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FEB/MAR 2020



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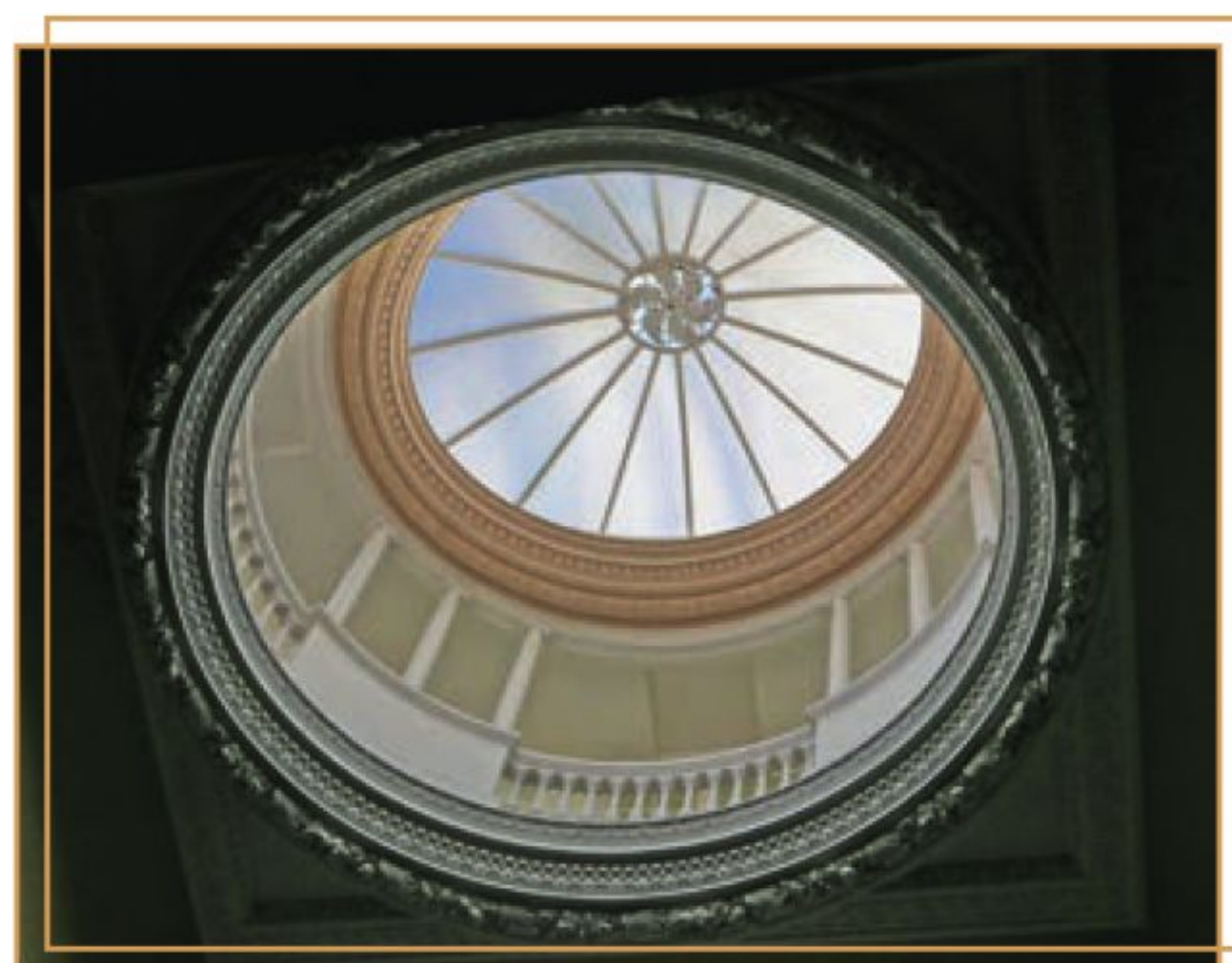


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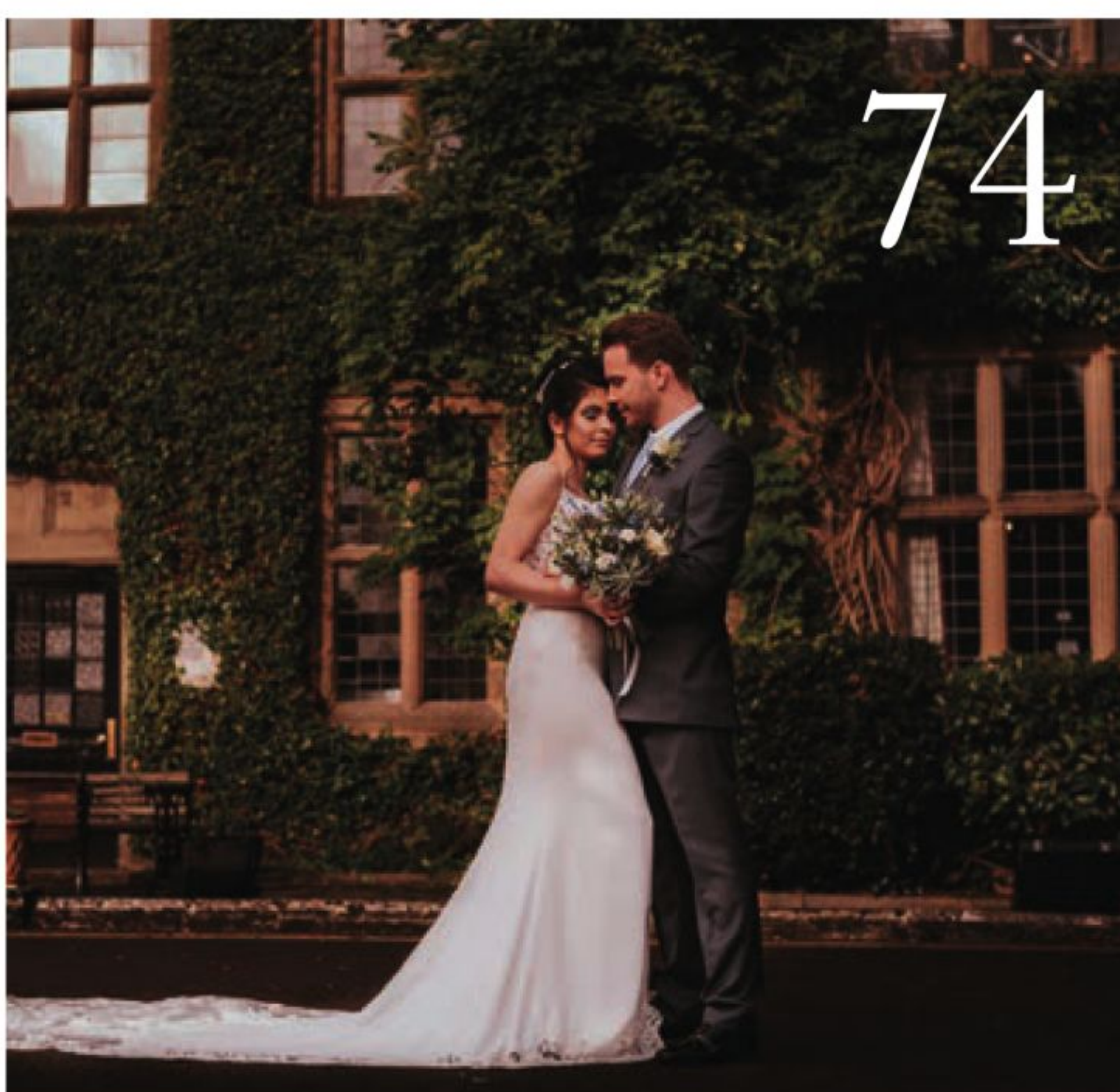
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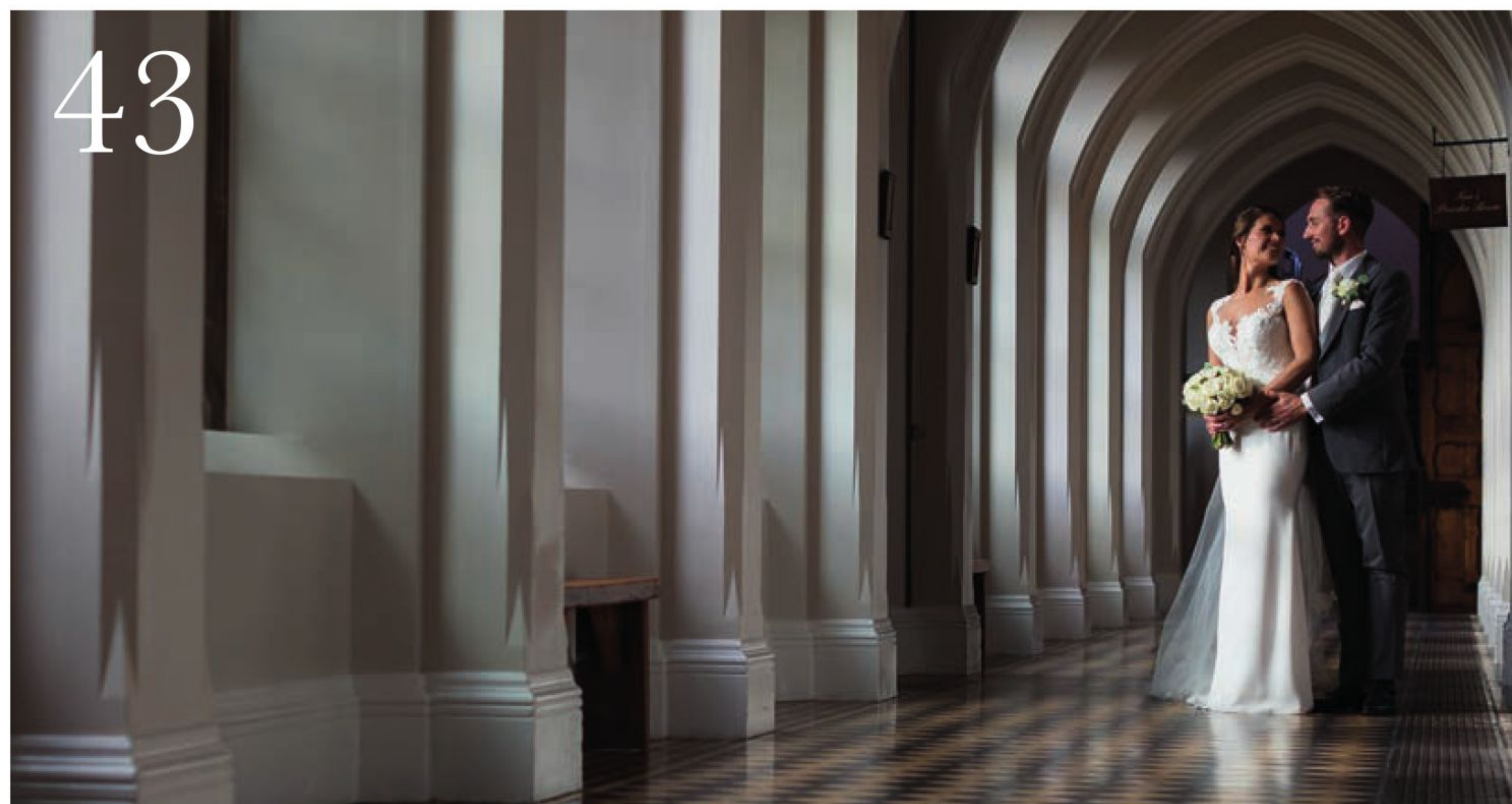
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So, you're engaged! This is possibly one of the most exciting times of your life, and we're with you every step of the way. Why not commence your plans with a bespoke, personalised show round of our wedding venue with our specialised wedding co-ordinator? Included in your extra special viewing appointment is dedicated one to one time and the following:

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# It's 2020!



