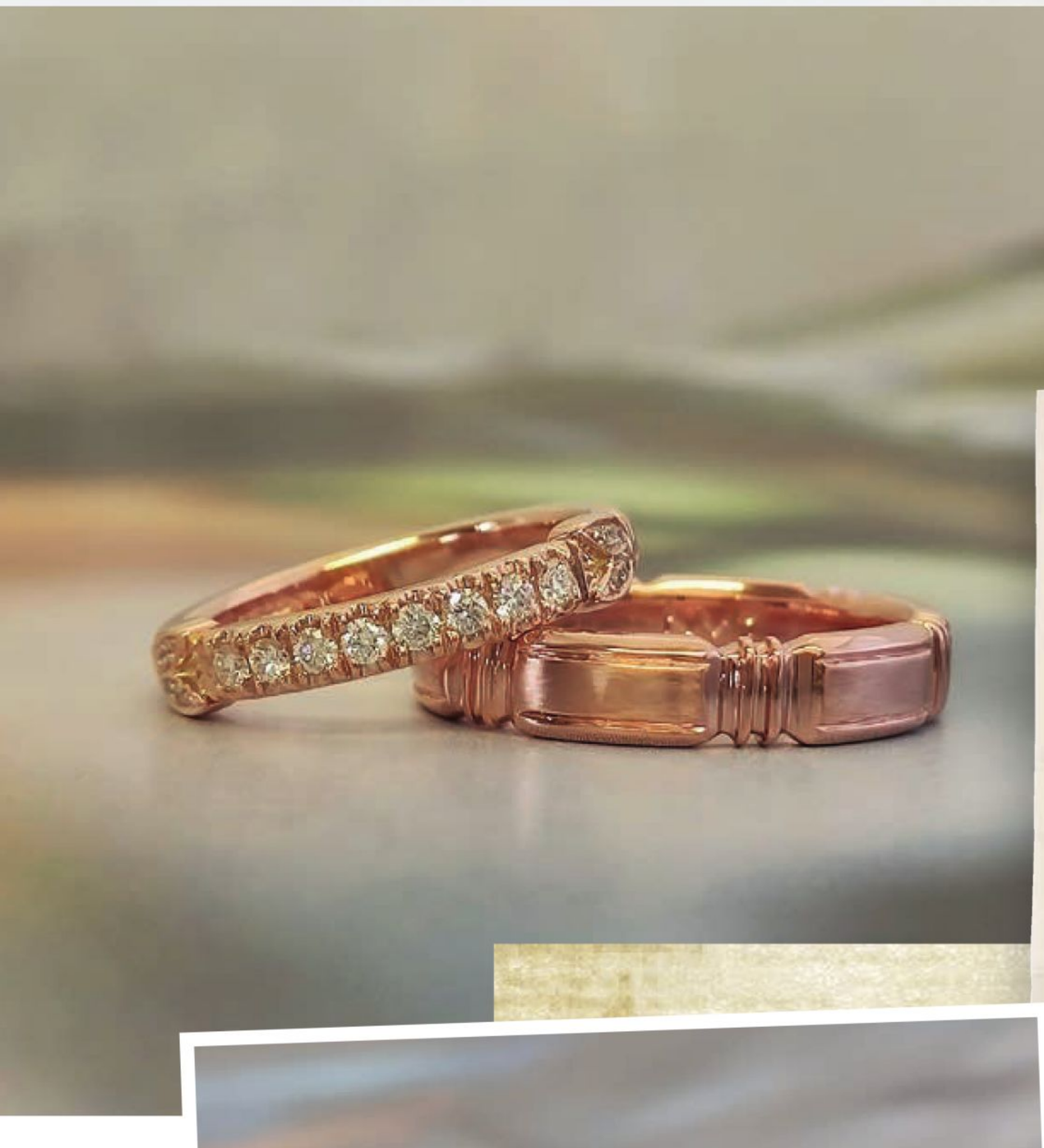




MADE WITH *love*

Personalise your wedding with locally handmade touches

A large section of our local wedding industry is represented by a hugely talented bunch of alarmingly creative folk who not only sell everything you need for your big day, but make it too. From stationers to jewellers and dressmakers, Kent has a wealth of bespoke handmade essentials to offer, bringing wonderful one-of-a-kind elements to your big day. These makers will put their love into creating something to reflect your love, and we'd like to introduce you to a few…





NAVETTE JEWELLERY STUDIO

01233 228 755 | www.navettejewellery.co.uk

Ashford's Navette Jewellery Studio was born from a desire to provide direct contact between the customer and the creative jeweller, offering a personalised one-to-one service for those who wish for something a little more individual, personal or symbolic. Indeed, there's great pleasure to be had in collaborating on a design, which in turn is created for you on site.

The exciting launch of the new Regency wedding ring range captures the vintage aspect of that romantic era with a modern element within each design. The collection offers the bride and groom a choice of wedding rings that are far from standard, yet boast a classic feel, featuring shaped rings and diamond sets.

"The most sentiment you could ever attach to your wedding ring would be in knowing it was created for you by your loved one," owner Natalie Towell says. The experienced jeweller hosts a one-day "Make Your Own Wedding Rings" workshop, where you're guided and assisted through each step of handmaking process by a professional. You're able to work in all precious metals, such as gold or platinum and, what's more, you can also make shaped rings or have textures, diamonds/gemstones set into them. Engraving can also be arranged once they're made.

Contact Natalie any time to arrange a free consultation, discuss your ideas, and benefit from her expert advice.



BRIDES BY ZOË CANTERBURY

01227 761 237 | www.weddingdresskent.co.uk

Zoë Dowle's passion has been bridal wear, right from her school days, when she started to show a talent for needlework, art and design. She says, "It was the natural path to follow after school and I was lucky enough to advance my knowledge at The London College of Fashion, where I spent a fantastic three years learning about design." After college Zoë launched her own business, creating bespoke gowns for both bridalwear and eveningwear.

This brings us up to the present day, and the designer has launched her own private off-the-peg label available at her boutique in Canterbury, Brides by Zoë. Each gorgeous gown is handmade in Kent by Zoë's own fair hands, a dream for the bride seeking individuality and affordability. She explains, "I'm finding that sleeves, in many different styles, are hugely popular at the moment, but are proving difficult to find. That's how I felt inspired to start designing again, offering brides fashion forward dresses with or without sleeves. We've moved away from the traditional full-length sleeve, covered with lace and sparkle. Now we have bell shapes, flutter sleeves, those with cuffs… There's plenty to choose from."

Alongside, her own stunning range, Zoë is also proud to stock the whimsical, bohemian collections by Wendy Makin, and Willoughby by Watters.







CHARLOTTE LAURIE DESIGNS

07738 437 284 |
www.charlottelauriedesigns.co.uk

Charlotte Laurie went into business creating gorgeous handcrafted bouquets and accessories after her own wedding in 2012. She says, "I made the slightly crazy decision to hand-make all of the bouquets, decorations and flowers. I really wanted to incorporate my love for craft and create something that would stand out."

As Charlotte Laurie Designs, she now creates bouquets and accessories using wool felt, and the quirkiest of buttons, at her home in Kent. She says, "I help brides to step away from the ordinary, creating individual pieces that reflect their personalities and complement their big days perfectly."

The process is a start-to-finish collaboration between Charlotte and her couples. Buttonholes can take on a theme of your choosing, even Star Wars! Flower crowns can be designed exactly as you envisioned and, if you want dinosaurs in your bouquets, well you can jolly well have them. Charlotte is more than happy to discuss how she can make your wildest wedding dreams come true.