Welcome to another rather fabulous issue of *Your West Midlands Wedding* – if I do say so myself! The reason for my confident declaration is that this issue is bursting at the seams again with inspiration. Local suppliers are the heart and soul behind this magazine which is evident in the gorgeously-styled shoots –

there's five to boot! – four real weddings – we can't pick our fave – and our venue styling and wedding planning features are bustling with top tips, advice and suggestions to turn your big-day dreams in to reality.

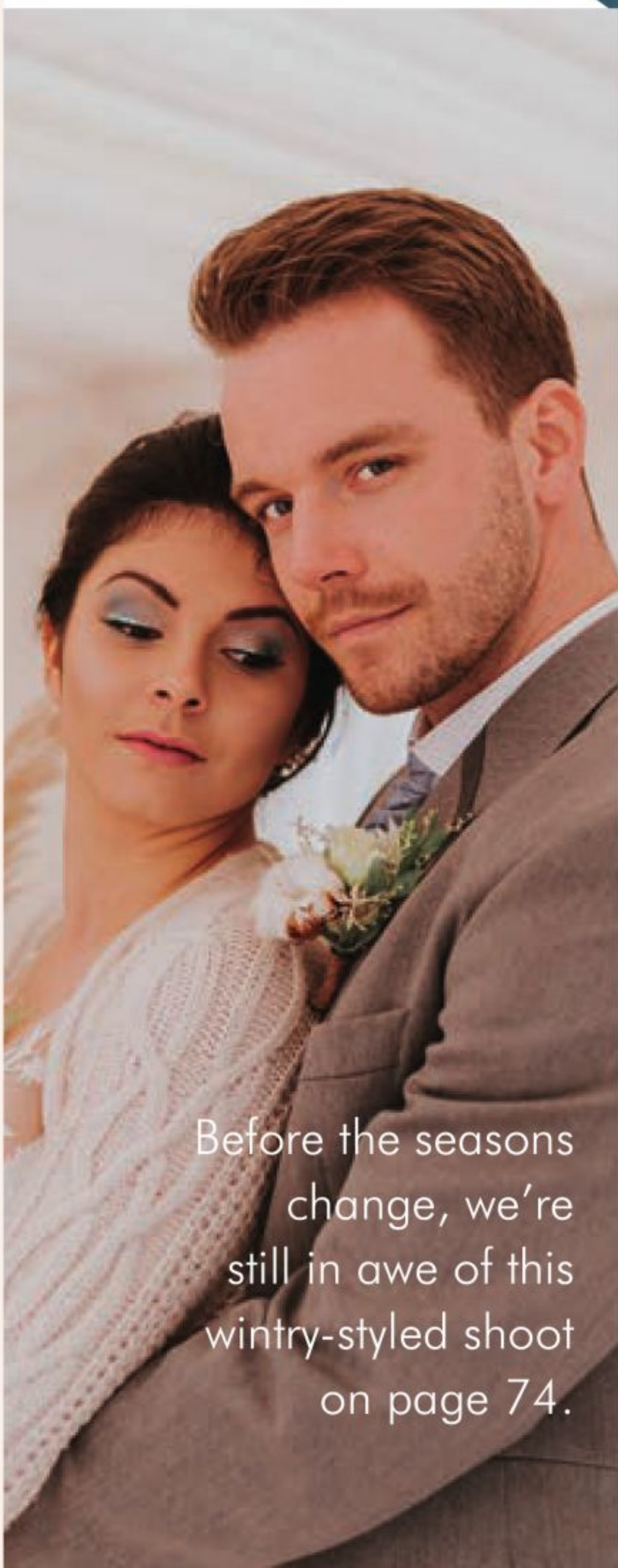
I love to hear from brides, grooms, suppliers, to be honest anyone that has something they want to share and wants to be involved with the magazine, so please do get in touch at [danielleh@county.wedding](mailto:danielleh@county.wedding)

Pull up a chair, pour a brew, grab a biscuit and the magazines and..... enjoy!

*Danielle x*

Danielle Harvey,  
managing editor

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A HONEYMOON  
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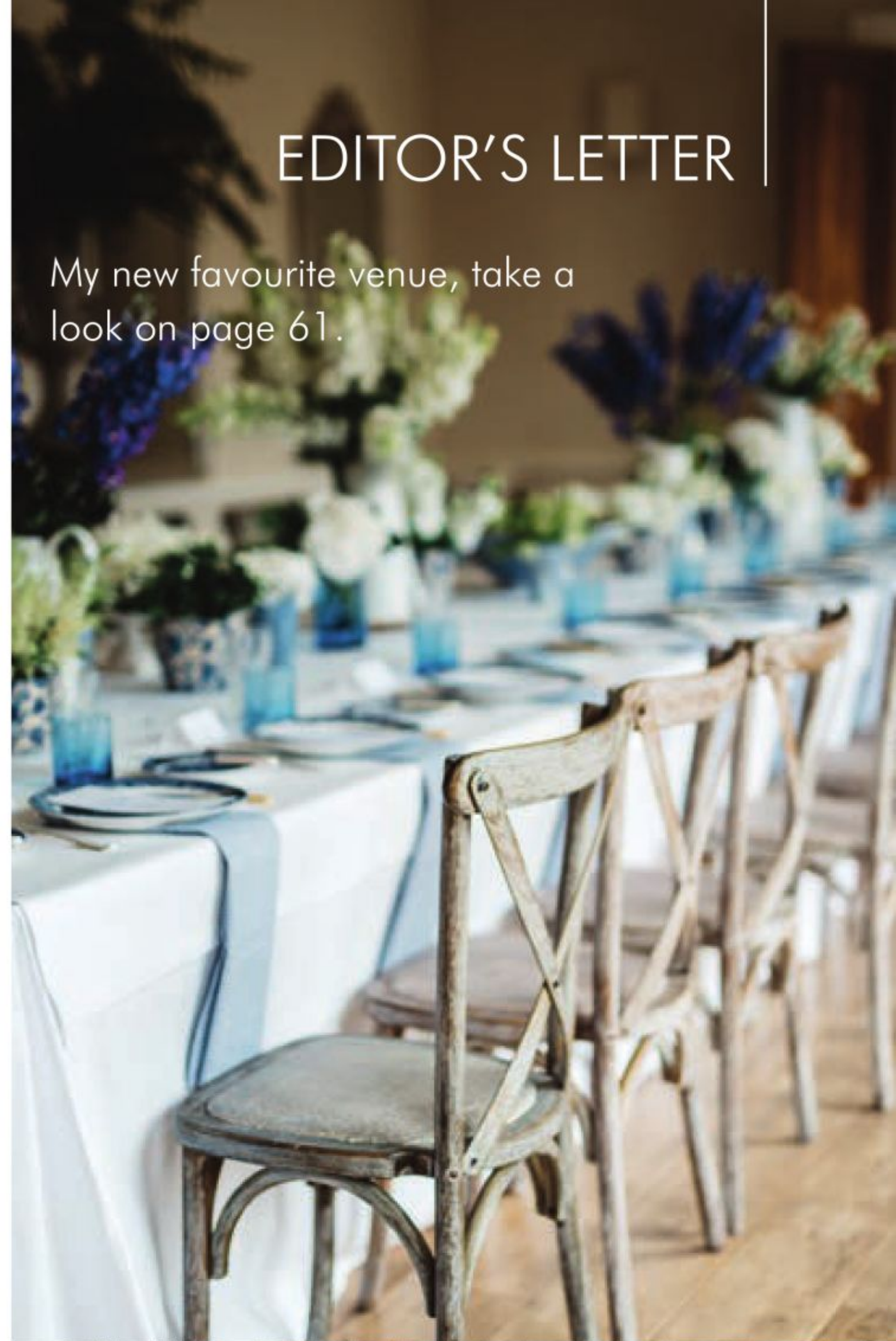
Before the seasons change, we're still in awe of this wintry-styled shoot on page 74.

Creating a theme of the day is all about the finer details. Check out page 54.



## EDITOR'S LETTER

My new favourite venue, take a look on page 61.



I fell in love with this shoot!  
Turn to page 70.



This creation looks far too good to eat! Be inspired on page 57.







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Towering turrets, magnificent stonework and the most picturesque of gardens make Ettington Park one of the most enchanting wedding venues in Warwickshire.