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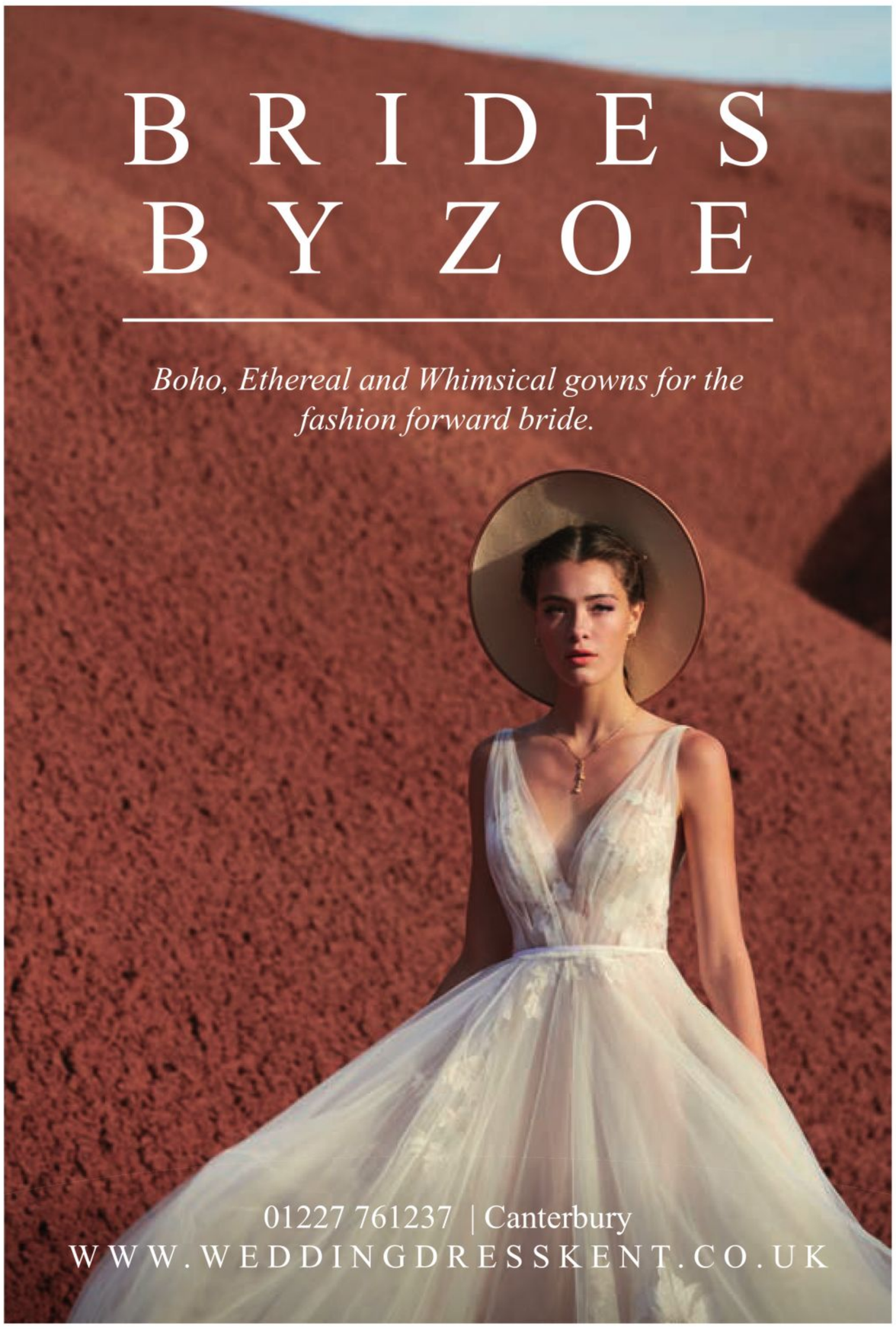
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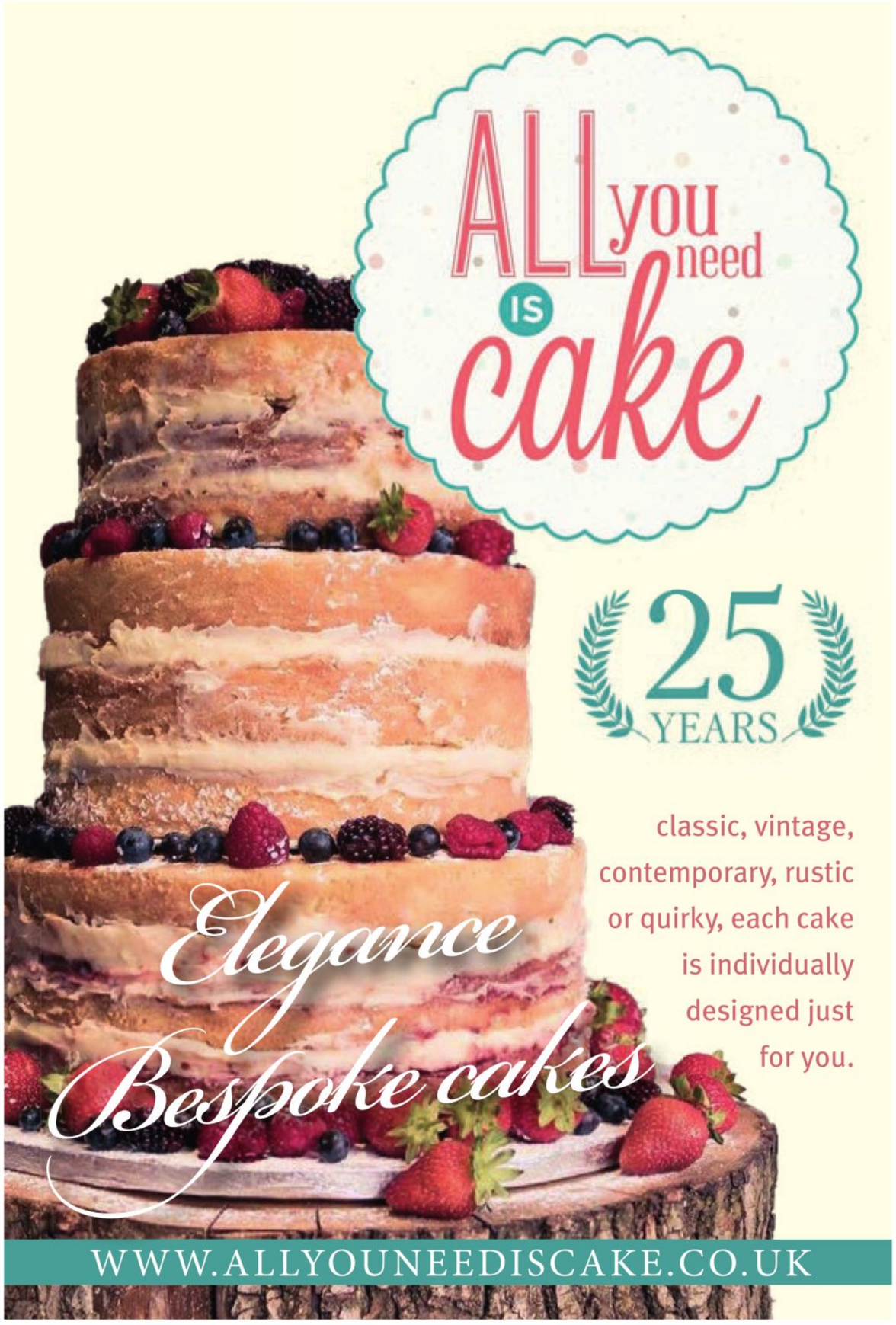
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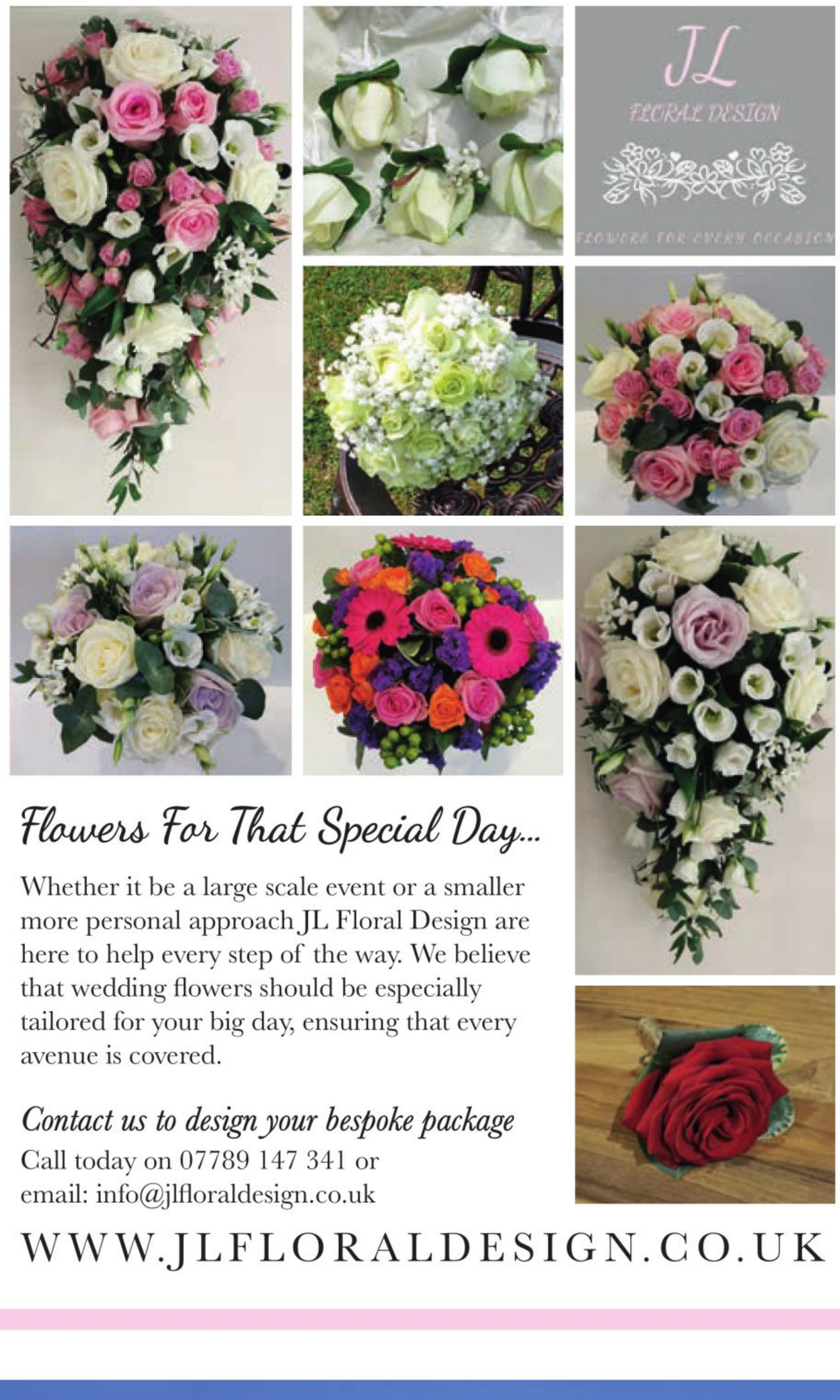
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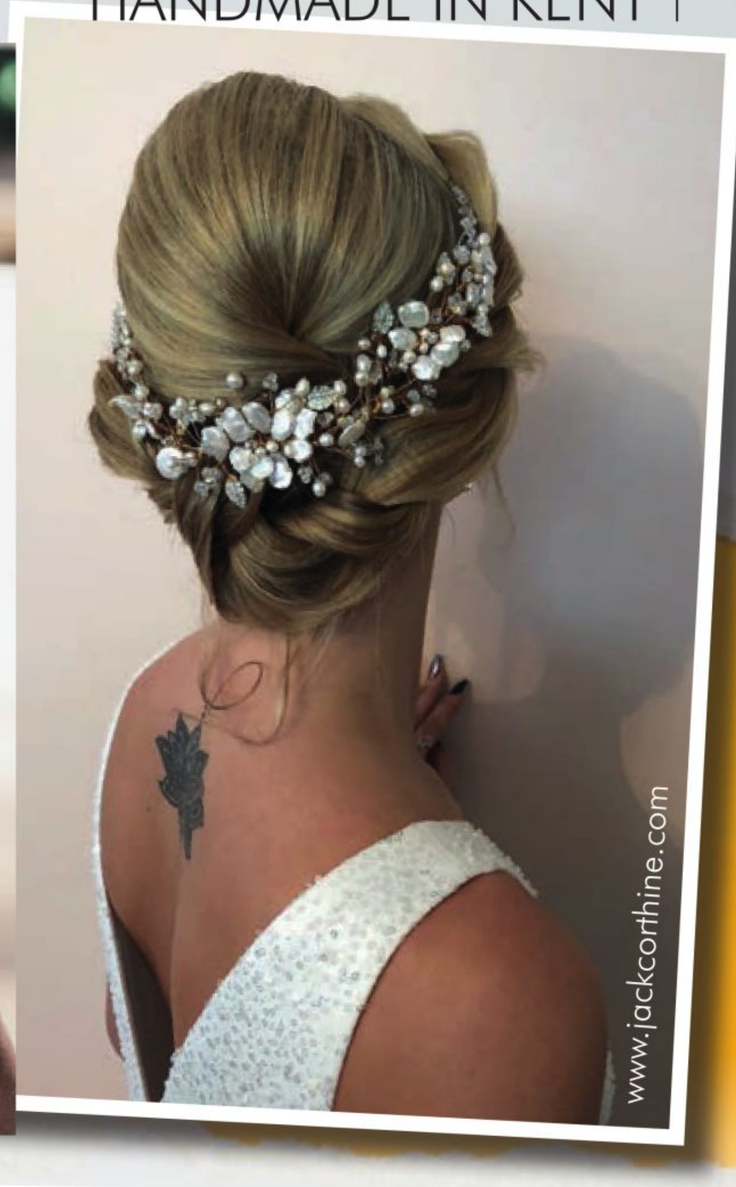
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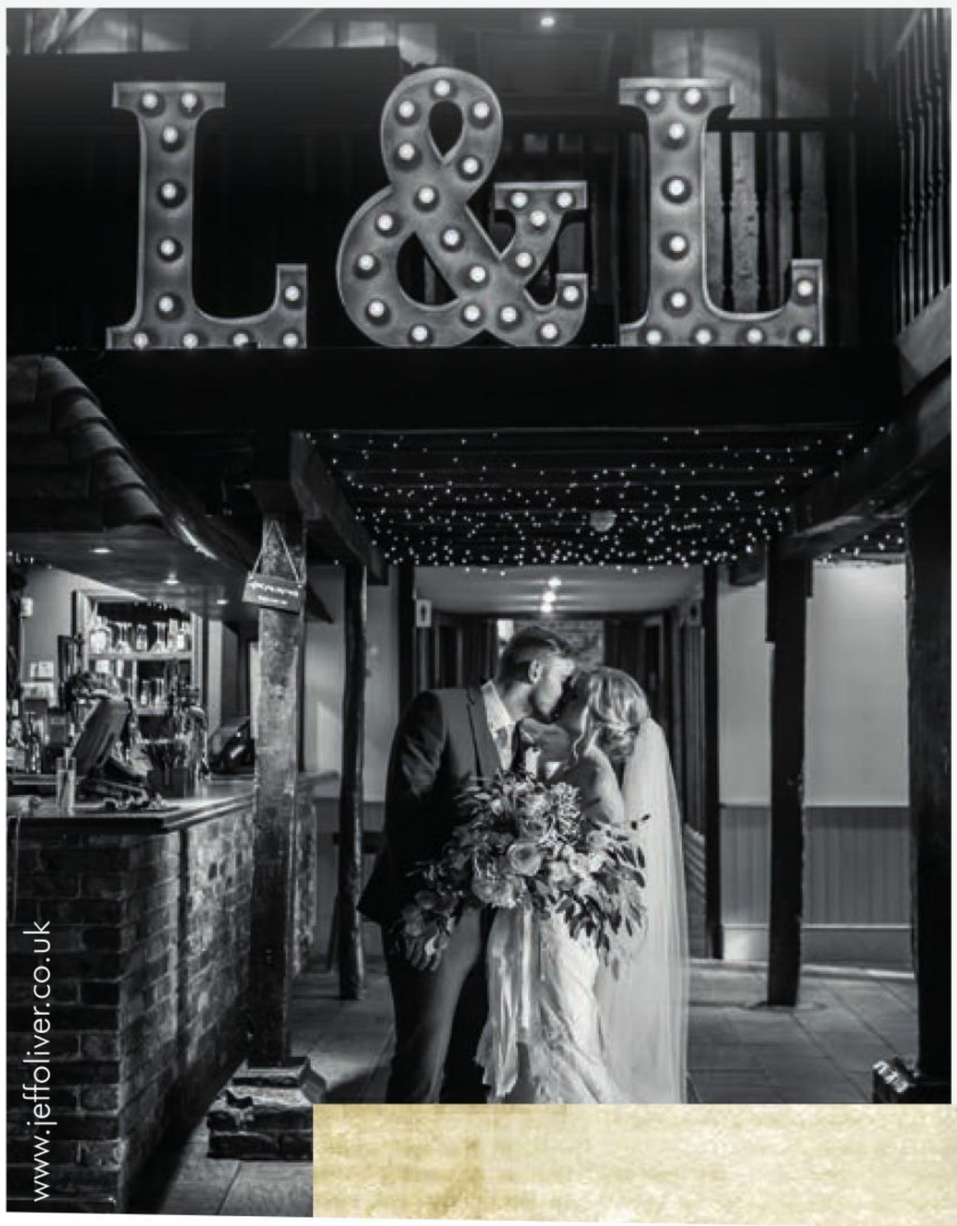
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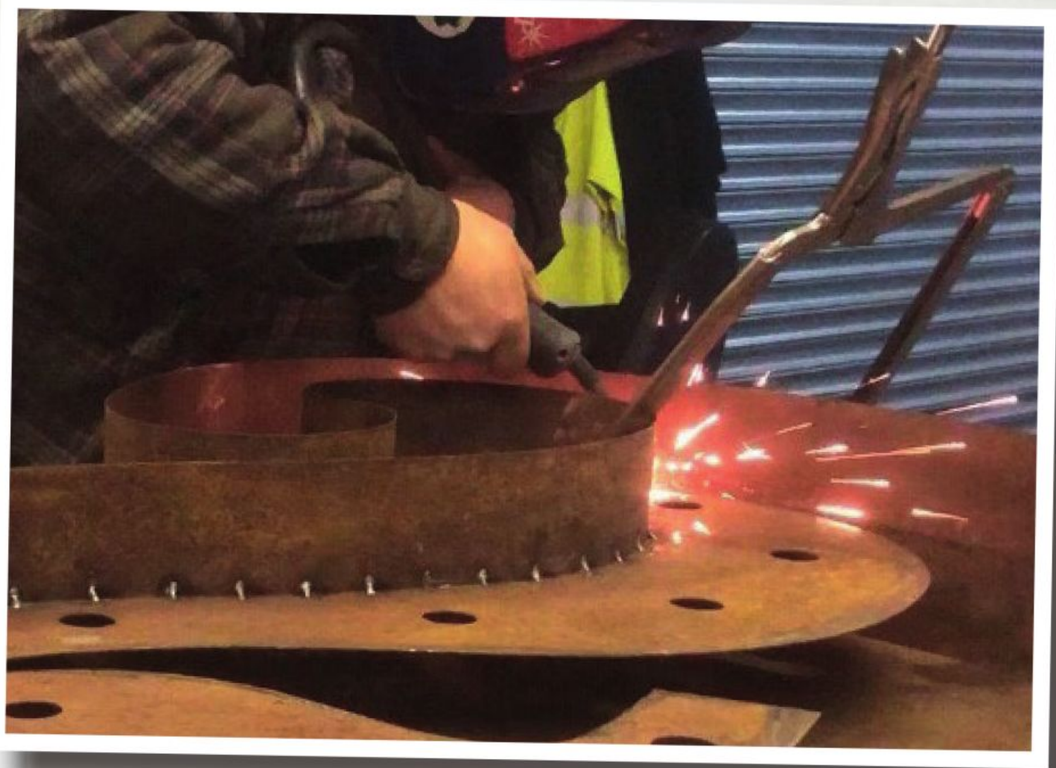
Lorna Green has been designing and creating bridal hair accessories for 20 years. Her intricately handmade collection follows an organic theme, taking inspiration from the countryside around her beautiful home in the Garden of England. Each piece features the use of incredible materials such as Swarovski crystals and freshwater pearls, and are lovingly created with the brides' own ideas in mind, complementing her dress. Lorna conducts consultations in order to design bespoke accessories, or to discuss adapting existing designs to suit.

There's also a stunning range of options for your bride tribe, as well as gorgeous fascinators for the mums, complete with matching jewellery. From tiaras to combs, hair vines to pins, there's something for the whole bridal party whatever your style.









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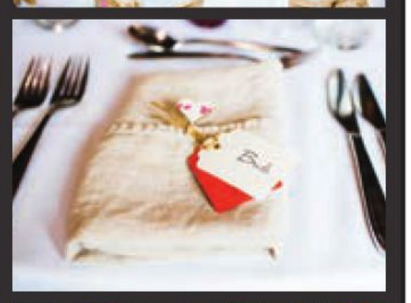
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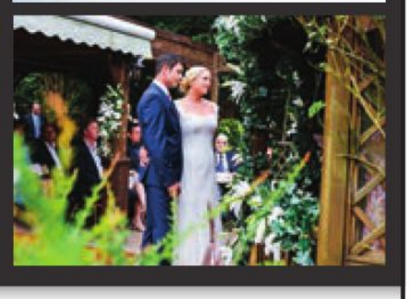
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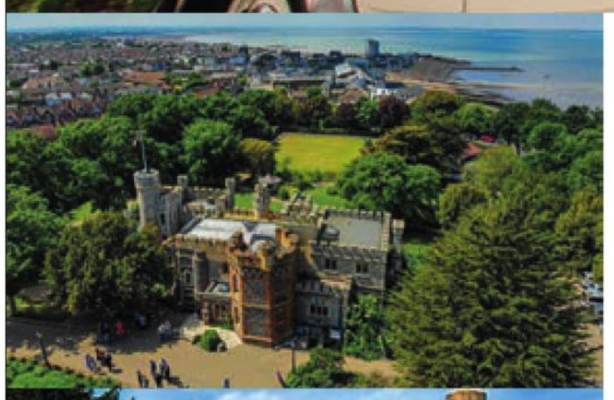
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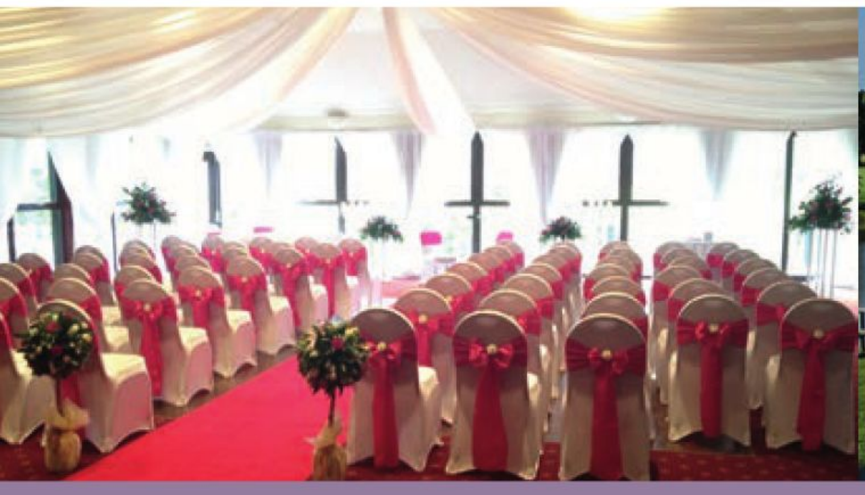
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With *Little House On The Prairie* listed amongst its influences, this super-cool shoot brings the Wild West to Kent. There's even a fashion forward edge with the portrait shots captured at The Drey's outhouses taking inspiration from the Ralph Lauren ads of the 90s.

The macramé backdrops, oversized boho florals, and vintage-style tableware offer inspiration aplenty if you're looking for an alternative, forest vibe for your wedding with a touch of U.S. charm and sass. Shoot coordinator and photographer Natalie Robinson says, "Working with real couple Kaite and Lewis on this wild, elegant shoot, bringing its American influences to Kent, was great fun."

Wild LOVE

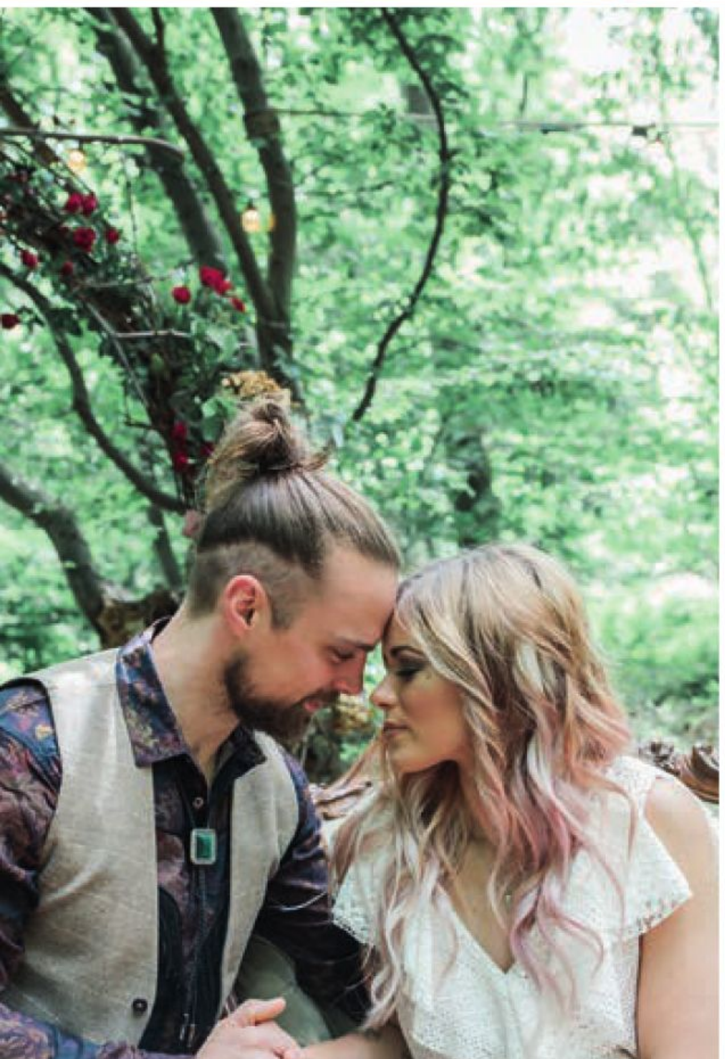
Saddle up and ride off into the sunset with this Wild West inspired local shoot

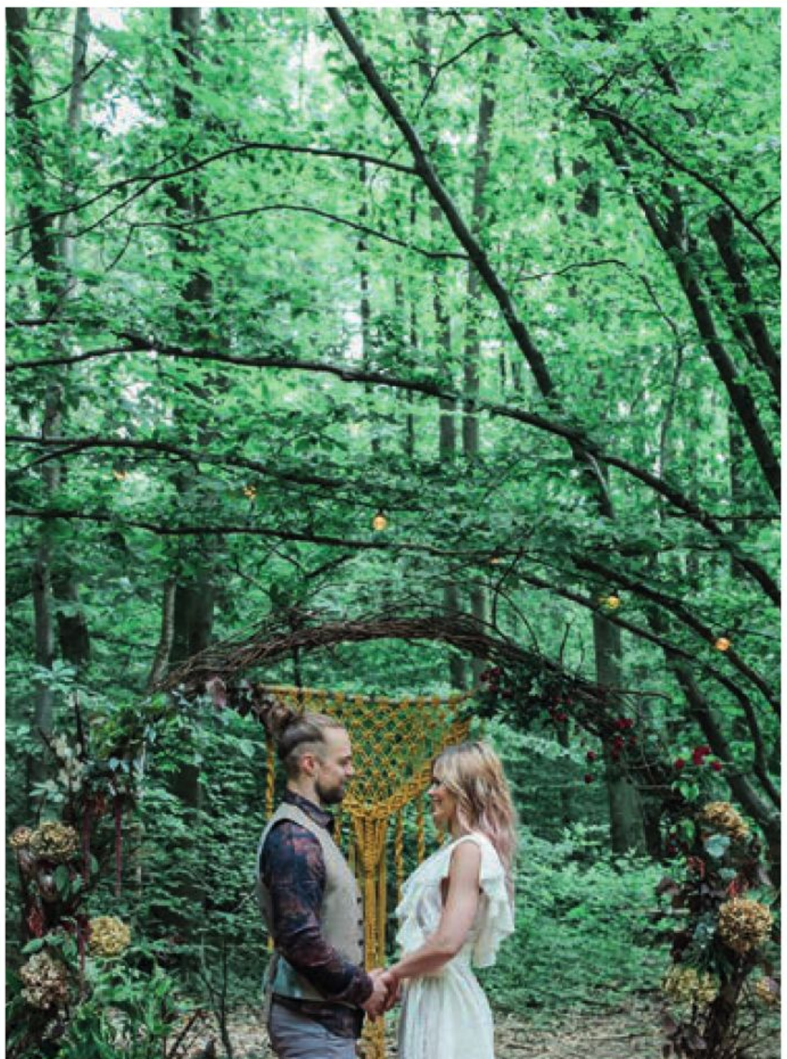
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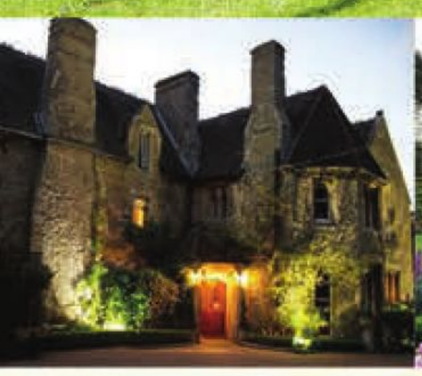




THE DREAM TEAM

Venue, The Dreys, www.thedreys.co.uk | **Photographer**, Natalie D Photography, www.nataliedphotography.com | **Dress**, With Love and Lace, www.withloveandlace.co.uk | **Hair and make-up**, Kirsty McCall Hair & Make-up Artists, www.kirstymccall.com | **Flowers**, Sue Davies Flowers & Garden, www.suedaviesflowers.com | **Cake**, Guilty Cakes, www.facebook.com/GuiltyCakesltd | **Tableware**, Harriet's Table, www.harrietstable.co.uk | **Props**, The Little Wedding Warehouse, www.thelittleweddingwarehouse.com | **Linens**, The Natural Dye Works, www.thenaturaldyeworks.com | **Jewellery and wedding rings**, Lawley Fine Jewellers, www.lawleydesign.co.uk | **Stationery**, Heather Corthine Design, www.heathercorthinedesign.com | **Videography**, Jack Corthine Photo Video, www.jackcorthine.com

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Belle OF THE BEACH

Living on the Kentish coast is sure to feed one's creativity, as this team demonstrates

Images courtesy of Photos by Lizzie

Shot on Kent's Seasalter Beach, the coast provided ample inspiration for coordinator and hair stylist Kirsty Smith and her team. The forever changing light, the calmness and opposing wildness of the elements, the mythology of the sea – it all played a part.

Kirsty has swum all her life - in fact, her first job as a teenager was at the local swimming pool in Whitstable. With a love of the sport came a passion for mermaids so the temptation to add one as a motif just begged to be realised. From here the vision of a boho beach bride, with a mythical twist and a carefree look, came to life in the golden late afternoon light of a perfect summer's day.

THE SHOOT'S TEAM

Photography, Liz Gregg of Photos by Lizzie, www.photosbylizzie.co.uk | **Dresses**, The Bridal Boutique of Jules, www.boutiqueofjules.co.uk | **Accessories**, Honey V, www.honeyv.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Lucy Jayne Makeup, www.lucyjaynemakeup.co.uk | **Hair stylist and shoot coordinator**, Kirsty Smith Hair Boutique, www.facebook.com/HairbykirstySmith49 | **Flowers**, Floral Magpie

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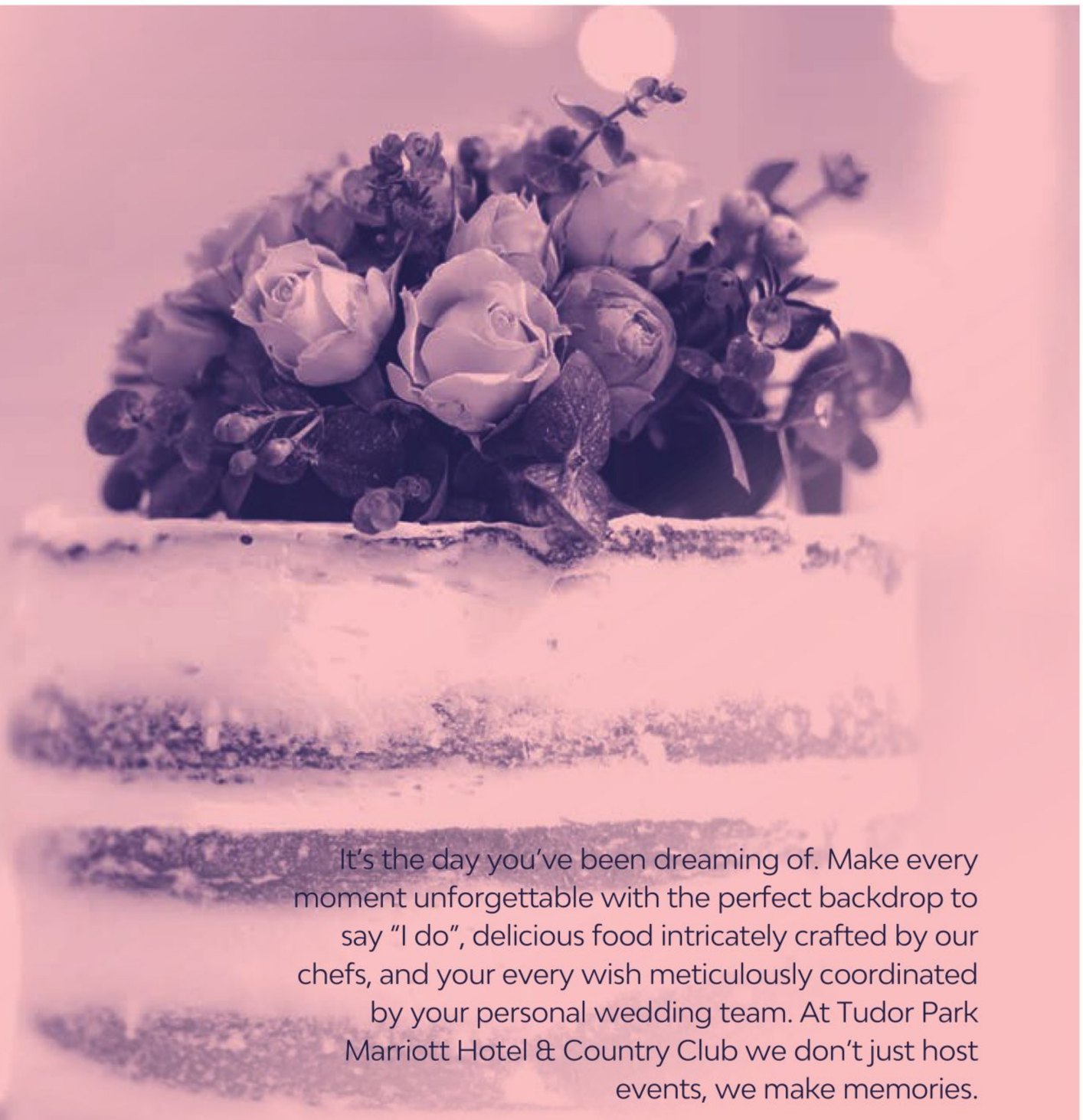


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BON APPÉTIT

Seasonal big-day dishes



The time of year you choose to tie the knot is likely to have as much of a bearing on your catering as it does your venue styling. Afterall, a barbecue on the terrace isn't going to have quite the same success rate in December as it might in July. So, what should you serve and when, to ensure happy faces all round? We asked our county's caterers for their mouth-watering suggestions.

Winter warmers







James Crank, head chef at The Old Kent Barn says: Couples frequently ask for my recommendations, and the first thing I'll ask is in which season they'll be tying the knot. For a chef, food is also about the setting in which you're eating. As the temperature changes, so do our eating habits and the food we choose. Nothing beats a hearty warming dish in the autumn and winter months - something comforting makes you feel cosy. Your guests will surely appreciate these choices, which can only add to their experience.

Starter.

Blue cheese chestnut mushroom tart, pesto, charred baby gem.

Main.

Braised Scotch beef stew, red wine, celeriac, swede, parsnips.

Dessert.

Bramley apple, blackberry, stem ginger crumble.

Debbie of Chives the Caterers says: Although I adore the summer there's something special about autumn and winter food, with a rather special comfort factor. It's the perfect time to bring in those autumnal colours too…

Clare Smith of Touchays Event Caterers says: Let's be honest, after your gorgeous romantic ceremony, your guests will rate the food as the most important aspect of your wedding. Increasingly popular is the opportunity for something less formal, more of an experience. To create an extravagant end to a wedding breakfast, we work with our couples to curate a dessert station, which benefits from our wealth our skills, reflects the season, and includes an array of delicious sweet treats that will wow guests.



CANAPES

A canape-size cup of spiced pumpkin soup to warm the guests during the photographs, along with slow-cooked pork belly skewers with apple chutney and crackling crumb, mini baked potatoes with chilli and cheese, and wild mushroom arancini.

THE MAIN EVENT

We often do beautiful individual homemade pies for weddings in the winter: rabbit and mustard sauce, pheasant and mushroom, classic beef and ale, or sweet potato, chickpea and blue cheese, which can be made with vegan cheese. All of these are served with steamed vegetables and creamy flavoured mash to complement the pie.

SWEET TREAT

Date and chocolate pudding with butterscotch sauce and jugs of cream – much lighter than it sounds and just perfect for a cooler wedding.

Sunny summer dishes

Debbie Green of Chives the Caterers says: Spring and summer come around again before we know it, and we want the day to reflect the sunshine, and bright colours of the season…

Canapes

Spiced prawns wrapped in cucumber, melon with pumpkin seeds, pesto and goat's cheese, sun-dried tomato and gruyere tartlets, and my favourite: crab doughnuts.

The wedding breakfast should also be full of colour, and we love to serve a range of barbecue dishes to each table…


Chives the Caterers


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The main event

Swordfish steaks with lime and thyme butter, slow-cooked brisket steaks finished on the grill, Thai chicken thighs and bright red peppers stuffed with sweet potato, fresh corn and basil with bowls of beautiful salads such as halloumi grape and watercress, green beans with honey and almond dressing, roast carrot and beetroot with crumbled goats cheese and new potatoes with mint and lemon oil. This can also be provided as a buffet with guests sitting in the garden on hay bales.

I love a dessert buffet in the summer it adds to the leisurely feel to the day…

Sweet treats

Macadamia and strawberry roulades, lemon and white chocolate Eton mess, passion fruit possets and our chocolate mudballs, which work all year around.

James Crank, head chef at The Old Kent Barn says: On the summer side of the calendar we often see barbecue menus. Most likely due to the growing popularity of W-days with a more relaxed vibe, this style of dining gives guests a chance to relate to a mode of al fresco dining, already popular in our day to day summertime dining habits. Barbecues also create a wonderful visual spectacle with the sounds and smells of food being prepared in front of your guests.

I do love a traditional three-course sit-down meal though, which may be nostalgia, as that's what I had for my own wedding breakfast! Make selections that appeal to a wide audience and go for flavours to suit the season…


www.olegssamsonovsphotography.com


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Starter

Hot smoked salmon, horseradish, crème fresh, fennel, lime.

Main

Lamb rump, ratatouille, basil, black olives, harissa.

Dessert

Lemon meringue pie, raspberry Sorbet, Italian meringue, mint.

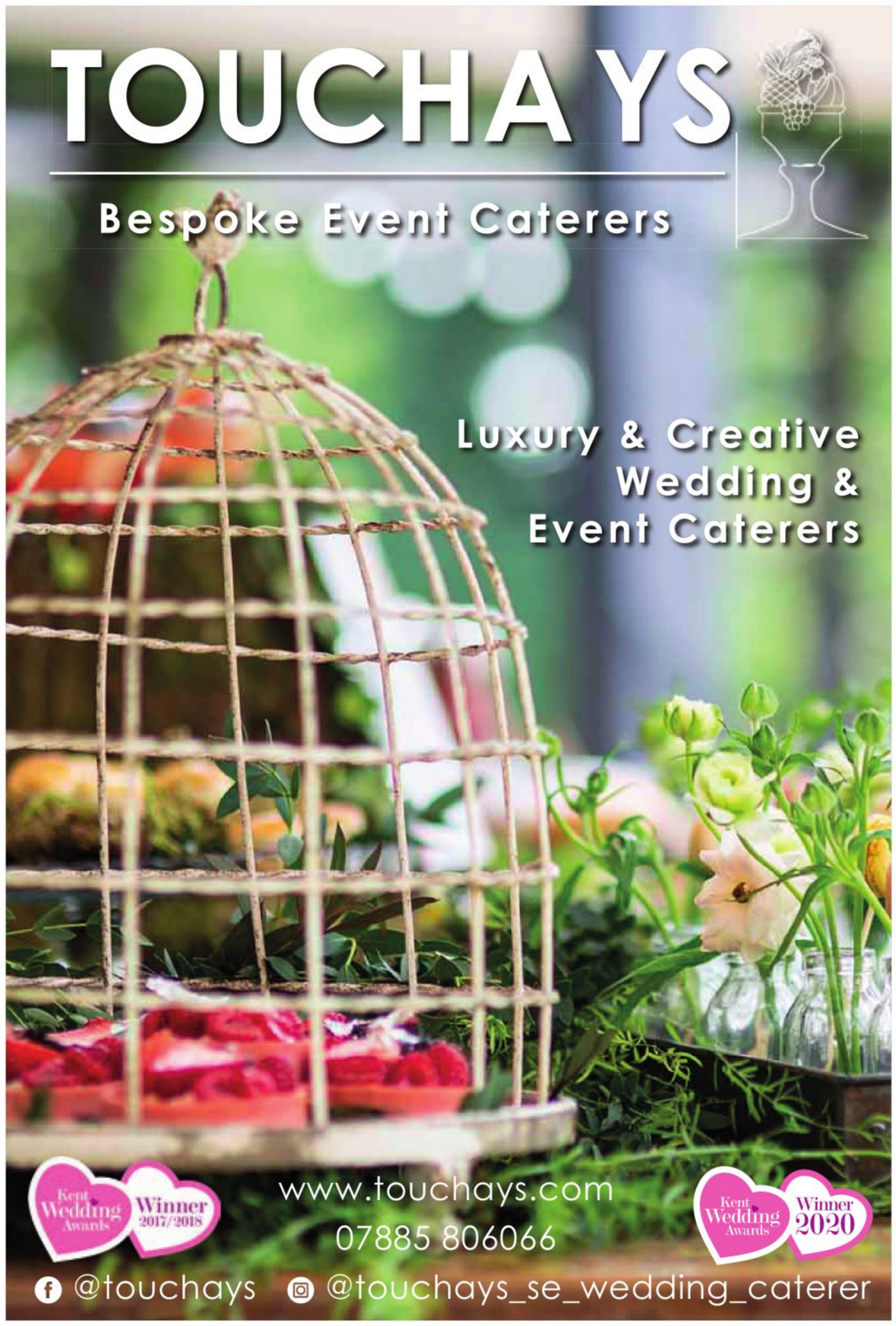

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Clare Smith of Touchays Event Caterers says: For the summer, we recommend opting for individual grazing boards as starters. This style of food service ensures a relaxing start to your wedding breakfast. Think artisan bread, served with a colourful assortment of charcuterie, olives and mouth-watering dips and it all looks good enough to eat! Vegan options are also possible here.