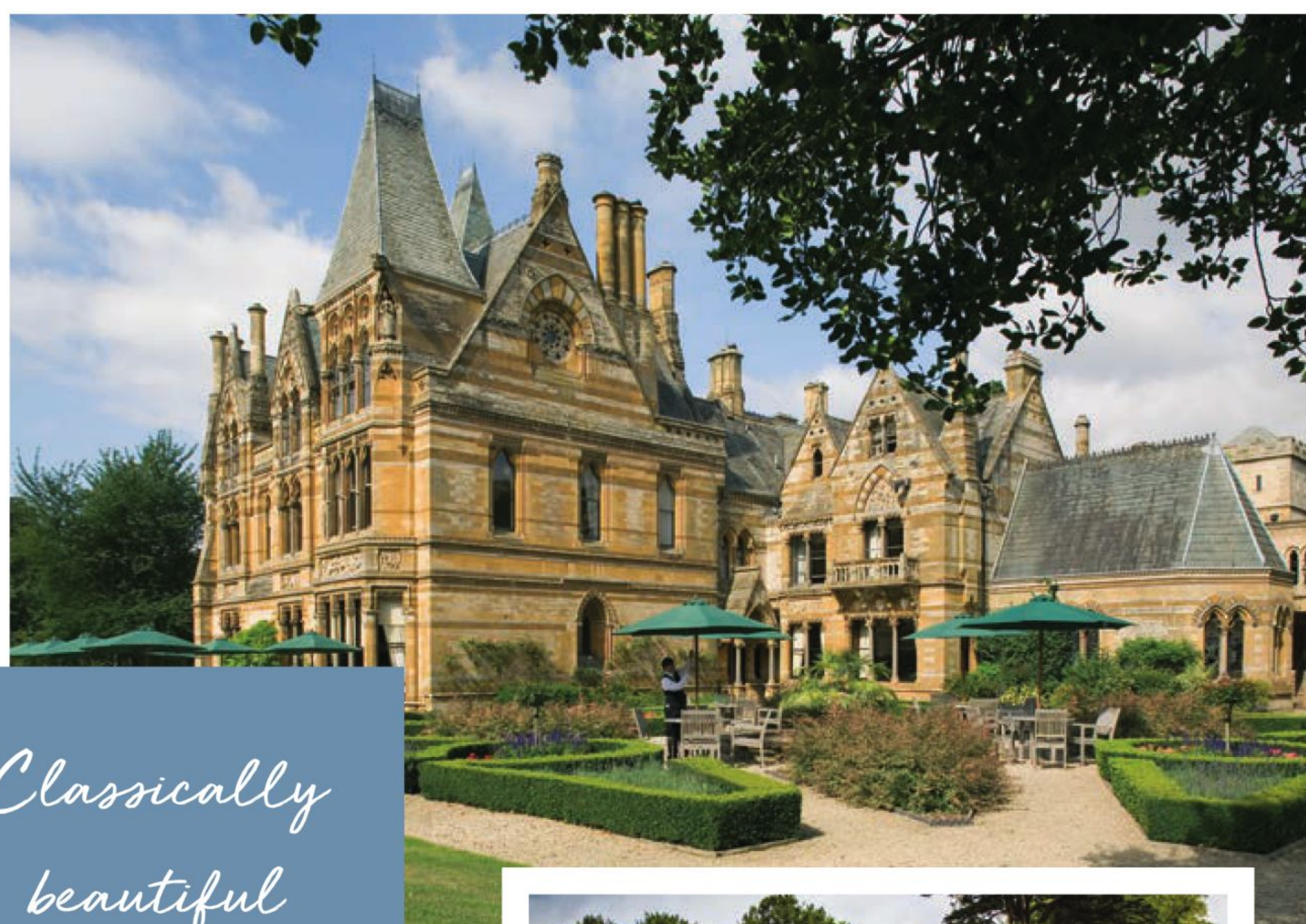
Its mix of unique function spaces with intricate period details and feature windows, alongside its unrivalled outdoor space for wedding ceremonies and drinks receptions creates the ultimate romantic backdrop to your special day.

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# Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the region



## MAKE YOUR HEART RACE

Hereford Racecourse is aiming to become one of the best venues for weddings in Herefordshire and the surrounding area, by launching three Special Moments packages.

The 'Orchard' and 'Cathedral' packages are designed to keep costs down, whilst the 'Totally Tailored' package offers a bespoke wedding experience.

The Orchard offers venue hire, set up, drinks on arrival, a three-course wedding breakfast and then a DJ and dancefloor to celebrate into the night. At £2,500 for the first 50 guests, this represents excellent value and provides the essential elements; to which the couples additional needs for dining and special moments can easily be added. The Cathedral goes a little further by including raceday tickets for the couple and their family, prosecco for toasting with the speeches, a choice of hot food in the evening and tea, coffee and truffles after dinner and costs £4,000 for the first 50 guests.

As well as wedding day celebrations, Hereford Racecourse is also available for stag and hen race days, anniversary parties and the renewal of wedding vows.

Call 01432 273 560 or visit [hereford-racecourse.co.uk](http://hereford-racecourse.co.uk)

## NEW VENUE

Country House Weddings is excited to reveal the launch of its sixth wedding venue, the stunning Bourton Hall in Bourton On Dunsmore, Warwickshire.

This Italianate-style country mansion boasts a beautiful Banqueting Hall with dining facilities for up to 120 guests, and indoor and outdoor ceremony options including a stunning Italianate Chapel. What's more, there are ample luxury bedrooms exclusively for the night of the wedding, and 15 acres of manicured lawns, gardens and woodland with sweeping views across to Draycote Water for amazing photo opportunities – including an original feature staircase, Italianate skylights, gilded ceilings and ornate fireplaces inside to boot!

For more information visit [bourton-hall.co.uk](http://bourton-hall.co.uk)

## EXCLUSIVE FOR 2020

Newly engaged couples looking for a venue in the West Midlands will be interested to find out that The Moat House at Acton Trussell is launching exclusive use weddings. Enjoying freedom of the whole property, with plenty of space for as many as 200 evening guests – couples can also host quieter and more intimate celebrations here.



Steeped in history, the Grade II listed manor house dates back to the 1500s and has had a number of extensions and additions over the centuries, including The Orangery Restaurant which has held two AA rosettes for 21 years. Couples will have the opportunity to sit with the head chef to craft a personal menu whether it's a four-course fine dining meal or relaxed grazing tables and feasting platters.

Those couples opting for exclusive use will be able to take their pick of four ceremony spaces: The light-filled Orangery, usually home to the award-winning restaurant; the Lakeside Pergola set in the picturesque grounds; the oak-beamed and intimate Colin Lewis Suite; or the large and versatile Acton Suite, which has views out over the canal and stunning Staffordshire countryside.

For more information call 01785 712 217 or visit [moathouse.co.uk](http://moathouse.co.uk)





bzoutmanphotography.com

## WELCOME TO THE BARN ON THE FARM

A beautifully converted stone barn, nestled in the south Shropshire hills, Camlad Barns is a place to escape from the busy everyday world. Providing a new venue that is calm and peaceful, the views across the valley are wonderful, you wouldn't imagine it's centrally located to both Birmingham and Liverpool both just over an hour away, but what a difference an hour makes...

It's a true idyllic countryside experience where couples and their guests have exclusive use of the barn, its Hospital Bar, commercial kitchen, washrooms, and main hall – complete with underfloor heating for the winter months. The barn is licensed for weddings and seats 100 or 180 for a standing do and there's ample outside space, courtyard to the front, grass terrace to the back of the barn and the open fronted Wainhouse and Fold Yard.

For more information visit the website [camladbarns.co.uk](http://camladbarns.co.uk)

## PSSSST!

Jessica's Bridal & Evening Wear is a family-run bridal boutique based in Shrewsbury and is hosting an Ellis Bridals 2020 Designer Weekend from Friday 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2020. Brides visiting the store can enjoy 10% off that weekend as well 20% off the weekend of Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April which is the boutique's Blue By Enzoani 2020 Designer Weekend.

For more information visit the website [jessicas-bridal.co.uk](http://jessicas-bridal.co.uk)



sarahbarrettphotography.co.uk

## LET'S CELEBRATE

This year marks 20 years in business for Bill Child Formal Wear and to celebrate it's launched a competition: to win £500 off wedding suit hire!

Owner Carolyn says, "Firstly we would like to say a huge thank you to the thousands of grooms, best men, ushers, pageboys, wedding party guests, summer, winter, charity and hunt ball attendees, prom party teens, Royal Ascot racegoers, Buckingham Palace award-winners, Hogmanay and big birthday celebrators who chose Bill Child Formal Wear for all their menswear requirements.

"To celebrate this landmark year, one lucky couple will WIN £500 of wedding suit hire. All you need to do to enter is book your wedding with us, the closing date for this massive giveaway is 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. If you've already booked your wedding with us don't panic, we've entered you into the draw."

Call 01432 344 700 or visit [billchildformalwear.co.uk](http://billchildformalwear.co.uk)



daniellefrancescaphotography.com

## AWARD WIN

Following their success at the West Midlands finals of The Wedding industry Awards 2020 (TWIA2020). Nothing but Wedding Cars received the ultimate accolade by winning The Best Wedding Transport Supplier 2020 at The National Finals on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at the Cafe de Paris in London. These awards are the only client-voted regional and national awards in the wedding industry.

Nothing but Wedding Cars attribute their success to their friendly, customer focused approach, their fleet of six exceptional wedding vehicles (four iconic vintage VWs and two modern luxury cars) and the impressive package of personalised extras they provided at no additional cost. Owners Julie and John Beresford said "We are delighted to be recognised with such a prestigious award, our aim is to provide our couples with an outstanding and totally unique experience."

Call 07950 233 240 or visit [nothingbutweddingcars.co.uk](http://nothingbutweddingcars.co.uk)



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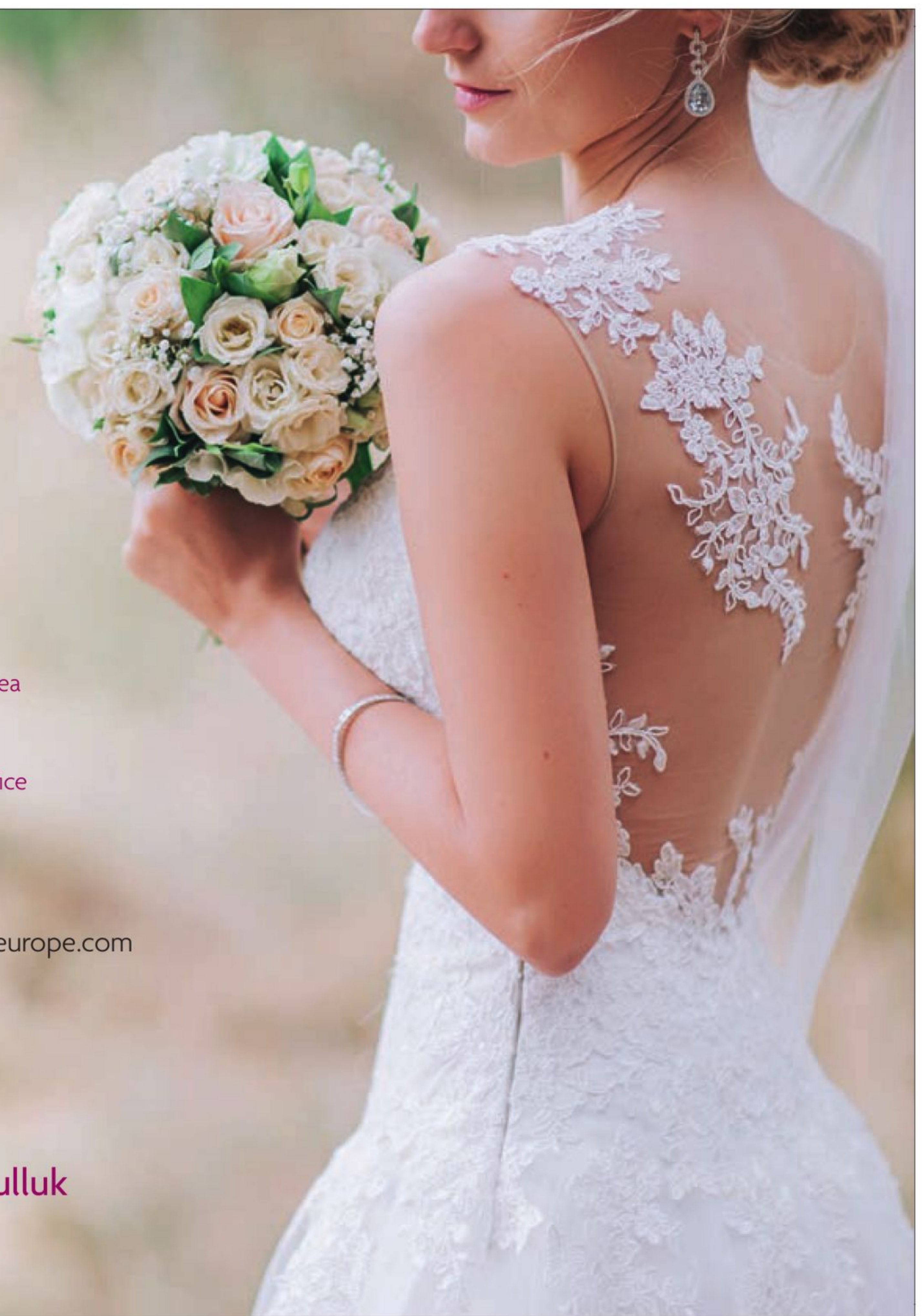
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## NEW HALL

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Step onto the footbridge over the stunning lily-filled moat, and you and your guests will be transformed back to a bygone era where monarchs and gentry once entertained.