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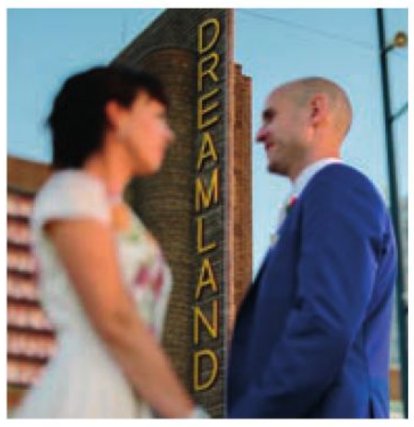


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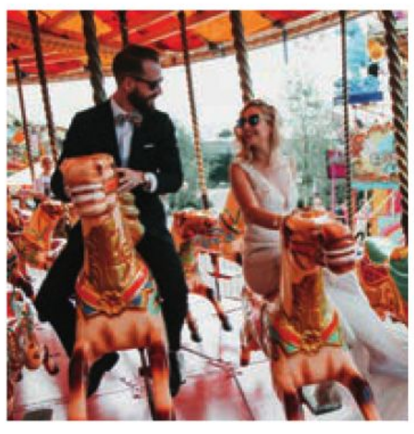




















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No meat, no problem

Clare Smith of Touchays Event Caterers says: There was a time when the only choice for guests with dietary requirements attending a wedding was fish, chicken, pasta or a vegetable stack, but those days are gone. Speciality and dietary restrictions frequently come up when we meet couples at their food tasting: vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, dairy-free, nut free, egg free and onion-free are just some examples and some couples are conscious of offering healthy options too. We collaborate with couples to find alternative tailored seasonal dishes, ensuring everyone's taste buds are tickled!









James Crank, head chef at The Old Kent Barn says: One way to ease the process of catering for those with dietary requirements is to offer an attractive inclusive menu, with options to suit everyone. This way no one is excluded or feels like an afterthought, and your guests will feel like you've gone the extra mile for them.

Offer dishes that can be interchangeable to meet various needs. For example, you could factor in gluten- and dairy-free choices lending even more flexibility during the planning stage, and leaving you with one less thing to worry about, safe in the knowledge everyone will be catered for.

Debbie of Chives the Caterers says: Taking dietary requests seriously is very important. Firstly, we always want every guest to feel looked after, so we'll ask them to let us know about any requirements. We specialise in vegan, vegetarian and gluten-free food, and have catered for weddings that have purely featured these options. Many dishes can be adapted to become vegan and gluten free, and while this may involve some research and development, we believe it's worth it to produce an entire platter of vegan or gluten-free canapes, which not only look amazing, but taste great too. This never fails to bring huge smiles to our couples' faces at their tasting.

Something sweet

We provided a fabulous 100 per cent vegan dessert buffet as the final part of a three-course vegan wedding breakfast for a summer wedding in 2019, and the guests were bowled over by how good everything tasted. We served:

Orange marmalade cake
Coconut and berry panacotta
Apple tarts
Summer puddings
Chocolate mudballs.



Contact our experts

Chives the Caterers, www.chivescaterers.co.uk
The Old Kent Barn, www.theoldkentbarn.co.uk
Touchays Event Caterers, www.touchays.com

Enchanted

Love, weddings and fairy magic

Images courtesy of Kerry Ann Duffy Photography

Inspired by Shakespeare's hugely popular and enchanting play, A Midsummer Night's Dream, this ethereal local shoot features more than a touch of whimsy. With a palette of burgundy, pink and gold, that's bang on trend, everything from the floral design to table set-up oozes romance.

The captivating Longton Wood was the perfect choice of backdrop for this shoot, which took place during the height of summer. Shoot coordinator and make-up artist Helen Lee says, "We tried to capture the essence of the play, whilst adding our own modern-day twist."



























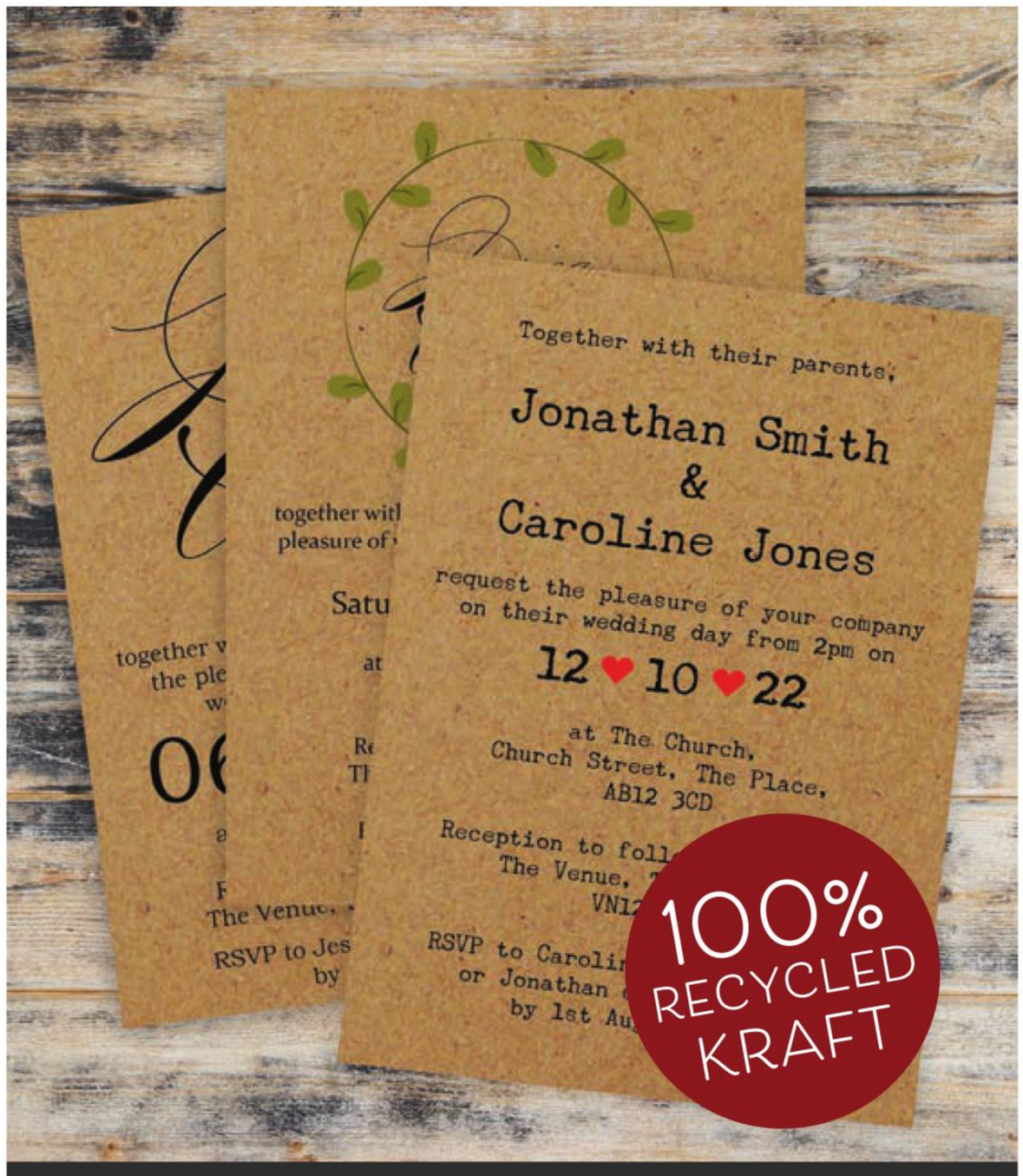






THE TALENTED SUPPLIERS

Concept and make-up artist, Helen Lee Makeup Artist, www.helenleemakeup.co.uk | **Venue**, Longton Wood, www.longtonwood.co.uk | **Photographer**, Kerry Ann Duffy Photography, www.kerryannduffy.com | **Videography**, Russell Kent Nicholls Cinematic Videography, www.russellkentnicholls.com | **Hair stylist**, Vicki Lord Hair, www.vickilordhair.com | **Cake**, Chelsea Buns Cake Design, www.chelseabuns.co.uk | **Dresses**, Story Of My Dress, www.storyofmydress.com | **Accessories**, Botias Accessories, www.botiasaccessories.co.uk | **Lead florist**, See Rose Floral Design, www.seerosefloraldesign.com | **Assistant florist**, Victoria Charlotte Floral Design, www.victoriacharlotte.co.uk | **Bar**, The Swig & Filly Ltd, www.theswigandfilly.co.uk | **Flowergirl dresses**, Six Stories, www.sixstories.co.uk | **Tableware**, Harriet's Table, www.harrietstable.co.uk | **Calligrapher**, Jodie Rose Calligraphy, www.facebook.com/jodierosecalligraphy | **Styling and prop hire**, Village Vintage, www.villagevintage.co.uk | **Glitter bar**, Queen Mab Glitter Bar, www.queenmabglitterbar.co.uk | **Models**, www.instagram.com/_sophiemoore_, www.instagram.com/elliecollier, www.instagram.com/daisymaihilton, www.instagram.com/maxdallison | **Flowergirls**, Ivy and Eleanor | Soundtrack, Wild Ones, www.instagram.com/jessiemarievilla



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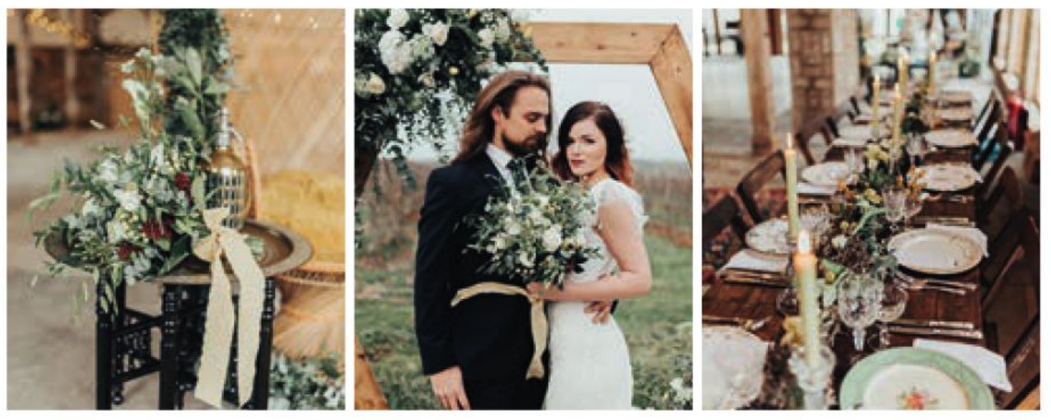
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HOT TOPIC

Local florists offer stellar advice on big-day blooms



CROWNING GLORY

I love the look of flower crowns, but I'm worried it may be too much against my heavily embellished dress. Do you have any idea how I could wear one without overdoing it?

Many brides are exchanging a traditional veil or jewelled headpiece for a flower crown, as a finishing touch to their wedding look. One of the greatest things about these is just how versatile they can be. Your florist should be able to create a crown to complement your dress. So, I'd suggest finding a style that's quintessentially you. Consider using beautifully elegant foliage with a few simple white flowers - this would look stunning with your embellished gown.

The charm of flower crowns could also follow through to your bridal party, even to the smallest of flowergirls. Dried and preserved greens are also a lovely addition, and are totally on trend. But remember, whatever flowers you use they need to be sturdy and less thirsty varieties.

Hannah Withington | www.patinapetal.co.uk



BOHEMIAN DREAM

We're going for a relaxed bohemian theme for our wedding, but we don't know where to start with our flowers – what would you suggest?

I'd recommend something really natural, rustic and textured, keeping it very free flowing and open to suit your surroundings. However, something a little different and unusual will work beautifully for the bohemian style too. Keep the colour palette simple to avoid clashes, but opt for an eye-catching design. Adding in extra touches such as pheasant feathers, gives an edge to any floral feature, making it completely bespoke to you. This stunning motif can be replicated in a variety of ways with different colours to achieve the exact look you're after.

Jodie Tremain | www.jlfloraldesign.co.uk

FLOWER FRIENDLY

How can we be more eco-conscious when it comes to our wedding flowers?



When planning your wedding florals you'll be thinking of that wow factor to achieve a stunning impact to be remembered. Now, more than ever, you can work with your florist to ensure ecological impact is considered and reduced.

Your florist can source from local growers to ensure the freshest seasonal flowers. Also, think about how you can reuse blooms from ceremony to reception. This not only stretches your budget, but is a clever way to repurpose your arrangements. For example, chair ends can be hung in small reusable glass vases, then placed on reception tables, or within greenery garlands. Ceremony table décor can be designed to double up for the top table design. It's also a nice idea to gift all of your floral centrepieces and garlands to your guests and the end of the day. They go on to decorate homes and be enjoyed for weeks to follow. So, when planning your special day, everything can be done with eco-conscious thinking and can be enjoyed way beyond.

Elizabeth Morgan | www.bizzylizzyflowers.co.uk



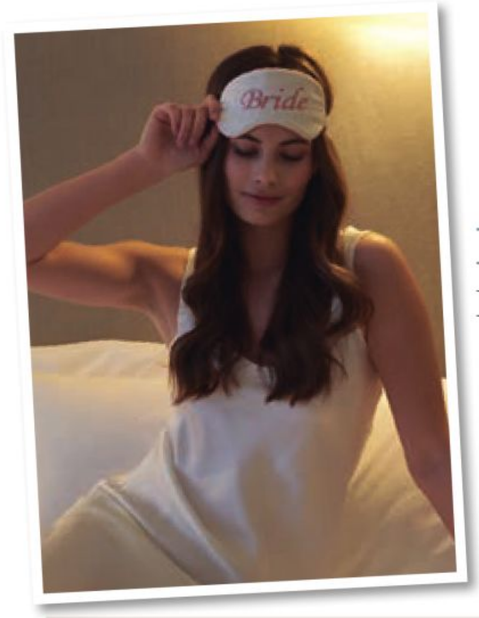
TOUCH OF SPARKLE

Online jewellery store Ruby & Oscar has launched a debut wedding jewellery collection featuring contemporary and classic styles in eight different categories. Pieces include a mixed-metal pearl necklace with matching earrings and a tanzanite penda

nt perfect for that *something blue*.

There's free delivery and a lifetime warranty on all orders. To shop, visit www.rubyandoscar.com/wedding

rubynoscar



BEAUTY SLEEP

Luxury British sleepwear brand, Bonsoir of London, has launched a bridal collection consisting of silk separates, a vintage-style silk nightdress, a kimono short gown, and a *Bride* and *Mrs* eye mask in blush and ivory.

The collection has been made using premium materials hand-crafted in Somerset. To shop, visit https://bonsoiroflondon.com

bonsoirlondon

Shape of you

Popular bridal brand Grace Loves Lace has launched three new dresses featuring a stretch bustier providing traditional shaping and full bust support without the restriction of traditional boning and corsetry. Sizes range from 28A to 42E, and the three new gowns are called *Palm*, *Poppy* and *Izabel*, with prices starting from £1,400. Each style comes with an assortment of armbands and straps, included in the price, for brides to create their own individual look.

To shop, visit https://graceloveslace.com grace_loves_lace





DRESS UP

Bridal and women's evening wear brand Rowley Hesselballe London has launched in the UK. Co-founded by friends and former fashion buyers Rosie Poole and Canan Hesselballe, this online label offers modern and affordable bridal, bridesmaid and evening wear directly to customers with next day delivery available in the UK and across Europe. The collection has been carefully made allowing for minimum alterations and includes silk, lace, and chiffon dresses and jumpsuits featuring draping, soft pleating and other elegant detailing. There are white and champagne tones for brides, and red, navy and emerald shades for bridesmaids and guests. Sizes range from XS to XL and prices start from £249 to £999.

Hand-crafted pearl, feather and silk headpieces and hair accessories complete the collection with prices ranging from £129 to £329.

To shop, visit www.rowleyhesselballe.com



Editor loves

This 18-carat rose gold vermeil bracelet with rainbow moonstone, £100, by jewellery brand Katie Belle is a wonderful wedding keepsake. Other items include gold, sterling silver and rose gold vermeil necklaces that can be engraved with the wedding date, a name or a message. To shop, visit https://katie-belle.com

katiebellejewellery



FASHION *focus*

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

Designer-inspired

Mackays has launched a new occasionwear brand called GL/AMOUR, a collection of designer-inspired dresses and separates available in flattering silhouettes with embellished details. Sizes range from 8 to 18 with prices starting from £59. To shop, visit www.gl-amour.co.uk glamourofficialuk

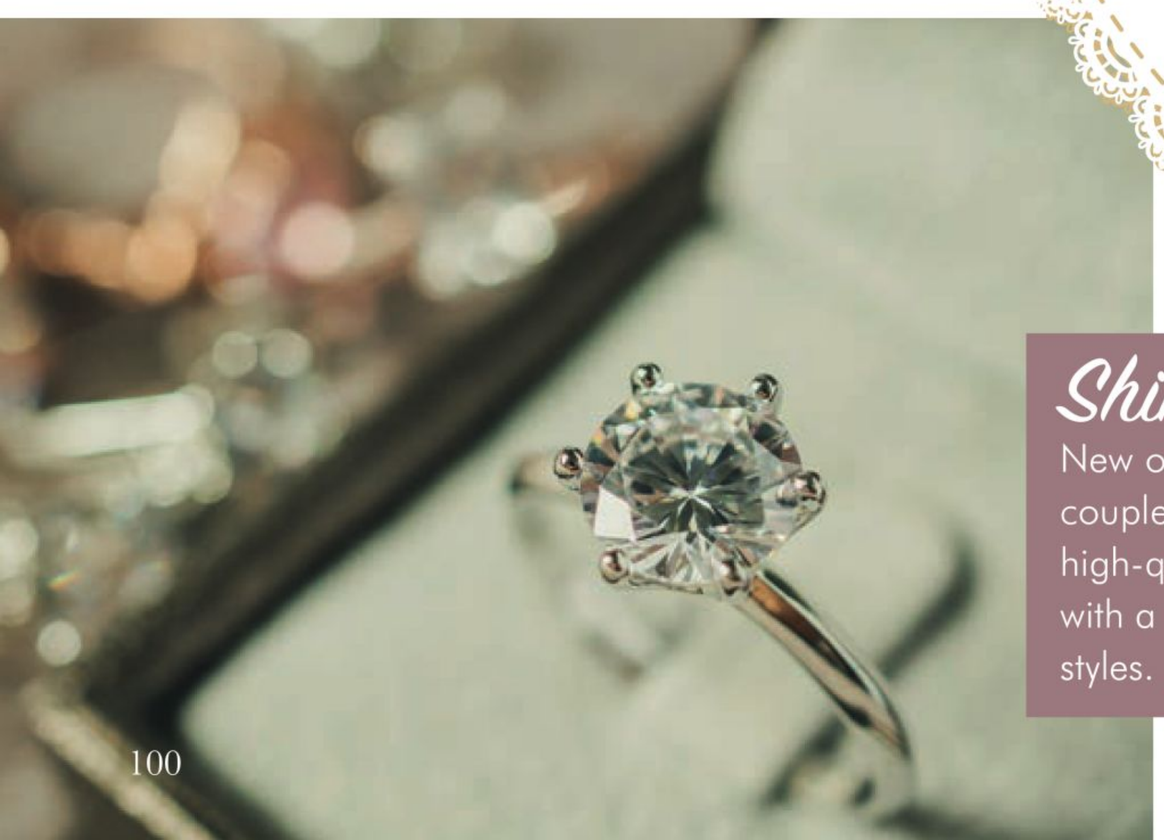


EDITOR'S FAVOURITE

Children's formalwear brand Roco offer a great selection of stylish yet affordable pieces for weddings, like this blue suit ideal for pageboys priced between £39.99 and £44.99, depending on size. To shop, visit www.rococlothing.co.uk

rococlothing





Shine like a diamond

New online custom diamond service The Orange River offers couples the opportunity to design a ring that's shipped directly within weeks. Both high-quality, naturally mined diamonds and lab-grown stones are available, all with a certificate of authentication, and there's also a collection of ready-made styles. To shop, visit www.theorangeriver.co.uk orangeriverstore

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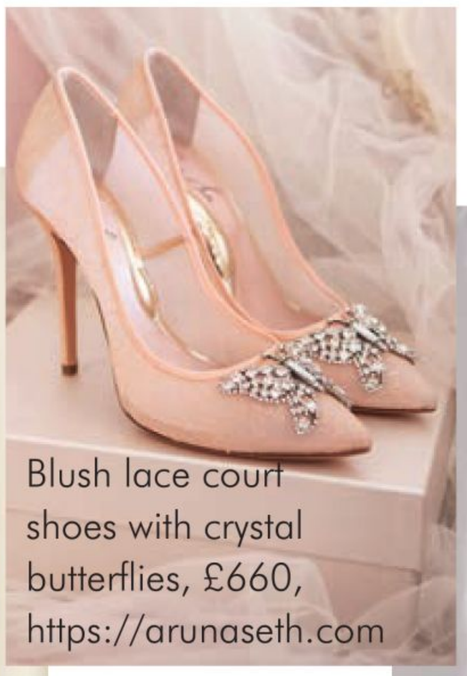


Ivory strappy peeptoes, £395, www.emmylondon.com



Platform peeptoes with crystal back detail, £84.99 per pair, Lulipa London at www.zalando.co.uk





Blush lace court shoes with crystal butterflies, £660, https://arunaseth.com

Embellished styles this season from www.renecaovilla.com/gb/



White embroidered Mrs pouch bag, £40, https://uk.monsoon.co.uk



Satin peeptoes with organza ties, £220, www.harrietwilde.com

Flower embellished shoes, £310, https://dianehassall.com



Shoe-spiration, from a selection, www.sophiawebster.com

Best foot forward

These Insta-worthy styles feature #feathers #crystals #butterflies and #bling



Embellished court shoes, £175, matching clutch bag, £80, www.dunelondon.com



Wifey For Lifey court shoes, £495, matching bag, £295, www.sophiawebster.com



Crystal-encrusted T-bar sandals with ostrich feathers, matching ostrich feather bag, from a selection, www.jimmychoo.com



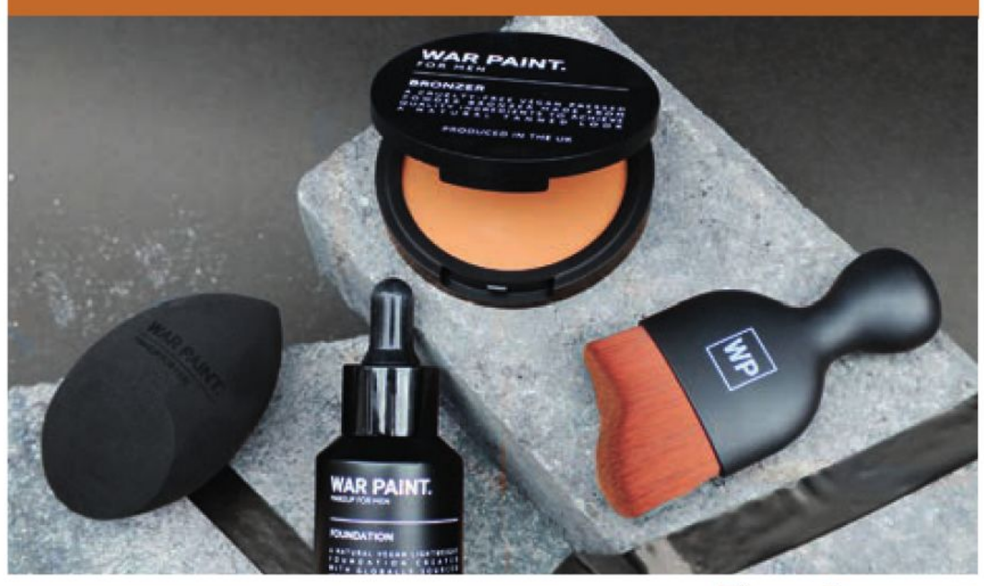
Pearl and crystal-encrusted T-bar shoes, £85, coordinating silver bag, £35, www.paradoxlondon.com

DAZZLING COMPLEXION

John Lewis & Partners have unveiled plans to sell men's make-up brand War Paint for Men in its flagship Oxford Street store and on the company's website. The full range of products includes foundation, concealer, bronzer and powder. In addition, John Lewis & Partners also offer a range of men's personal styling services and a dedicated studio in its Southampton shop.

Daniel Gray, the founder of War Paint for Men, said: "This is a massive step in the right direction, not just for us but for the industry and men's make-up in general."

Check out www.johnlewis.com for more.





SCENTSATIONAL

We love Emporio Armani's new fragrance by Nicholas Hoult and Alice Pagani. The Stronger With You Freeze scent is made up of limes, apples, sage, chestnut and iced lavender to create an unforgettable smell.

Brides-to-be can purchase the In Love With You version that's made using red cherries and jasmine.

Both are available to purchase from www.thefragranceshop.co.uk



Read all ABOUT IT!

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



DANCE TO THE BEAT

Bang & Olufsen has announced its next generation of Beoplay E8 earphones. The ideal gift for any groom-to-be, the product uses 3D-modelling to ensure it fits a large variety of ear shapes and sizes and boasts up to 35 hours of playtime.

Christoffer Østergaard Poulsen, the vice president of product management, said: "With the third generation of Beoplay E8, we have made the world's best-sounding true wireless earphones even better."

Visit www.bang-olufsen.com for more.

Sock it to me

Lincolnshire-based company, Sophie Allport has released its spring/summer 2020 collection. The homeware brand incorporates the founder's love of country living and wildlife to create beautiful products.

The collection is made up of kitchen and dining products, men's socks and wash bags, handkerchiefs and much more.

For more information, visit www.sophieallport.com



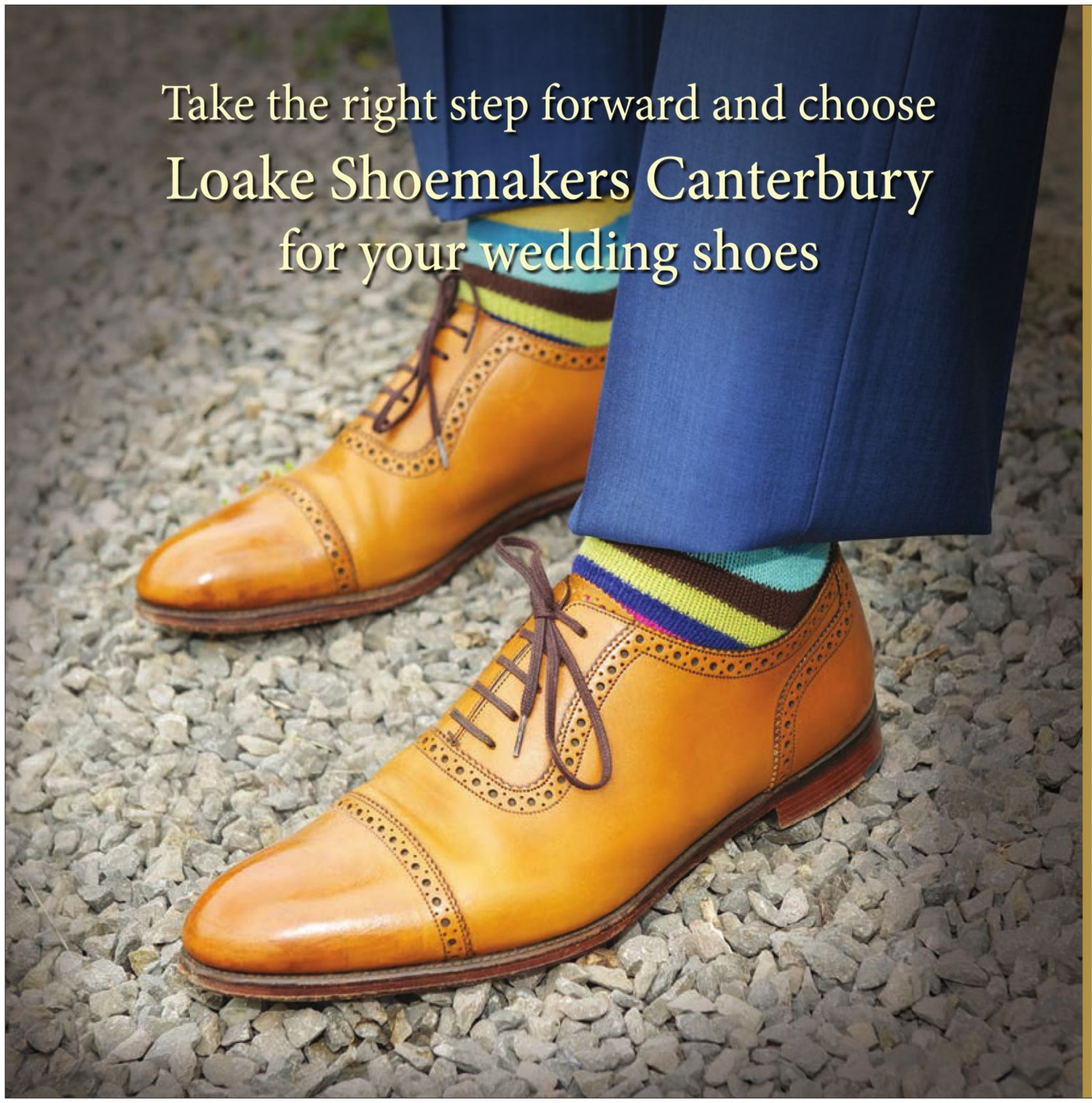


A CLOSE SHAVE

Award-winning barbers, ADAM, has revealed a new grooming experience. The brand wants grooms-to-be to step into a contemporary, uncluttered space, indulge in the artful hands of the highly-skilled barbers and walk out feeling restored while also looking sharp and polished. Customers will get to experience ADAM's exclusive product line which comprises of a beard balm, oil and hair paste.

Esat and Oytun, the co-founders, said: "We founded ADAM for the contemporary gentleman who works hard, plays hard and lives in a modern city but still seeks a classic and timeless experience."

To see more, visit www.adamgroomingatelier.com



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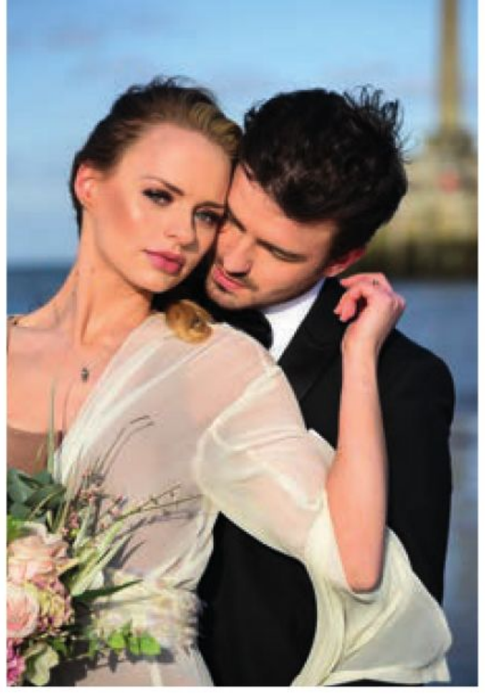
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BRONZED GODDESS

Kelli says: Model Ellie's glowing, bronzed goddess, bridal make-up captures her sun-kissed skin perfectly for a beach wedding. I used a light spray of Airbase airbrushing foundation to give her skin a flawless, but natural look. Soft golden bronze eyeshadow framed her blue eyes beautifully - it was delicately applied all over the lid and underneath the bottom lashes to really make them pop. They were finished with soft, wispy strip lashes to give definition.

A warm bronzer brought contour to her cheekbones along with a peachy blush, which had a gold shimmer to it, giving her complexion that sun-kissed bronzed glow. The look is finished with a natural lipstick, containing a hint of shimmer, perfect for day and night.