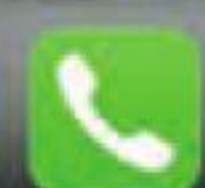
This historic country house is a truly unique venue, with a mix of heritage suites and a contemporary Garden Pavilion set in the privacy of manicured gardens.

For wedding showcase dates throughout the year along with packages and exclusive use options, please visit our website.

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For Wedding Showcase dates throughout the year along with packages and exclusive use options, please visit our website.

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## MORE TEA PLEASE

Coventry's Laura Ashley Hotel The Iliffe, is a historic Victorian country house with a striking mock Tudor façade just three miles from the city centre!

The interior is exquisitely furnished, the embodiment of Laura Ashley design: sumptuous, stylish and elegant.

The Afternoon Tea Room boasts a traditional atmosphere for this delightful pastime, exquisitely styled and furnished – picture-perfect! Guests can expect afternoon tea favourites such as finger sandwiches, delicious scones and irresistible cakes and pastries.

Your West Midlands Wedding has teamed up with Laura Ashley Hotel The Iliffe to benefit our readers with this great Bridal Shower offer: every Bridal Shower afternoon tea booking for more than 15 people receive free private room hire and a free upgrade to prosecco afternoon tea at Laura Ashley Hotel The Iliffe.

For your chance to claim this offer, please enter the discount code 'LABRIDETOBE' at check out [lauraashleyhotels.com/hotels/the-iliffe](http://lauraashleyhotels.com/hotels/the-iliffe)

# Freebies & OFFERS

Great giveaways and discounts up for grabs



*The perfect gift*



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

Theatre Tokens are unique gift vouchers that can be used at over 260 theatres across the country. This means the giftee can see plays, musicals, opera and dance at home or on a trip away. Best of all, Theatre Tokens have no expiry date so there's no pressure to choose right away, meaning the

recipient can wait for their dream show. Theatre Tokens Gift Cards and eGifts can be bought and topped up on [theatretokens.com](http://theatretokens.com)

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

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



ENTER ONLINE AT [YOURWESTMIDLANDS.WEDDING](http://YOURWESTMIDLANDS.WEDDING)

Closing date 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020, unless otherwise stated.

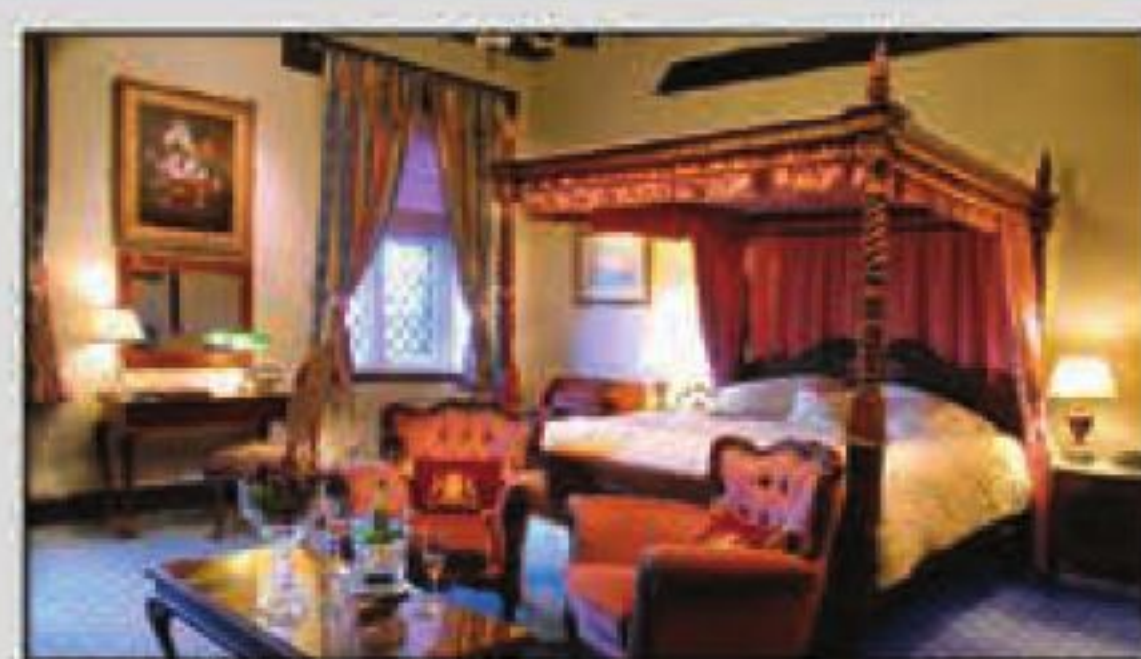




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# WHERE TO WED IN...

Wolverhampton, Walsall & Dudley

## BANTOCK HOUSE MUSEUM

01902 556 245 | [wolverhamptonweddings.com](http://wolverhamptonweddings.com)

Located just ten minutes drive from the centre of Wolverhampton, Bantock House is a Grade II\* listed manor house situated in 43 acres of beautiful parkland and delightful formal gardens.

This historic venue offers fantastic facilities including free on-site parking, amazing locations for photographs, the option for drinks and canapés after the ceremony, plus two locations for nuptials; the Edwardian Drawing Room hosts 25 guests and is ideal for intimate ceremonies, with oak-panelled walls and period furnishings. Afternoon tea is also available in the formal dining room if holding the ceremony in the Drawing Room.

Ceremonies and receptions can take place in the Coach House



for 100 day guests. It's a larger venue located in the historic outbuildings, the Coach House provides a perfect setting for couples who would like to personalise their venue.



## WOLVERHAMPTON ART GALLERY

01902 556 245 | [wolverhamptonweddings.com](http://wolverhamptonweddings.com)

Situated in the heart of the City Centre, Wolverhampton Art Gallery was built in 1884 to house the city's art collection. This Grade II\* listed building combines classic 19<sup>th</sup>-century architecture with modern contemporary design to provide an exclusive and cultural venue.

Opposite the gallery is located St Peters Gardens, the ground of St Peters Church, where couples can go and take some beautiful



photographs to remember their special day.

Situated on the first floor, the Georgian Gallery is licensed for weddings with room for 96 guests – a spacious, light room with a magnificent glass ceiling, surrounded by the cities collection of 18<sup>th</sup>-century paintings.

With fantastic accessible facilities including a grand piano, distinctive locations for photographs and the option for drinks and canapés after the ceremony, Wolverhampton Art Gallery is an affordable and unique venue for the perfect ceremony.





### BILSTON TOWN HALL

01902 556 245 | [wolverhamptonweddings.com](http://wolverhamptonweddings.com)

Bilston Town Hall is an iconic Grade II listed venue dating back to 1872 and is ideally located between Wolverhampton and Walsall in the very heart of the market town of Bilston.

This beautifully restored Victorian building offers a choice of two rooms with charming original features including the original wooden floors.

The Alderman Suite has the capacity for 50 guests and is based on the ground floor, this bright and airy room with large feature windows is perfect for smaller ceremonies.

The Ballroom, with capacity for 210, is situated on the first floor and accessible by an elegant staircase or lift. It is a wonderful, historic venue for larger ceremonies and receptions of up to 160 guests. It is an ideal venue if you would like to personalise your celebrations, couples are welcome to arrange their own decorations, caterers and entertainment.

### CITY ARCHIVES

01902 556 245 | [wolverhamptonweddings.com](http://wolverhamptonweddings.com)

Located in the heart of the city, this historic Grade II\* listed Georgian building, formally the Molineux Hotel, has recently been restored to its former glory and boasts a prime location overlooking the Molineux Stadium.

With fantastic facilities including free parking, ornate formal gardens for photographs, and the option for drinks and canapés after the ceremony, couples and guests can also enjoy amazing views of the football stadium.

Wolverhampton City Archives is an affordable and unique venue for licensed ceremonies, the Rococo Room is a beautiful example of classic Georgian interior design and can accommodate up to 45 loved ones.



### CITY SUITE AND REGISTRARS OFFICE

01902 551 234 | [wolverhamptonweddings.com](http://wolverhamptonweddings.com)

Located in the City Centre, the Wolverhampton Civic Centre provides a smart, neutral backdrop for marriage and civil partnership with the option of two rooms for weddings.

The City Suite can host 82 guests and is located on the third

floor of the Civic Centre, it's an elegant venue that boats excellent accessible facilities including use of the rooftop terrace with panoramic views of the city and surrounding countryside.

The Register Office can hold four guests, a simple backdrop for marriage or a civil partnership, and is primarily utilised by couples who wish to complete a simple legal formality before having a religious service or celebratory ceremony elsewhere.