Beauty Q&A

Hair stylist Suzy Stockwin and make-up artist Kelli Waldock worked together on this local shoot to showcase a fresh, cool bridal beauty trend for 2020



BOHO BABE

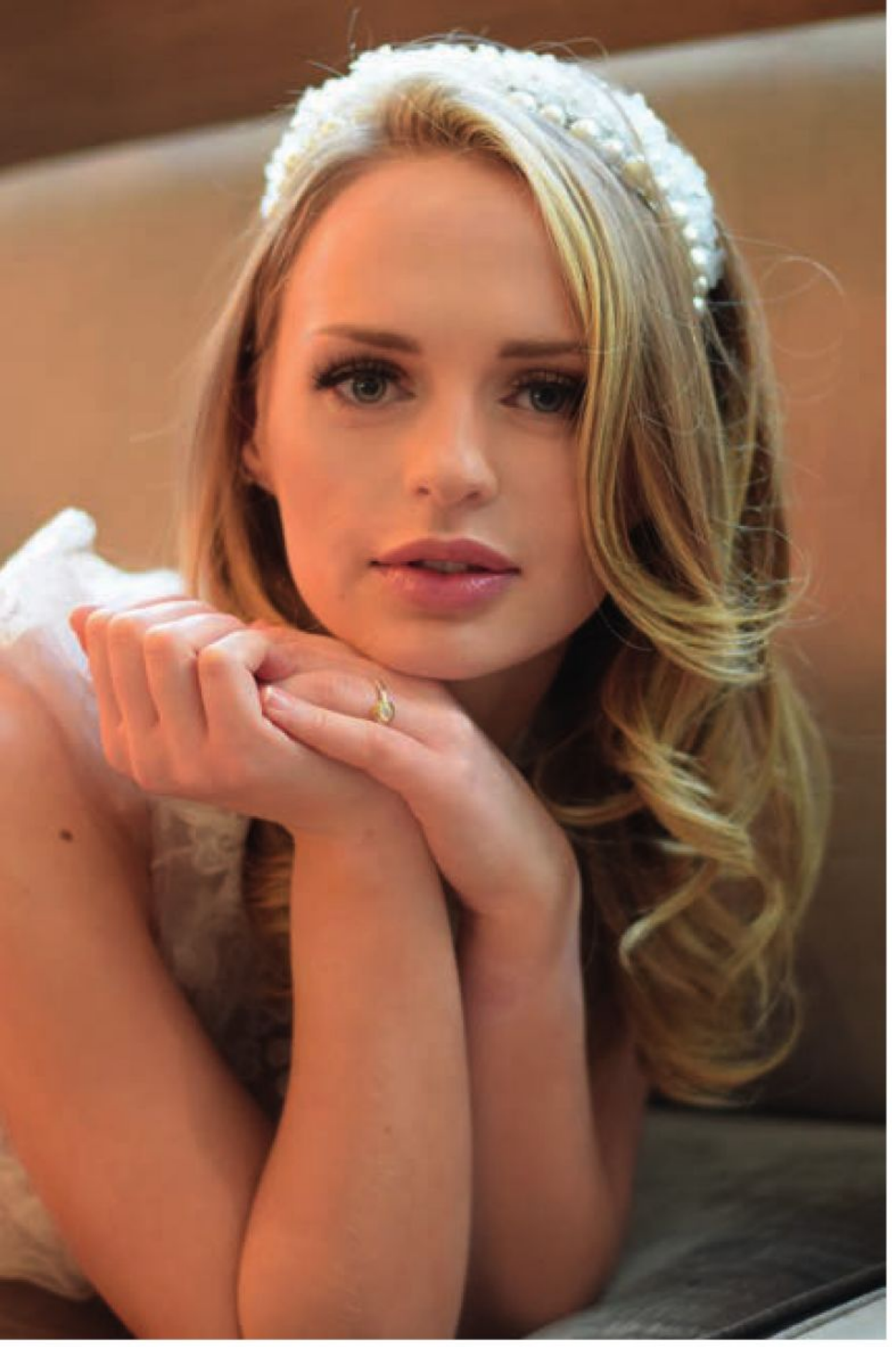
Suzy says: This bridal beach braid is perfect for a relaxed wedding look. Braids reigned supreme at the 2019 bridal shows, and are sure to be a big hit again this year. To make the look a little more bridal I added flowers and pearls, to really make the hair pop.

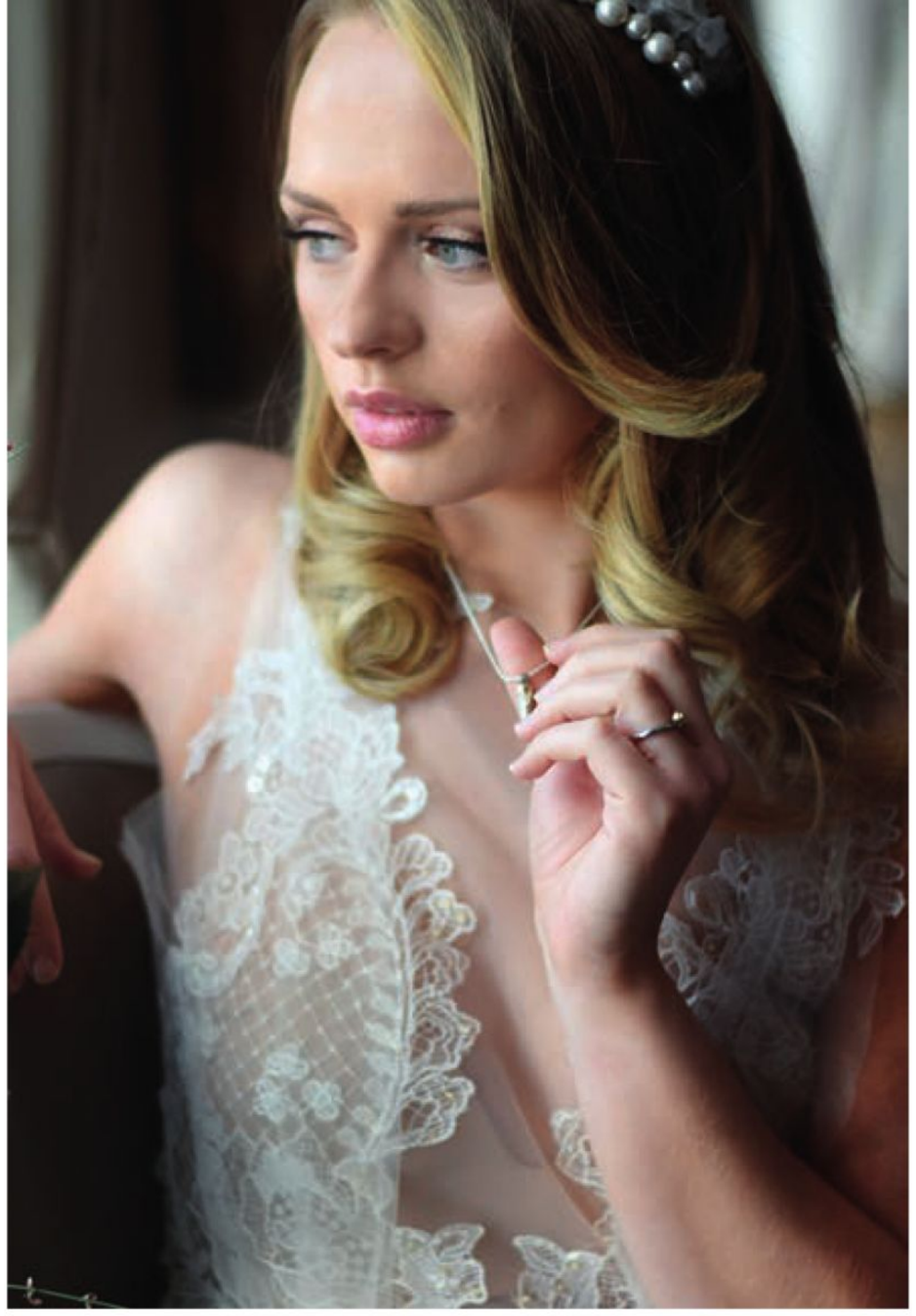
The style was created by working up the head, braiding sections and letting them overlap. Nothing is pulled tight and everything is kept loose, secured with pins where needed.



THE HEIGHT OF SOPHISTICATION

Kelli says: The make-up look for model Sarah was elegant, and easily adaptable from day to night. I began once more using an Airbase airbrushing foundation for the base to give her a flawless, even complexion. Then for a modern twist, I used warm pink tones for her eyes with a slight shimmer to catch the light, and lashings of mascara to add depth and length. A soft pink blusher added colour and definition to her cheekbones, and the look was finished with lipstick in a similar subtle hue.





SOFT WAVES

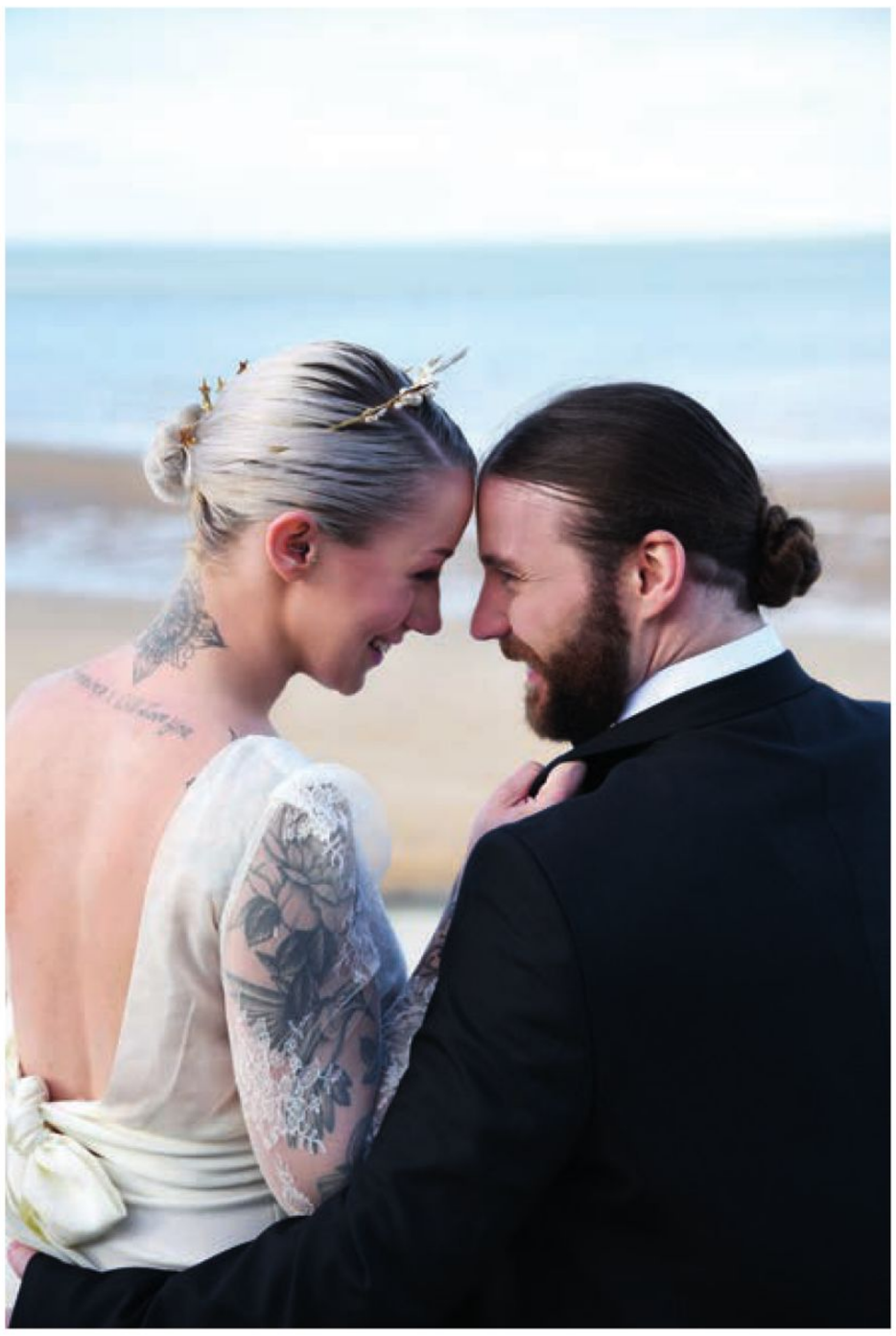
Suzy says: Natural texture is definitely in, and bouncy waves will continue being a big trend for this year. They're soft, tousled, and relaxed, perfect for the modern bride. Adding a super-sparkly head band encrusted with jewels and pearls brings the whole look to life. Pearl hair bands are huge this year, why not wear one on your wedding day?

I created the look using the Dyson air wrap, blow-drying each section and fixing with a soft hold hair spray. It's an easy look to finish, simply tip your head back and give the curls a good shake, before adding a shine spray.

SLEEK CHIC

Suzy says: No-fuss brides can opt for simplicity with a more controlled style. A sleek bun worn to the side of the head is great for hair of any length. It'll never go out of fashion and will show off the neckline of your dress. For your own bespoke look, dot a sleek hairstyle with slides or build it up with detailed pins to create drama.

For this look you need to apply a shine wax taking your time to brush into a low ponytail. Tuck the hair into a bun or knot and finish with a firm hold hair spray. Switch up the look for the evening by adding a statement hair band.





CONTACT OUR EXPERTS

Hair stylist, Bridal Hair by Suzy,
www.instagram.com/bridalhair_by_suzy
Make-up artist, Kelli Waldock,
www.kelliwaldock.co.uk

SHOOT CONTRIBUTORS

Photography, Dream Photography, www.dreamphotography2012.co.uk | Venue, Sands Hotel, www.sandshotelmargate.co.uk | Dresses, Cristina Adami, www.cristinadami.com | Accessories, Victoria Louise Accessories, www.instagram.com/victorialouiseaccessories | Suits, Suits to Suit, www.suitstosuit.co.uk | Cake, Bon Bon Cakes, www.instagram.com/bon.bon.cakes | Jewellery, Lawley Fine Jewellers, www.lawleydesign.co.uk | Videographer, Meros Productions, www.merosproductions.co.uk



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NUTHING TO SEE HERE

Let's be honest, removing unwanted hair is a totally laborious task for us ladies, and boring bad-smelling products do nothing to improve the situation. That's where Nuthing comes in. In bright colours of pink, blue and yellow, infused with non-plastic shimmer, and available in three fruity fragrances, hair removal is set to become something you look forward to.

The debut range available at Superdrug includes Shimmer Hair Removal Jelly (£9.99), Shimmer Hair Removal Wax (£12.99), and Simmer Shave & Shower Sorbet (£6.99). Discover more at www.nuthing.co.uk

BATHED IN LUXURY

This luxurious hand-whipped bath and shower wash is a real luxury for any pamper routine. Beautifully mild with no SLS or sulphates, it's kind to the skin and gently cleanses without drying. Soft and fluffy, it's bestowed with a light dusting of eco glitter for a touch of glam, and will leave you delicately fragranced with a scent of mimosa, jasmine, rose and white musk.

Check out www.prettylittletreats.co.uk where you'll find this beauty priced at £7, as well as many other little wonders available as super-cute wedding favours.



Beauty BUZZ

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

Scrub up well

Meet Sand & Sky's first body product: Australian Pink Clay Smoothing Body Sand. A whole new territory direct from the shores of the Aussie beach, delivered straight to your bathroom.

Not your average body scrub, this super smoothing four-in-one formula purifies, exfoliates, moisturises, and illuminates. Simply scoop a chunk of sand and massage over your body in circular motions. A little goes a long way. Rinse off and check that golden hour glimmer.

Priced at £29.90, find out more at www.sandandsky.com





BRIGHT EYES

BeautyBio's The Quench Eye is a breakthrough buildable balm that fills in fine lines and helps firm up the under-eye area. Persian silk tree bark addresses dark circles, while macadamia, olive and jojoba oils provide hydration, and create a shield against future damage from environmental aggressors.

Four skin lipids restore the critical protective layer for skin's elasticity and allow the delicate eye area to snap back into place after the daily strains. Your eyes will thank you for it. Available at Harrods in-store or online, priced at £95.

GLOWING BRIDE

If a gorgeous wedding-day glow is the look for you, check out this lavish new launch from Payot. Suitable for all skin types and gorgeously fragranced, it dresses the skin with a long-lasting, natural-looking tan. The ideal addition to your spring skincare regime, it nourishes dry winter skin and gives your complexion a healthy streak-free glow, with a gradual tanning effect.

Its cocktail of precious oils hydrate the skin, with colouration results visible from the first day of use.

Visit www.payot.com/GB/en to find out more.

LOVE LASHES

In a Strip lashes have introduced two new light and fluffy styles, taking inspiration from Lash Perfect British, the new natural eyelash extension trend. This collection of 10, super-soft, luxury strip lashes can be moulded to the shape of the eye thanks to the flexible band, and are easily applied with lash glue.

We're excited about the fact that they're available in brown as well as black, making them absolutely ideal if you're a fairer bride or prefer a more subtle big-day look.

Check out www.yourbeautyhive.co.uk where the lashes are available priced at £12.95.



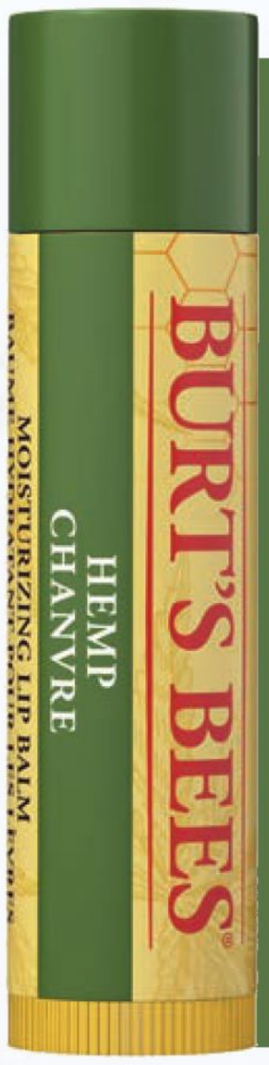


www.josephscanlon.co.uk

Luscious locks

When it comes to big-day hair, extensions are a must in order to achieve many of the trending looks. Whether you're a long-time wearer or the idea is completely new to you, Great Lengths' new Own The Day collection showcases versatility and the possibilities you can achieve. From a full head of bonds adding length and texture, to a few Great Lengths tapes at the side for volume and lift, your wedding day is the time to go big, own it, and leave your guests in awe.

For more style ideas and stunning images from the Great Lengths team, head over to county.wedding and check out our Beauty News section. To find a certified salon or stylist near you, head over to www.greatlengthshair.co.uk/salon-locator



Lip service

Burt's Bees latest range sees the brand utilise the deeply hydrating benefits of hemp seed oil. We love the 100 per cent natural origin lip balm (£3.99), which hydrates and conditions dry lips. Formulated with hemp seed oil and infused with beeswax plus other naturally nourishing ingredients, its luxurious texture offers smooth application in one easy swipe, ensuring a big-day ready pout.

Find out more about this and the rest of the range at www.burtsbees.co.uk



SPARKLE AND SHINE

Ted Baker's Midnight Bloom Shimmer Collection will keep you and your bridesmaids smelling and feeling fabulous on W-day. Ideal for adding a subtle glow to sun-kissed skin, choose from Shimmer Body Soufflé, Shimmer Body Oil, Shimmer Body Wash, and Shimmer Body Spray. You'll fall in love with the rich floral musk fragrance, which boasts exotic hints of green tea and lime blossom, floral notes of honeysuckle and snowdrops, with spicy undertones of cardamom, pepper and liquorice.

This gorgeous range is part of the Harmony Blossom Bath & Body Collection available exclusively in Boots.



BLOSSOMING ROMANCE

I was over the moon to hear that my beloved Jo Malone London has introduced a new limited edition Blossoms Collection. The cologne range features two news scents of yuja and waterlily, accompanied by the ever-popular osmanthus blossom, returning for a limited time (£52 for 30ml).

The playful scent of nectarine blossom and honey has been reimagined in a limited-edition cologne pen (£26). A great addition to your big-day supplies, it boasts a cooling ceramic tip allowing you to roll the fragrant gel onto the skin whenever you're ready for a freshen up.

Available at www.jomalone.co.uk and boutiques nationwide from May 2020.

EDITOR LOVES

It's logical when you think about it: think purple shampoo, but for your teeth. Billion Dollar Smile's Purple Tooth Polish (£10.99) brings colour spectrum technology, with a blend of purple pigments and whitening ingredients, to reflect a brighter and whiter smile. It also contains added vitamin E and natural papaya enzyme, which work together to break down stains.

There's something fun about putting this purple paste on your toothbrush, and its unusual yet pleasant taste left my mouth feeling fresh and ready for the day. I was impressed at how, after just one use my teeth already seemed brighter.

Check out the website wwwbilliondollarsmilecosmetics.co.uk



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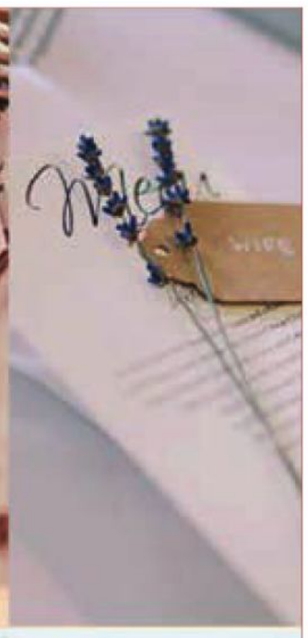


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SUN-KISSED *beauty*

Our beauty editor, Kelly Andrews, chats to Olivia Buckland about all things wedding, tanning and feeling flawless



All images courtesy of James Rudland

Love Island's Olivia Buckland shot to fame alongside her now-husband, Alex Bowen, as one of the show's best-loved success stories. The pair tied the knot at Gosfield Hall in Essex in September 2018, so the star certainly knows a thing or two about big-day beauty. Now, a huge celebrity social media influencer, her 2.2 million Instagram followers hang on her every word when it comes to beauty and fashion tips, and her TV work on shows such as *Olivia & Alex: Happily Ever After* and *Second Chance Dresses* has won her a fan base outside of the popular dating programme. We caught up with her to find out more about her latest project.

GOLDEN GLOW

Olivia's latest venture sees her become brand ambassador for Cocoa Brown, a match made in heaven she explains: "I love being tanned all year round and this brand allows me to do that. The range is amazing, and I love being able to share such a fab and affordable product with my social media followers."

To tan or not to tan? It's a question many a bride has asked, especially when not feeling overly confident about the application process. Olivia suggests Perfect Fade Self-Tan, and says, "It's amazing. It's so easy to apply for first-time tanners and doesn't leave a biscuit smell, which can often be a little off-putting.

"To ensure my tan lasts, I always exfoliate and moisturise before I apply and continue moisturising every day. When the glow starts to fade, and I feel I want to start again, I use Cocoa Brown Fresh Start Self-Tan Eraser to get rid of any old lingering tan. For the perfect bridal look, I'd recommend using the Miracle Mist to achieve a natural glow for your face. It doesn't need washing off, which is a bonus. The 1 Hour Tan Mousse in the original medium shade is also great, it isn't overpowering, and gives a lovely glow, which always looks gorgeous against a white dress."

NATURAL BEAUTY

The star is no stranger to posting stunningly fresh-faced make-up free selfies to her social media, and we were keen to know how she keeps her skin looking so flawless: "I always make sure I take my make-up off before I go to sleep. I also swear by using face masks once a week. My favourite is Skin Republic's Prep + Glow. I use it before I put my make-up on, and it makes the application so much smoother ensuring it lasts." With such a hectic lifestyle, you'd be forgiven for wondering how she gets the time for any skincare regime, but Olivia says: "I am a sucker for a bath at the end of the day with a candle and face mask. After a long day, it's what I look forward to."







Describing her day-to-day look as very natural, "if I'm not working I generally won't wear make-up at all," she says. When it comes to beauty must-haves though, she tells us, "My go-to product is the W7 Honolulu Bronzer. It gives me instant cheekbones!"

Having worked with some incredible make-up artists such as Anna Lingis and Lo Dias, Olivia finds a wealth of inspiration in the beauty industry. She explains, "It's full of people I look up to, but my main influence has got to be Rosie Huntington-Whiteley. She always shares her latest make-up must-haves, which I love. I always find myself wanting to know her beauty secrets and how she constantly looks so flawless."

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Post-*Love Island*, Olivia is grateful for every opportunity she's had and understandably feels a great sense of achievement. She says, "My clothing brand with Alex, Exempt Society is something I'm incredibly proud of. Also, having our TV show, *Happily Ever After* on TLC was incredible." Speaking of the star's television career, here at CWM towers we're huge fans of her other TLC venture, *Second Chance Dresses*, being wedding obsessed as we are. "I loved watching the brides' reactions when they found their dream dresses," she says. "It was such a lovely feeling because I could relate, I know how magical that moment is. My dress is currently being stored in the loft. I do toy with the idea of auctioning it off for charity, as I don't like the idea of it sat in storage, but I just can't decide!"

Having been a high-profile bride, we were keen to find out if Olivia had any big-day wisdom to impart. "Get wedding insurance," she says. "I didn't have to use mine thankfully, but it's such an important safety net. You hear of so many disaster stories. It's always better to be safe than sorry."

So what's next? "Alex and I have just bought a new house together, so we're mainly getting ready for the big move. I'm so excited to get settled in. We've such an exciting 2020 planned, so keep an eye out for new and upcoming projects."



Olivia Buckland is the face of Cocoa Brown, which is available in Superdrug and Primark stores nationwide.



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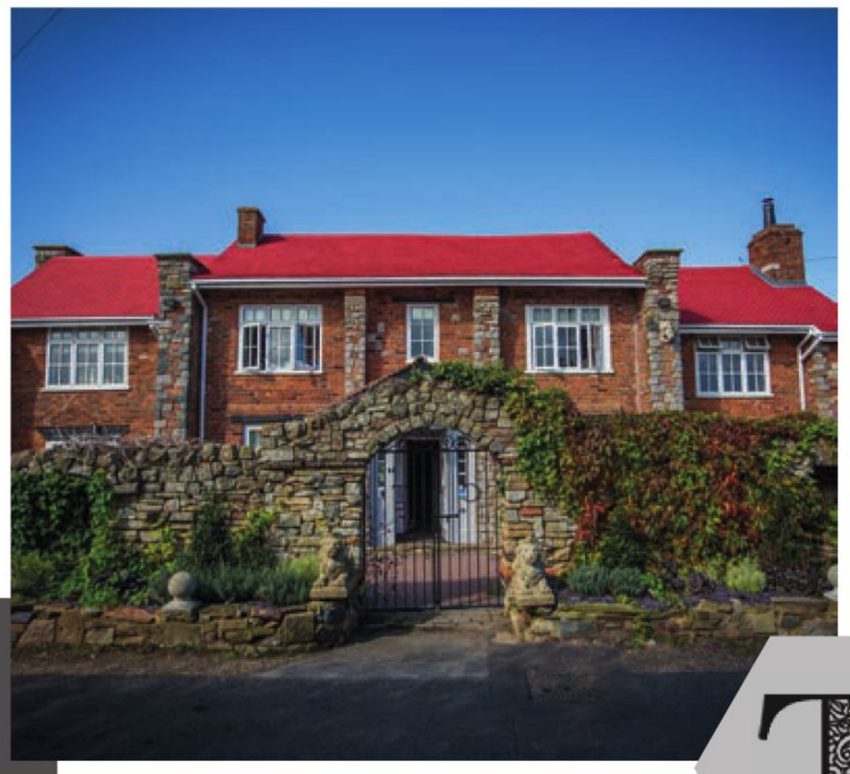
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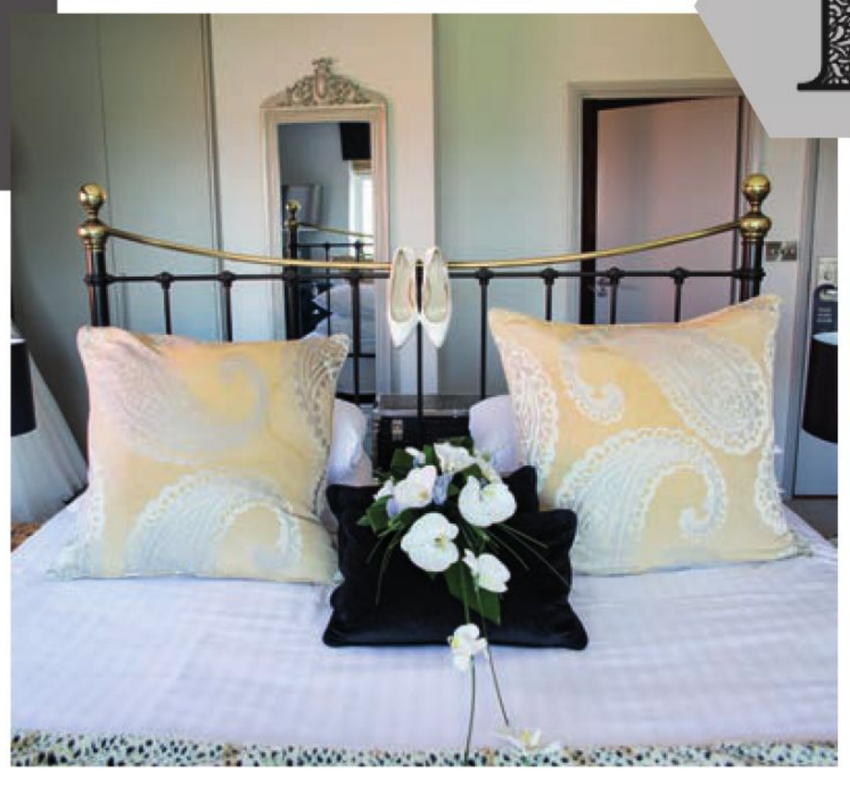
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"Writing this during the coronavirus outbreak, my strict hand wash regime has left my skin extremely dry, so this hand cream was sorely needed. The cream smells absolutely divine – just like a spa – and the silky-smooth texture absorbs quickly into the skin leaving it feeling nourished. It's packed full of organic ingredients, the hero of which is Ishga's potent seaweed formula." ***– Hannah Faulder***





Mavala, Chill & Relax Collection, Beige Chill £5.20, *www.nailpolishdirect.co.uk*

"The colour intensity is perfect, and after only two coats your nails are ready for anything. I have Beige Chill which is an ideal bridal shade, and it doesn't chip as quickly as most of my other nail products do. If you're in a rush, there's no need to worry as this polish doesn't take long to dry which is a big bonus." – ***Olivia Gibson***



Jo Loves Eucalyptus & Cedar Woods A Hand Collection
£78, www.joloves.com

"I've seen handwash and moisturiser duos in hotels before, but I've never even used the moisturiser, let alone considered having both indoors! However, this Jo Malone duo is truly divine, providing a fragrant burst with each use, my hands are left soft and supple – effects which last for hours. This is certainly a new, must-have in my bathroom." ***– Danielle Harvey***

Leighton Denny Expert Nails, Rejuvenate Hand Mask
£6.50, www.leightondennyexpertnails.com

"Along with most of us, I've been scrubbing and anti-bac'ing my hands like crazy recently, so this intense hydrating treatment mask proved a real saviour. After 20 minutes encased in the special serum-infused gloves my parched mitts felt super soft and my ravaged nails and cuticles looked instantly revived. I kept my hands tucked under the duvet overnight for maximum absorption and was thrilled with the results." – ***Sarah Reeve***



THAT'S HANDY!

Show off that engagement ring to full effect with the help of these hand and nail care heroes

Naio Nails, Gel Polish Starter Kit – *Snow White*
£32.99, www.naio-nails.co.uk

"This professional gel kit is incredible value for money. There are five – count 'em – five full size bottles! I love the stone cuticle pusher, the most effective I've ever used, and these gels work with UV or LED, so will suit whichever lamp you have. My white nails look super-chic and neat. If you haven't used UV gel before, I'd just advise researching application before you use." – ***Kelly Andrews***



L'Atelier Green, #NakedNailsCollection *in True Innocence*
£15.99, www.lateliergreen.com

"This nail paint went on smoothly with no brush marks, right from the first coat. The brush is nice and thick, with the usual strong smell of regular nail varnish minimal. After applying two coats, I can tell you the shade is stunning, and ideal for brides. A soft shade of grey with a shiny finish, even without a top coat it hasn't chipped yet." – ***Claire Ridley***





PARADISE FOUND

The new Emerald Maldives Resort & Spa is the latest addition to the Emerald Collection. Located on the Ra Atoll in the northern Maldives, honeymooners will be wowed by its spectacular design and deluxe all-inclusive offering.

Following its opening, the resort is excited to launch a romantic honeymoon package. Highlights include a memorable beach dinner on the shores of the resort's crystal-clear lagoon as well as a complimentary couple's massage at the Emerald Spa, before enjoying the Indonesian-style pool, steam bath, sauna and Jacuzzi.