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## COAST & COUNTRY HOTELS

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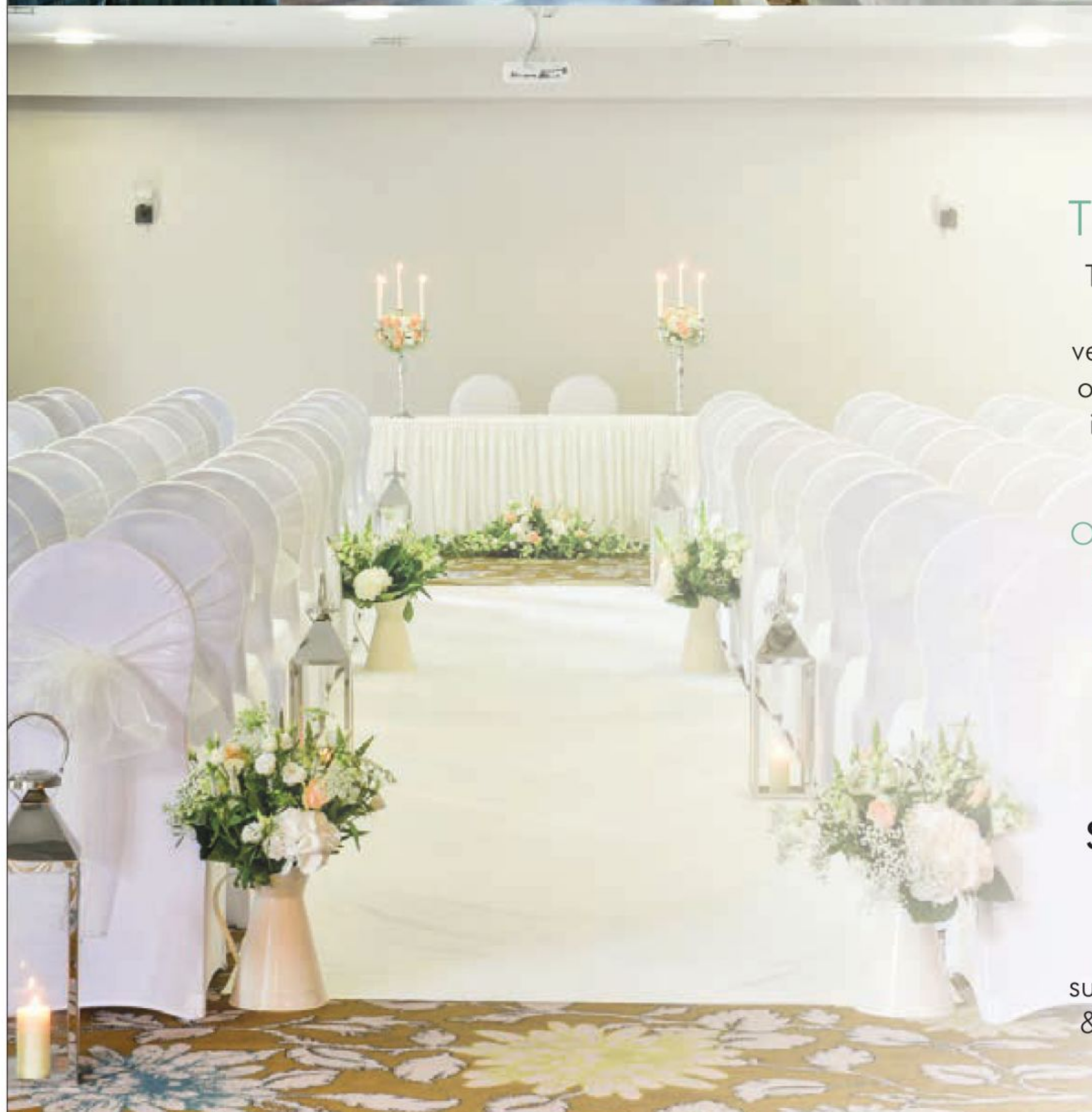
This property is a charming hotel set in the pretty hamlet of Charlecote, just 4 miles from Stratford upon Avon; and is the perfect picturesque wedding venue. Our beautiful Hampton Suite, dates back to the 16th century and was originally the hayloft for the farm and is situated within the hotel grounds but is completely self-contained. The suite includes a reception lounge, private outdoor garden, main function room and large distinctive bar.

Our recent refurbishment in simple greys with classic furniture shows off some of the original beams and features: a truly romantic and traditional setting for your perfect day. We are licenced for civil ceremonies both inside and outdoor in our new wooden gazebo which will be available to view at our Wedding Fair.

## SPRING WEDDING FAIR

**Sunday 16th February 2020 12.30pm – 3pm including complementary hog roast between 1pm – 2.30pm**

Enjoy a complementary drink while meeting a wide selection of local suppliers including venue decorations, flowers, photographers, registrars, hair & make-up. Our experienced team will be on hand to answer any questions if needed.



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## HILTON HALL

01902 249 247 | [hiltonhallevents.co.uk](http://hiltonhallevents.co.uk)

Hilton Hall is a stunning 17<sup>th</sup>-century manor house on the outskirts of Wolverhampton. The estate stands in 25 acres of un-spoilt parkland, woodland and lake-side area with beautifully kept gardens – ample photo opportunities for newlyweds!

This impressive and romantic Grade I listed building offers complete privacy and was originally built in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century.

There are a number of suites within the house which can be used for ceremonies, all of which lend real character and charm to proceedings, with original features of the building being upheld.

The Victorian Dome is a stunning location for vows, able to seat up to 120 guests, this provides an outdoor ceremony area with



a real wow factor. The original forcing house has been carefully restored and is now one of just a handful of these style buildings left in the UK.

Post-vows, the on-site permanent structure Marquee, allows up to 650 guests and boasts a self-contained bar, washrooms and kitchen facilities it allows for a perfect celebration.

Each couple tying the knot here will receive a dedicated and highly experienced events manager who will work alongside them throughout the whole planning process and on the day itself – lending knowledge and contacts built up over an extensive period of time.



## WOLVERHAMPTON RACECOURSE

01902 390 000 | [wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk](http://wolverhampton-racecourse.co.uk)

Set in 22 acres of private parkland, but boasting a city-centre location, this wedding venue in Wolverhampton offers the best of both worlds: the perfect blend of a local wedding venue with a grand scale and unique setting.

Fully licensed for weddings, the venue has a range of beautiful suites available for ceremonies and receptions including the Taylex Suite, Sunbeam Suite and Box 1 & 2. Receptions from 50 to 500 guests can be catered for, the venue is particularly popular for traditional Hindu weddings and Sikh wedding receptions due to its large capacity suites, and kitchen hire options – there's also an experienced team to ensure the best day of your life.

Nothing in the area offers views and scenery quite like it – the backdrop of a racetrack. When saying 'I do' to this venue couples will benefit from Bed & Breakfast for the happy couple in the on-site Holiday Inn Hotel when booking a wedding reception.







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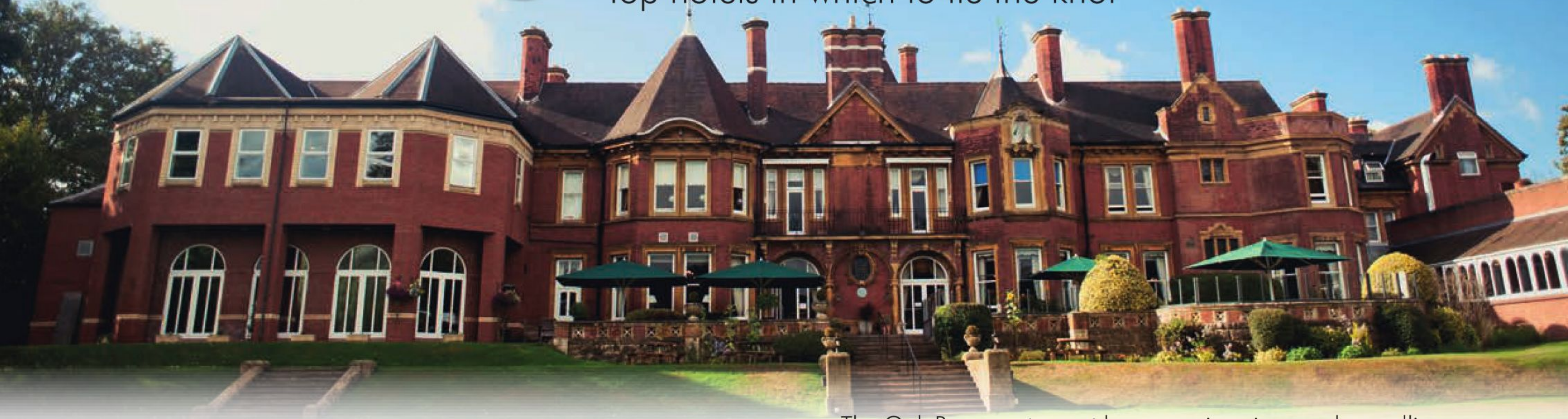
Package is available on selected dates in 2019. Price is 'from' price and supplements must be paid for extra guests and inclusions. The wedding couple is responsible for booking and paying for the registrar.

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# Suite SPOT

Top hotels in which to tie the knot



## MOOR HALL HOTEL & SPA

0121 308 3751 | [moorhallhotel.co.uk](http://moorhallhotel.co.uk)

Set at the end of a tree-lined drive, Moor Hall's sweeping lawns and natural woodland make a stunning setting. A rose-lined path leads down from the conservatory to the historical sunken garden which has a double stone staircase, water fountain and Victorian grottoes – picture perfect – you can wed al fresco here with 180 guests!

Ceremonies can also take place in the Charter Suite or Bracebridge Suite. The first is an elegant and spacious ground-floor room – with its own direct entrance from the car park, separate bar and surrounding conservatory overlooking the gardens – and can cater for up to 180 guests (250 in the evening). It was renovated in early 2018 and its neutral gold, cream and grey palette and stylish bar, luxurious contemporary lighting and furnishings make a fabulous setting.

The Oak Room restaurant has sweeping views, oak panelling and open fireplaces, and is for receptions of 30 to 60 guests. Smaller wedding celebrations can be catered for in style in either the Bracebridge or Longmoor (post-vows) – both on the first floor with stunning views.

Moor Hall's new Wedding Preparation Suite is an elegant space serving as the bride or groom's base as they prepare for their big day. The room has a double bed and sofa bed, large mirrors with lots of lighting and plenty of dressing table space. There's a connecting room too so the bride can enjoy a pre-wedding sleepover with her bridesmaids.

The modern and relaxing spa is the perfect place to unwind it includes an indoor pool with spa bath, sauna and steam room, refurbished gym, and four treatment rooms – including a double treatment room and hen party packages.

Couples will benefit from a free overnight stay and menu tasting.



## PARK HOUSE HOTEL

01952 460 128 | [parkhousehotelshifnal.co.uk](http://parkhousehotelshifnal.co.uk)

Originally two separate 17<sup>th</sup>-century country houses set on the edge of the market town of Shifnal, this elegant and luxurious building combines modern amenities with traditional features. Amidst its tree studded gardens, The Park House Hotel is the ideal setting for wedding receptions, with its Victorian charm and picturesque grounds it's a venue to make your wedding day dreams a reality.

The interior boasts Georgian-style décor with fabulous high ceilings, original 18<sup>th</sup>-century staircases, oak panelling and chandeliers, what's more, the function rooms have moodlighting and the property offers exclusive leisure facilities.

When looking to tie the knot here, couples can opt for the

Garden Suite for up to 180 guests. This room benefits from high ceilings, chandelier and in-room bar. Alternatively, for an intimate do, the Dobson Suite can host up to 70 loved ones and features high ceilings, fireplace and doors which lead straight out onto the garden.