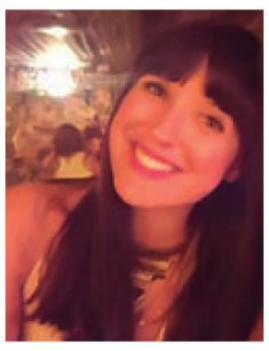
There's so much to do: water sports, guided snorkelling tours, boat excursions to discover turtles, manta rays, dolphins and even whale sharks – what more could you ask for? Visit www.emerald-maldives.com



TOTAL LUXURY

We had to put Villa Kasika on your honeymoon radar. On the island of Koh Yao Noi in Phang Nga Bay, between the island of Phuket and Krabi on the Thai mainland, it's a real brag-factor destination. You can stay in a beautiful treehouse-style villa with open-air rooms, private plunge pool, amazing views, a spa and direct access to the private beach. Known for its dramatic landscape, including limestone cliffs, lush and rich rainforests and little islands within it, Phang Nga Bay is an idyllic post-wedding destination. Find it on www.oliverstravels.com

HONEYMOON *News*

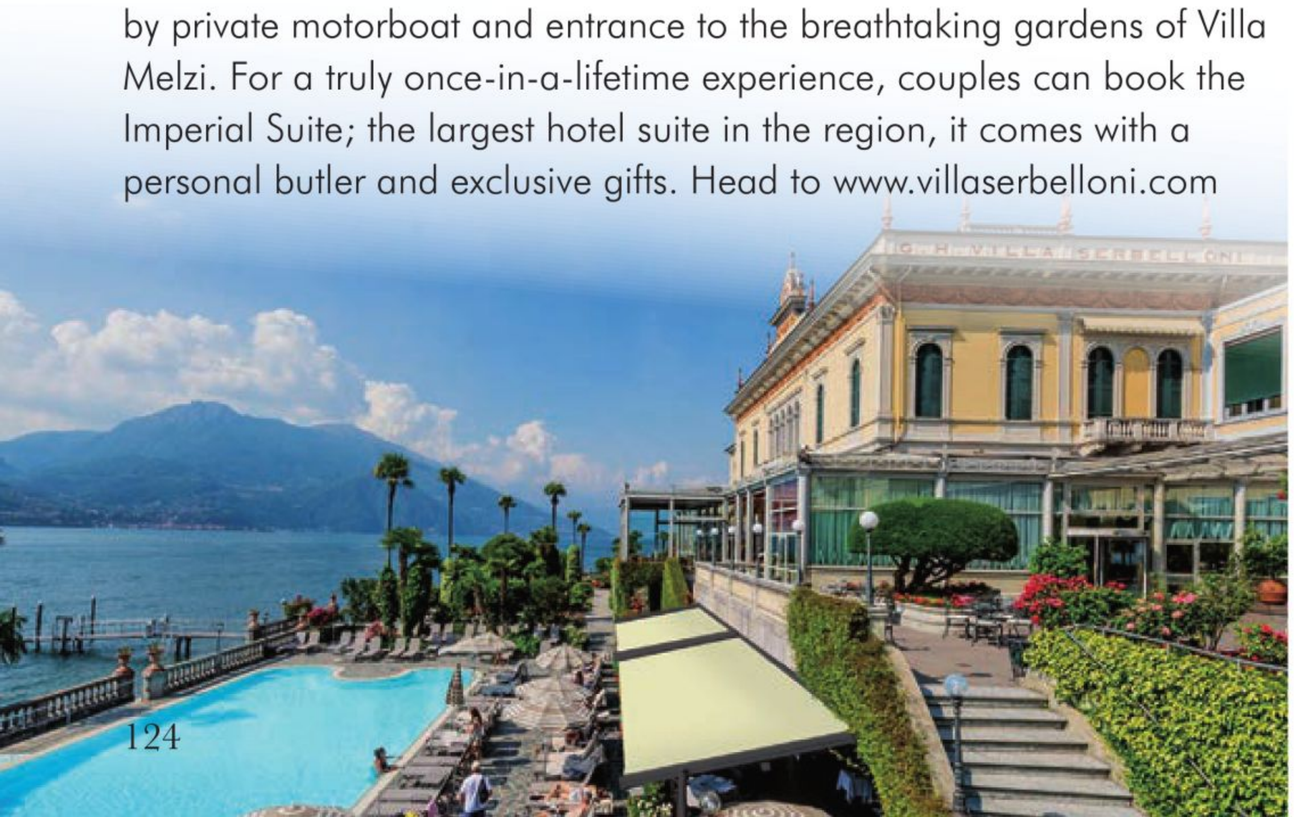


It's going to be a tough year for the travel industry, but now is the perfect time to plan your dream honeymoon for 2021 and beyond. Here are our hot travel tips and product picks…

LA DOLCE VITA

With celebrities such as Emily Blunt and John Legend tying the knot in Lake Como, it has made the spotlight shine even brighter on this incredible setting. The prestigious Grand Hotel Villa Serbelloni is located on the shore in Bellagio and has welcomed guests such as John F. Kennedy, Winston Churchill, Clark Gable and Al Pacino.

Renowned for its elegance, the Villa is surrounded by flower-filled gardens that slope down to the water's edge, making it the perfect setting for a post-wedding getaway, and its honeymoon package is fit for such a romantic setting. Newlyweds can indulge in Michelin-starred dining, a Villa Serbelloni Spa treatment, a romantic tour of lake Como by private motorboat and entrance to the breathtaking gardens of Villa Melzi. For a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience, couples can book the Imperial Suite; the largest hotel suite in the region, it comes with a personal butler and exclusive gifts. Head to www.villaserbelloni.com





Greece is the word

Ikos Oceania in Halkidiki, northern Greece, is set to revolutionise honeymoons in 2020 with its award-winning luxury all-inclusive concept. The property will offer a tailored honeymoon experience for couples staying in the Deluxe Collection suites. The thoughtful touches include visits to wineries, an intimate candlelit dinner on the beach, a turn-down service with rose petals and chocolates and a couple's spa treatment. The Deluxe Concierge will take care of all your holiday preferences and even organise a bottle of champagne on arrival and a MINI to explore local hidden gems. Find out more at www.ikosresorts.com

WILD AT HEART

Fairmont Hotels and Resorts Kenya has launched the most incredible eco-moon experience for newlyweds looking for a getaway that offers the chance to give something back. You can get involved with conservation and sustainable initiatives with an exciting three-stop circuit to explore the best of east Africa.

Each retreat has its own charm. Fairmont the Norfolk exudes classic style and is an oasis in the city. Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, the former home of Hollywood actor William Holden, retains all of its silver-screen allure with pretty cottages and suites. The luxurious tented camp retreat, Fairmont Mara Safari Club, features four-poster beds, en suite facilities and private decks overlooking the hippo-filled Mara River.

Fairmont has added special experiences to allow guests to support the environment, local communities and endangered species. Couples can adopt an elephant, eat produce grown on land that was gifted to local women, plant trees and purchase mementos from locals to boost the economy, as well as enjoy luxurious accommodation and incredible safaris. Check out www.fairmont.com





MAGICAL MAURITIUS

Maritim Resort & Spa Mauritius is set to relaunch in December 2020 with 60 additional rooms, new restaurants, bars and pools. "This isn't simply a revamp," Mark Spivey, director of international sales at Maritim Hotels tells us. "This is a completely new product. Our well-loved five-star resort is having a complete face lift along with new rooms and facilities to ensure we continue to offer a premium experience for our guests."

One of the hotel's new restaurants has already opened. Anno 1743 is a brasserie-style restaurant tucked inside a national monument, the Ruins of Balaclava. Inside, couples will find the Distillery Bar, which has the largest collection of rum on the island – the perfect place to ease yourselves into married life! Check out www.maritim.com

TREAT YOURSELF TO THESE TRAVEL PICKS...



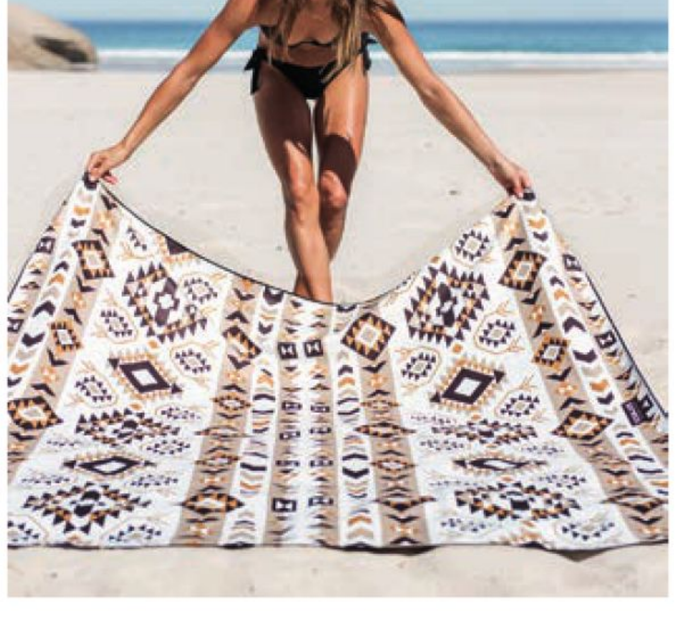
This versatile vegan backpack is the ideal hand luggage size. Made from recycled plastic bottles, it's totally eco-friendly. Find it at www.ucon-acrobatics.com



As much as I like to think I'm a grown up, I still love Barbie pink! This suitcase from www.americantourister.co.uk caught my eye.



Update your flip flop game with these fab options from www.havaianas-store.com. The Glam Box also includes four Swarovski charms for a little added bling.



This incredible beach towel is going to revolutionise your sunbathing! It's super-lightweight, dries really quickly and the clever engineering allows sand to slip off easily – so you leave the beach at the beach! Get it at www.tesalate.com



PARADISE ON OUR DOORSTEP

Kelly Andrews discovers the minimoon delights of Hampshire

The more real wedding features I have the pleasure of writing, the more couples I encounter who tell me their first port of call post-wedding is to take some much-needed R&R, not in some far-flung exotic location, but here in beautiful Britain. The rise of the domestic minimoon isn't at all surprising when you consider how much this country has to offer from heritage to culture, and everything in between. After all, there's a reason we welcomed more than 29 million overseas visitors to the UK in 2019 alone. One of the most delightful and characterful regions of our stunning sceptred isle is the New Forest, thanks in no small part to the gorgeous ponies. Despite staring down 40 I still found spotting them while out and about on our travels to be great fun!

Situated in the heart of the New Forest, Balmer Lawn Hotel & Spa cuts quite an impressive figure as it comes into view on the approach to Brockenhurst. Built in the mid-1800s as a hunting lodge, it's played a part in some of history's most dramatic chapters, such as being commandeered as an army hospital in WWI. It was here, at this classic country hotel, where we'd rest our heads for the next two nights.

I'm always like a kid in a sweet shop when I set foot into a hotel room for the first time, and being told that I'd be treated to a luxury balcony room, my excitement levels were already off the charts. The front-facing balcony, complete with garden furniture and its own (artificial) lawn was a real highlight. One that I was determined to make the most of despite it being mid-February, chilly, and pouring with rain. I was also immediately in love with the super king bed, so vast and luxurious I was barely aware of my mum's presence way over on the other side of it! Balmer Lawn has a brilliant online booking system, whereby you can see pictures of each and every room before you book. Being the ultra-nosey person that I am, you can bet your bottom dollar I took them up on that! It's well worth checking out this feature to ensure your room has everything your heart desires, whether it's just the two of you, or if you're joined by your family or fur-baby.

The hotel offers a fabulous dining experience. I was particularly swept away by the seven-course chef's tasting menu, every bite of which was beyond delicious. Dishes included an artichoke velouté, Creedy Carver duck breast, and salted caramel fondant. With appetites well and truly satisfied, it was off to the comfortable bar and lounge for an espresso martini night cap, before reclining in front of Netflix back in our room.

MINIMOON AT BALMER LAWN FOR £530

- 1 night in a luxury room including breakfast
- Access to Leisure facilities – pool, gym, sauna and jacuzzi
- 7-Course tasting menu for two in the Beresfords Restaurant
- Bottle of bubbly and chocolates in your room
- Afternoon tea for two
- Bespoke couples' massage

The package can also be booked for a couples' retreat, birthday surprise, or a proposal. An extra night can be booked for £220 and payment is due in full at time of booking.

HAMPSHIRE'S HIGHLIGHTS

Exploring the New Forest, and indeed Hampshire as a whole, will no doubt be top of your agenda. Balmer Lawn is ideally situated, barely a stone's throw from Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst, as well as within easy reach of the whole county's attractions. Check out my highlights…

Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery
01256 890 909 |
www.distillery.bombaysapphire.com
Whether you're a gin expert or novice, you're sure to enjoy a day out here. With a variety of experiences on offer whether you want to be guided or left to your own devices, it's a fascinating visit. Crucially the experiences culminate in a cocktail, based on your own aroma preferences. We had so much fun.

It's also worth popping into the Whitchurch Silk Mill on your way back through the town.

Burley Village
www.burleynewforest.co.uk
The New Forest is bursting with traditional idyllic villages and Burley offers everything you'd expect. Witches, smuggling and dragons are all part of its character - a history which certainly hasn't escaped the local shops. What's more, if you're lucky you'll find ponies roaming freely as Burley is one of the few remaining villages still to practice the old tradition of commoming, allowing them to graze on the open forest. Burley is a wonderful place to while away some pleasant hours wandering around quirky shops and stopping for a bite to eat.



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Enter now for your chance to win the ultimate minimoon at Zafiro Palace Alcùdia, with Zafiro Hotels

County Wedding Magazines has partnered with Zafiro Hotels to offer readers the chance to win a four-night minimoon at the five-star hotel Zafiro Palace Alcùdia. Situated on the authentic side of Mallorca, near to the medieval town of Alcùdia, Zafiro Palace Alcùdia balances luxury with mood-boosting experiences – all just steps away from the island's longest beach and its glamorous marina. The resort offers a selection of impressive suites to choose from, including the ground-floor Swim Up Suites, with private gardens and direct pool access.

Gourmet dining lies at the heart of Zafiro Palace Alcùdia. Guests will be given the opportunity to experience five delectable themed restaurants, with a wide offering from local Spanish cuisine to further afield in the Mediterranean as well as Asian specialities.

The Zen Spa & Wellness Centre allows visitors to find inner bliss with a selection of luxury massage cabins, a sauna and two spacious swimming pools. The property also boasts a sensational kaleidoscope of pools – including an adults-only chill-out pool – along with excellent cycling facilities, a multi-sport court, high-tech fitness centre, volleyball pitches, aqua gym and putting green.







THE PRIZE

- ❤ A four-night stay for two people sharing a Swim Up Suite at Zafiro Palace Alcùdia
- ❤ Full-board dining in the resort's five restaurants (breakfast, lunch and dinner included each day)
- ❤ Access to the hotel's Zen Spa & Wellness Centre
- ❤ Premium WiFi throughout the hotel

HOW TO ENTER

Simply answer the following question…

On which Balearic Island will you find Zafiro Palace Alcùdia?

Enter online at yourkent.wedding

The closing date is 7th August, 2020. The prize can be claimed upon request based on the hotel's availability by November 2021. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.

NEXT ISSUE

JULY/AUGUST 2020

ON SALE: 26th June, 2020



VENUE SPOTLIGHT

on Ashford, Swale and The Weald



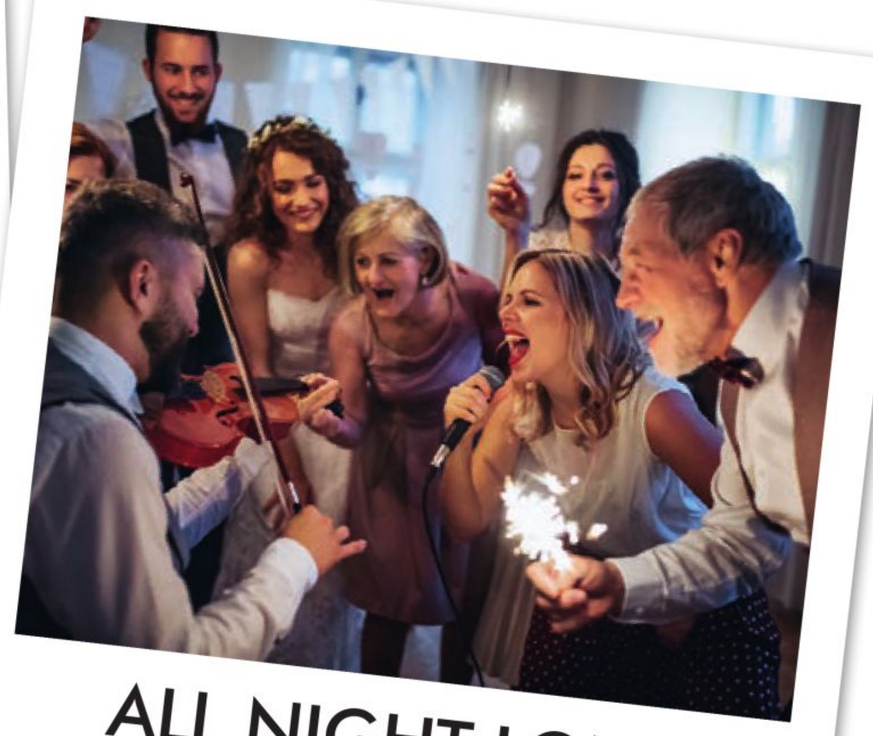
GLORIOUS GARDENS

We round up Kent's lushest venues



STYLE IT OUT

We chat to the county's venue stylists



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Top tips from Kent's wedding entertainers



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Check our selection of high hemlines



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THE WEDDING INDUSTRY AWARDS 2020





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The Old Kent Barn is one of the most beautiful and romantic wedding venues in Kent. No expense was spared in its design and creation. From the beautiful gazebo where spring and summer ceremonies are held, to the chandeliers, state-of-the-art bar and starlight ceiling in its magnificent new oak-framed barn, this truly is the perfect setting for ceremonies and receptions all year round.

We are a family run business and pride ourselves on the quality and warmth of the service we offer. We work tirelessly to ensure that your wedding is perfect in every way for you, your family and your guests.

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