Post-vows, both of these suites the Garden and the Dobson can host 180 and 70 respectively, and in the evening, after the reception of 250 guests, couples can retreat to the bridal suite with hot tub followed by a private breakfast the morning after the wedding. Additional benefits include a complimentary bedroom the night before the wedding, preferential bedroom rates and the services of a wedding coordinator.





## MERCURE WALTON HALL HOTEL & SPA

01789 842 424 | [all.accor.com](http://all.accor.com)

Set in 65 acres of picturesque landscaped grounds, Mercure Walton Hall is a hidden gem in the Warwickshire countryside. The River Dean runs through the grounds, with a stunning 16<sup>th</sup>-century bridge perfect for big-day photos. The grounds are ideal for romantic outdoor ceremonies – with the legal registry afterwards inside with witnesses – the perfect way to take advantage of the beautiful surroundings.

Mercure Walton Hall Hotel is a charming building with beautiful architecture both inside and out and benefits from modern touches comprising a recently refurbished bar and brasserie restaurant with lovely views of the Victorian garden. The two main buildings boast 130 classic and privilege bedrooms; the stunning 16<sup>th</sup>-century hall building provides 37 Superior rooms and Suites all individually styled. A grand staircase with stained-glass windows greets you as you enter the lobby of the grand hall. Working fireplaces, tall ceilings and magnificent chandeliers are all part of the charm the period hall has to offer.

Ceremonies take place in the on-site chapel St James Chapel Church of England ran by the local parish, which can hold up to 120 guests, Moncreiffe Restaurant located in the hall (146), Mordaunt Restaurant (60), the Courtyard Suite (208) and a non-legal ceremony can be held in the grounds as stated above.

Post-vows receptions take place in the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Hall, with lobby/lounge and conservatory bar, suitable for up to 200 guests. The grounds are also accessible from the lounge area to use, ideal for photographs and garden games.

When tying the knot here couples will benefit from a complimentary menu taster for the couple prior to the big day, and use of a four-poster suite including breakfast, on the night of the wedding.



## HALLMARK STOURPORT MANOR HOTEL

0330 028 3421 | [hallmarkhotels.co.uk](http://hallmarkhotels.co.uk)

Set in 23 acres of grounds, in the beautiful Worcestershire countryside, Hallmark Stourport Manor Hotel has a bandstand, terrace and gardens all providing the perfect backdrop for the 'I dos'.

This historic, Victorian stately home in the Midlands was once home to Stanley Baldwin, Prime Minister three times between 1923 – 1927. It's welcomed many dignitaries over the years and boasts a gorgeous stained-glass window with sweeping staircase for quite an entrance.

This four-star venue is licensed for civil ceremonies for up to 280 guests offering a tailor-made option. Ceremonies take place in any of the following five beautiful rooms: Gloucester Suite for up to 20 guests, Warwick Suite (30), Hereford Suite (120), Stafford & Hereford Suite combined (200) and finally, on the Bandstand/

outdoors (40 inside the bandstand and 60 surrounding it).

After the ceremony, the Executive Suite is perfect for the reception. A large, light and airy room with a high ceiling and neutral walls. The suite can be partitioned into three sections to suit numbers making it ideal from small and intimate receptions to more grand affairs. It has its own private bar and toilets along with private access to the gardens, giving you exclusivity and privacy in a welcoming atmosphere. It can host 280 guests for a wedding breakfast and 380 for an evening reception.

Couples who choose to wed here will benefit from a complimentary stay in the honeymoon suite on the night of the wedding and discounted accommodation rates for guests. What's more, there's also a free wedding taster for the couple, and they will receive a personalised love heart dated with the couples name to hang on the wedding wish tree.





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## Country House Wedding Venue

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## Wedding Fair

Sunday 16th February 2020, 11am to 3pm

A wide range of exhibitors will be on hand to help you organise your very special day. Fashion show at 1pm.

Exhibitors include flowers, stationery, photography, bridalwear, mother of the bride outfits, jewellery, menswear, toastmaster, chair covers, entertainment, beauty, cakes, and much more!

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★★★★★  
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## MODDERSHALL OAKS

01782 399 000 | [moddershalloaks.com](http://moddershalloaks.com)

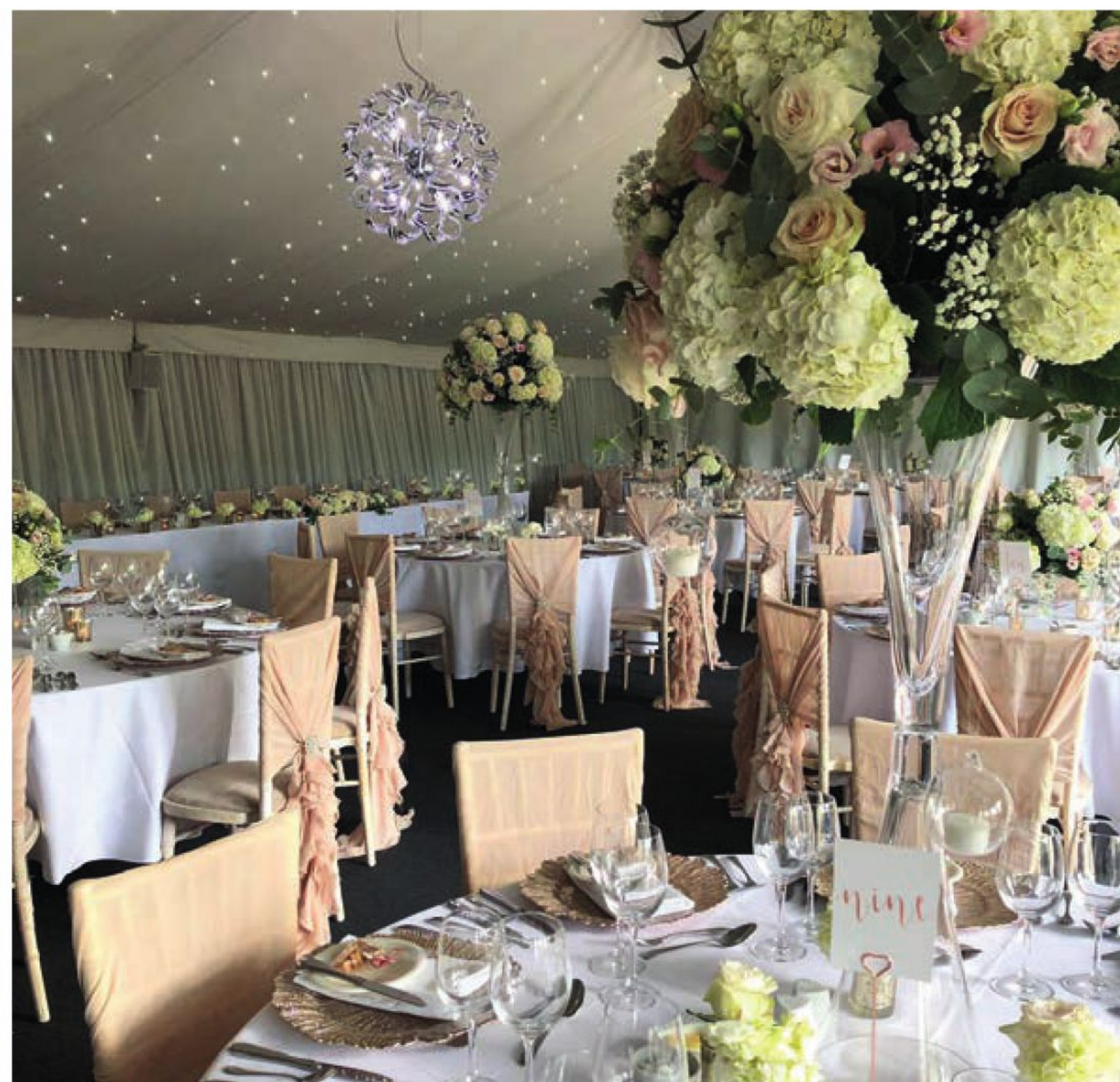
Moddershall Oaks has a purpose-built building, The Venue, however, despite being a new-build it has been designed to blend in with the surrounding farmhouse buildings and its characteristics are a typical of the Staffordshire area, perfect for a rustic wedding.

The grounds at Moddershall Oaks are one of the many highlights for couples, adjacent to its private woodland is a lake brimming with wildlife, lilies and fish and is the most peaceful and serene place for wedding photographs. In addition to this, the outdoor ceremony area overlooks the lake providing stunning backdrop for vows, whilst The Venue boasts a courtyard with wishing well and fish pond. It's perfect for an evening barbecue or simply just an extra breakout space for guests to relax.

The interior in The Venue is contemporary and filled with natural

light, featuring Swarovski crystal stars, Italian chandeliers and a starlit backdrop it remains a neutrally decorated space for couples to choose their own colour scheme and wedding decoration.

Couples can choose to host their ceremony either inside The Venue or outside by the lake, both of which can accommodate up to 130 guests. The wedding breakfast and evening reception are also held in The Venue and can host 130 day guest and 175 evening guests. The Bose sound system and well stocked bar combined with entertainment will create the perfect ambience for your celebrations! Special services include a complimentary menu tasting as well as the sought after mini-moon which is the bride and groom's overnight stay on the night of the wedding. Also included is a bottle of champagne, breakfast, lunch, a 20-minute massage each and full use of the spa facilities on your first day of married life!



## HOGARTHS

01564 779 988 | [hogarths.co.uk](http://hogarths.co.uk)

Set in 30 acres of woodlands and landscaped gardens, Hogarths has picture-perfect fairytale grounds. The wonderfully romantic outdoor setting boasts its celebrated Kissing Bridge which is the ideal backdrop for photographs on the big day.

Inside, the venue's luxurious interiors are matched by exquisite food and a meticulously organised team of friendly and experienced wedding planners.

Ceremonies take place al fresco on The Island for up to 180

guests, or the Lake House for 120 loved ones.

For the nuptials and post-vow celebrations couples can choose from the following spaces: the Music Room hosts 120 day and evening guests, the Williams Suite 70 day and evening guests, and Garden Suite 240 day and evening guests.

When choosing this big-day venue couples will benefit from having private bar and entertainment areas in both wedding suites and, depending on their package, can enjoy a complimentary menu tasting and bridal suite for the evening.





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## IT MUST BE

## Love, Love, Love

Tracy and Ryan's wedding was a beautiful day filled with love and laughter

*Images courtesy of Vassell Weddings*

Tracy and Ryan met in popular fashion, at work, when Tracy was Ryan's supervisor, "We were not allowed to have relationships with colleagues so we had to keep it a secret for two years until I left," recalls Tracy. "We started talking and found we had loads in common, playing computer games, watching films, our love of fast food and both being of Irish heritage. For our first date we went to the cinema (cliche) and watched the film *Your Highness*, we still watch a ton of films together nearly nine years later!"

Ryan plucked up the courage to propose on the couple's 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary at home with a treasure hunt; he'd hidden notes all over the house for Tracy to find, even involving the pair's two cats Bing Bong and Calcifer and the final note led to the proposal!

Tracy and Ryan tied the knot on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2019, with The Barns Hotel Cannock setting the scene.







*We came across the venue online and loved the look of it, and after paying a visit we knew straight away we loved it. The farmhouse and reception both looked stunning set up for a wedding that afternoon – after a second visit, we booked there and then it ticked every box!*



*We hired a venue decorator recommended by The Barns, called Eventi Eleganti, from this company we hired pink chair sashes, light-up table skirting, a backdrop for the ceremony and a wedding postbox.*



*The table names were our favourite video games and I will forever be proud of the top table being called Saints Row! The table plan was a wishing tree and it worked really well, we even stuck a picture of our cats on it.*



*My dress was one of the first I tried on from The Dressing Room Bridal in Halesowen, it was a dress that had been hand-picked by the owner to have in their store so I've never seen anyone else wearing it!*



*We hired light-up 'T&R' letters to use for the ceremony and wedding breakfast.*

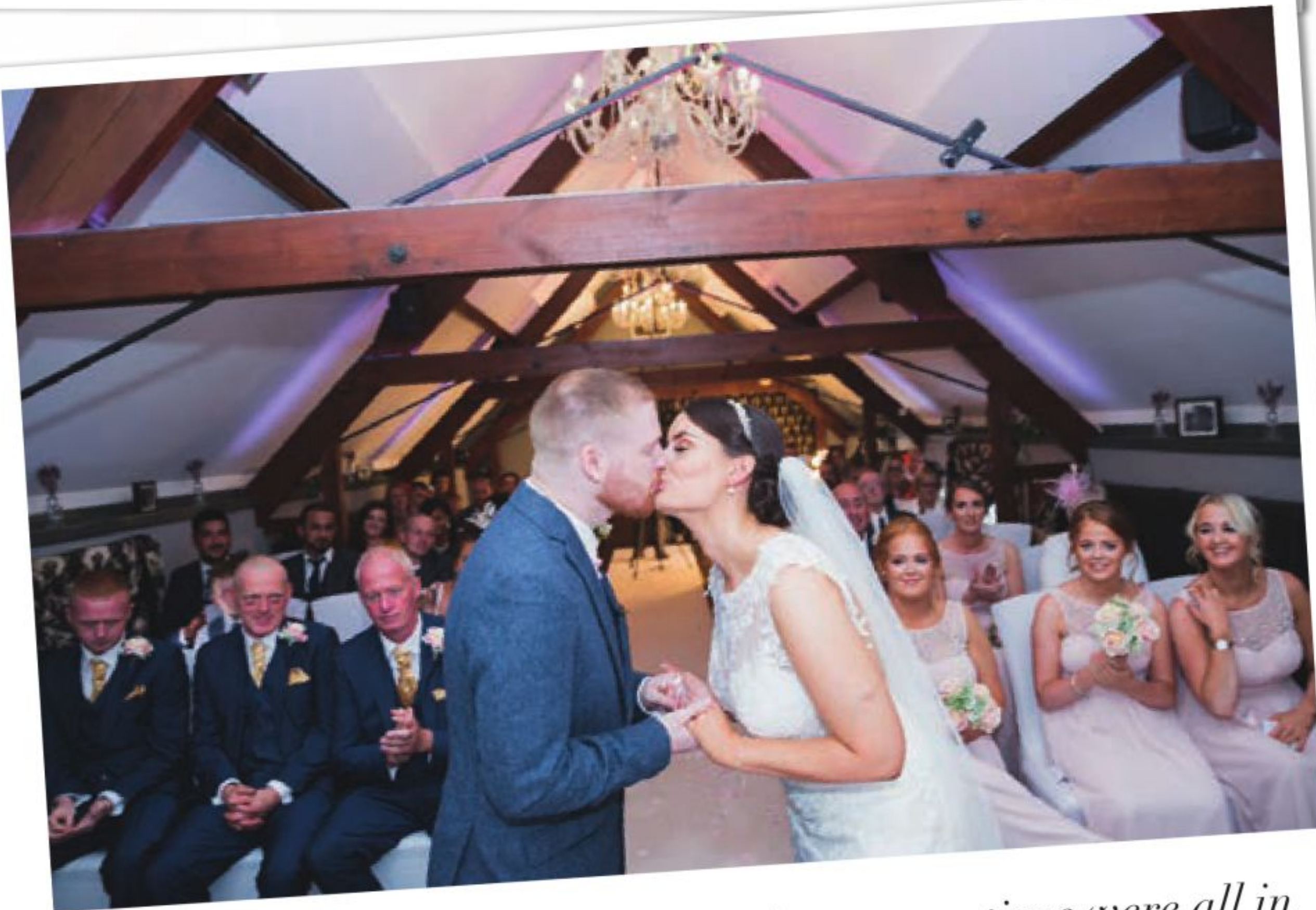




*I had always wanted a high neckline and loved the lace detail of the dress, I had a diamond belt attached to the dress and wore a tiara and veil.*



*The bridesmaids all wore the same pink dress from Roman Originals and wore their own sandals to try and not look so tall against a tiny bride!*



*In the morning I felt so relaxed as the preparations were all in place, we trusted the venue with all of our choices and they did not disappoint!*

## TOP TIP:

*Excel will be your best friend and definitely use a wedding website!*



*The groom wore a blue tweed suit with pink cravat and handkerchief, while the rest of the groomsmen wore plain blue suits and a contrasting hued accessory to allow the groom to stand out.*



*We played the Mr & Mrs game in the evening and also had a taxi photo booth which went down a storm!*



*Going to Cannock Chase alone with our photographer for our couple portraits was the best part of the day as we got to be alone together and had the chance to take it all in.*





*We jetted off to Cape Verde straight after the wedding, driving down to Gatwick the next day and flew on the day after! We had two weeks in a swim-up room, in an adults-only hotel, it was pure bliss. We are planning to visit other places but have agreed we will return on a special wedding anniversary in the future.*



## TRACY AND RYAN'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, The Barns Hotel, 01543 469 191, [thebarnshotel.co.uk](http://thebarnshotel.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Vassell Weddings, 07743 066 212, [vassellweddings.co.uk](http://vassellweddings.co.uk) | **Bride's dress and accessories**, The Dressing Rooms Bridal, 0121 423 2777, [thedressingroomsbridal.co.uk](http://thedressingroomsbridal.co.uk) | **Cake**, Sweet and Delicious Cakes, 07969 859 655, [sweetanddeliciouscakes.co.uk](http://sweetanddeliciouscakes.co.uk) | **Venue stylist**, Evanti Eleganti, 07764 992 731, [eventieleganti.co.uk](http://eventieleganti.co.uk)



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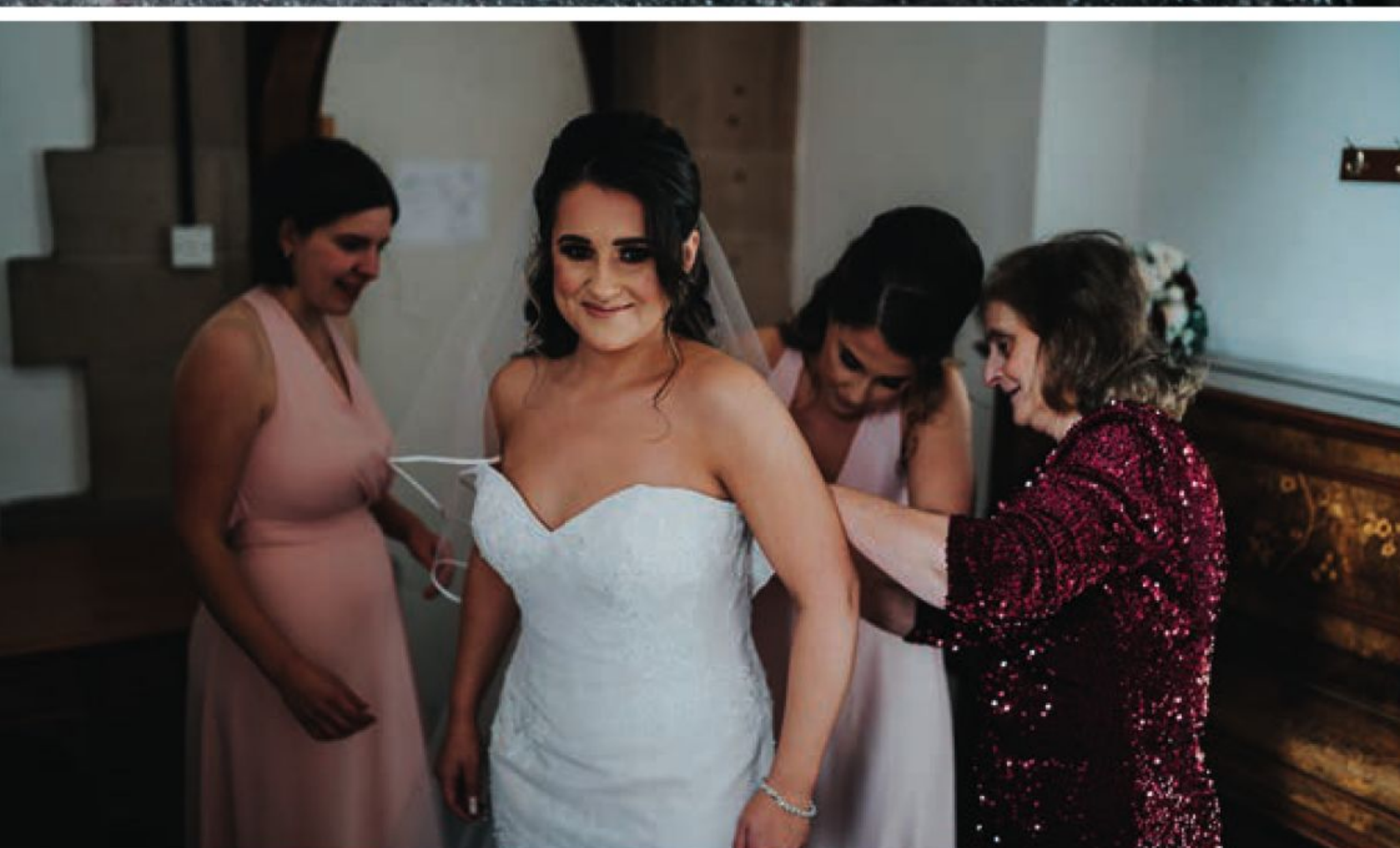
# A monster mash up

Hannah and Todd combined classic elegance with a Halloween theme, check out this spooktacular celebration

*Images courtesy of Craig Clewlow, New Road Photography*







Hannah Connor met Todd Davies while both working as New Look managers. “Having gone across to help her at a shop she was covering I attempted to worm my way in but to no avail,” shares Todd. “My attempts to start up some kind of conversation via text message were met with silence. A few months later we were at an area meeting whereby I made sure I was sat by her. After a day of flirting I gave the text messages another ago and asked her out on a date, this time I got a response. A few weeks later we met up for what should have been a drink, it turned into a nine-hour conversation-filled date. The rest, so they say, is history!”

Popping the question was a spontaneous decision for Todd after he’d put off the idea due to career uncertainty, “Spur of the moment I decided I wasn’t going to put my life on hold any longer. I walked straight across to the jewellers opposite my shop and purchased a ring, then rang my parents and then her parents for their blessing. I rushed home straight from work to put my hastily decided plan into action. In our bedroom we had a lightbox whereby you can change the letters, so I dug out the relevant ones, changing the message to will you marry me? The plan was to wait till we were both in bed and then to turn it on, illuminating my proposal. Of all the nights Hannah decided to stay up till 11:30, my insistence of a good night’s sleep falling on deaf ears. Eventually, my phone full of messages asking if I’d done it yet, we went to bed and I lit up the words in the dark. Hannah’s response was a mixture of disbelief and tears of joy, the answer thankfully being a resounding yes.”

The happy couple set the big date for 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019, tying the knot at St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Trent Vale, Stoke on Trent followed by celebrations at Alton Castle, Alton.

## SETTING THE SCENE

All harmonious relationships are about compromise and that’s what Hannah and Todd found when planning their wedding. “Hannah, a practicing Catholic, wanted the traditional church wedding. I however am not religious and have a love of horror films and Halloween. As often in our relationship we sat down and came up with something that would capture both of our personalities and dreams for the day,” shares Todd. “We choose October the 31<sup>st</sup> and decided that we would have a Catholic wedding ceremony, choosing our local parish, the beautiful St Teresa of the Child Jesus. The ceremony was to be respectful and so we decided that no element of Halloween would be present at that point of the day, instead introduced after at the castle.”

Alton Castle was the perfect choice, Hannah and both her parents had worked there so it had both sentimental value as well as being practical in terms of logistics; inclusive in hiring the castle was having access to almost every room in there which meant we could theme different areas; the castle fitted well with the spooky Halloween atmosphere and décor, and lastly accommodation for all the guests was included (ideal as the majority of Hannah’s guests were to travel from Birmingham).

The theme of the day embodied the spirit of Halloween by having ‘trick or treat’ goodies on various tables, pumpkins and plastic cauldrons, names and table numbers were written on card and presented either sticking out of a miniature tree trunk or on top of a set of plastic vampire teeth. The flowers were displays incorporating pumpkins but also featuring autumnal-coloured blooms and foliage sprouting from them.

For the big-day bake, the cake consisted of five tiers which contained a mixture of Madeira and chocolate covered in a smooth white icing. To dress this, an array of different autumn-linked items were individually crafted out of icing, including dusted mushrooms, leaves of different colours, ivy, berries, twigs and many other additions. Lining the outside of each tier was a range of Day of the Dead skulls linked together by the ivy up the side of the cake.



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A common factor throughout the castle was spider webs, both light-up electric webs and normal, also a range of various devices which were designed to animate as guests walked past them – one room had mirrored talking heads and a skeletal bride and groom.

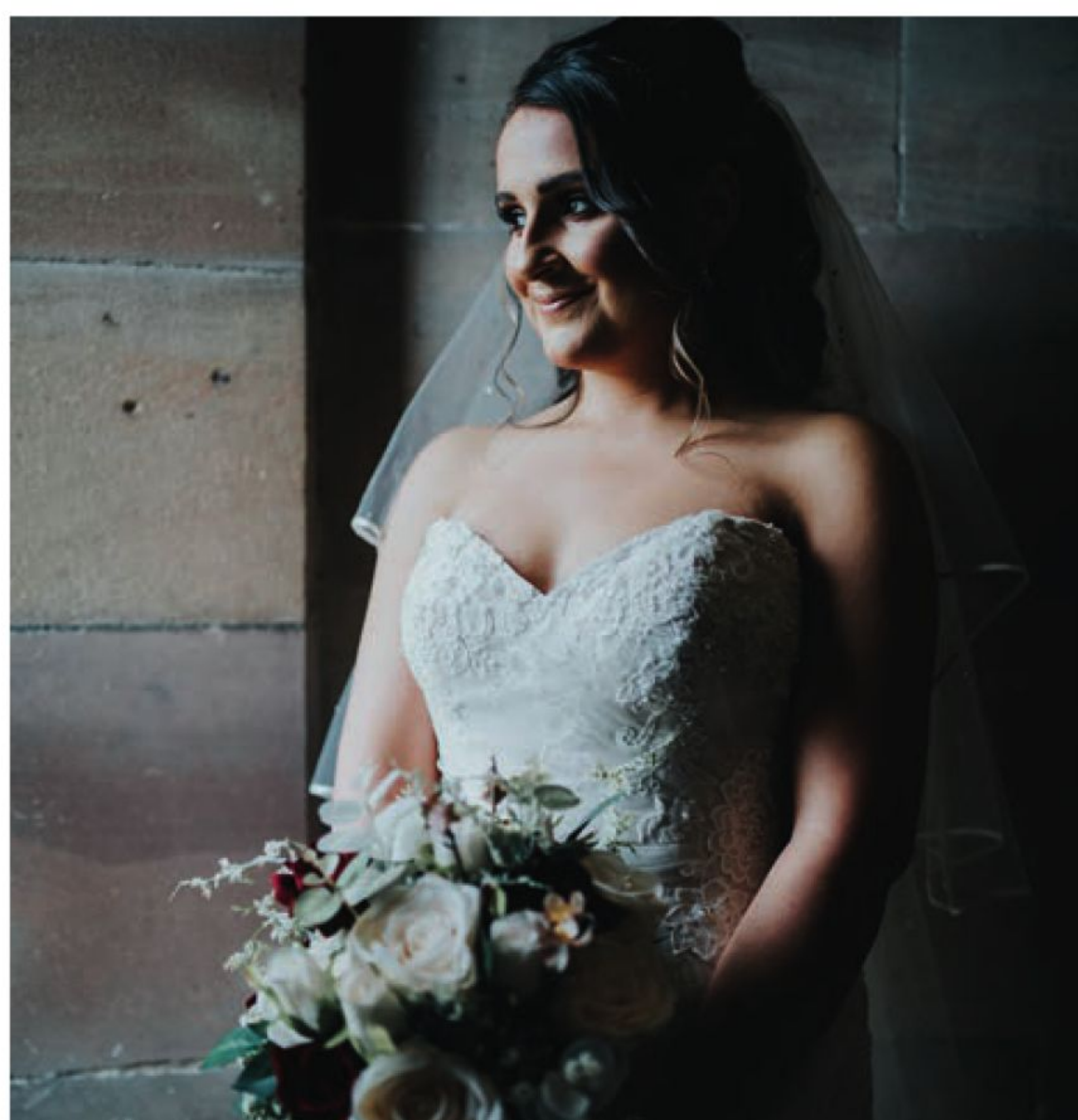
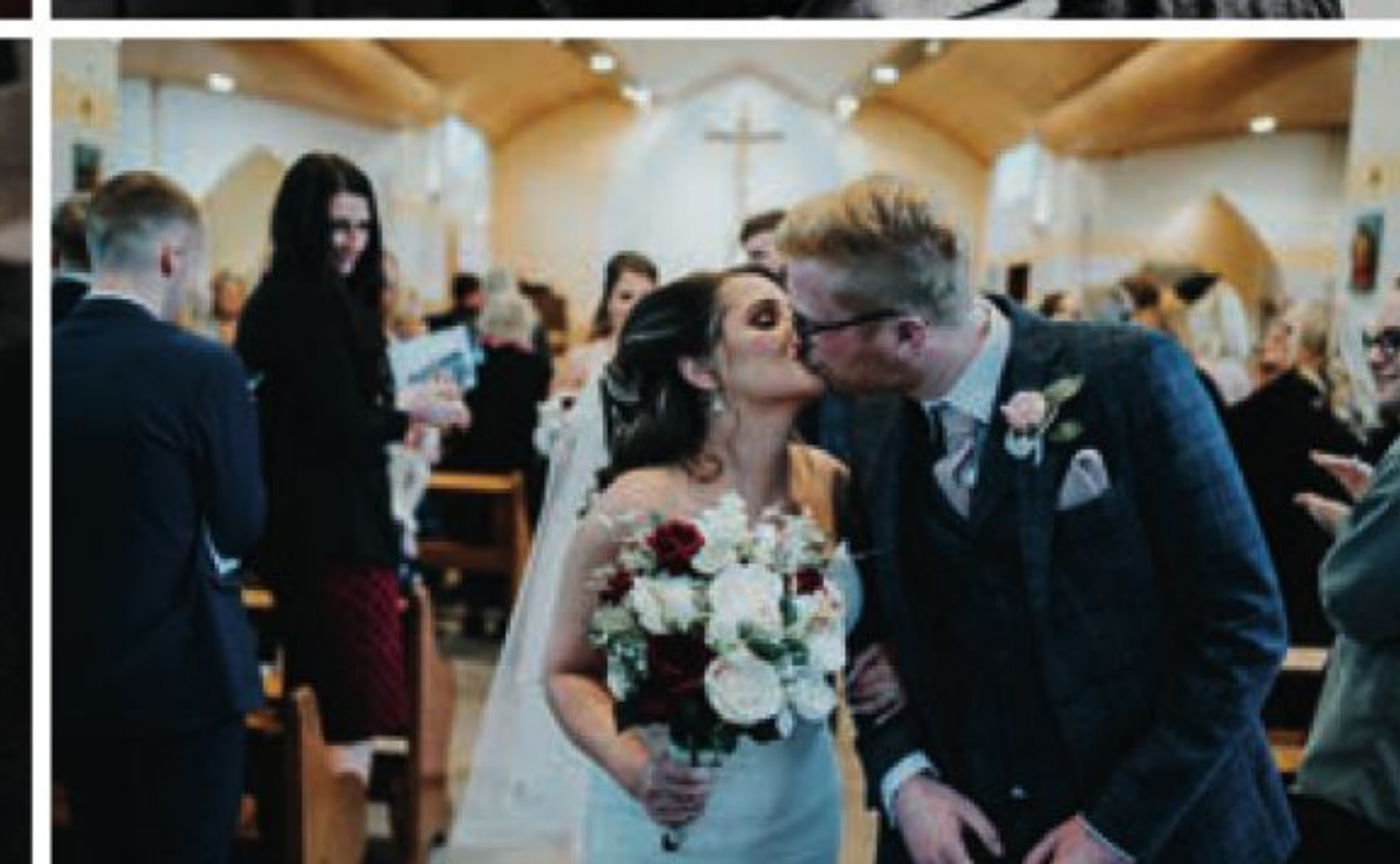
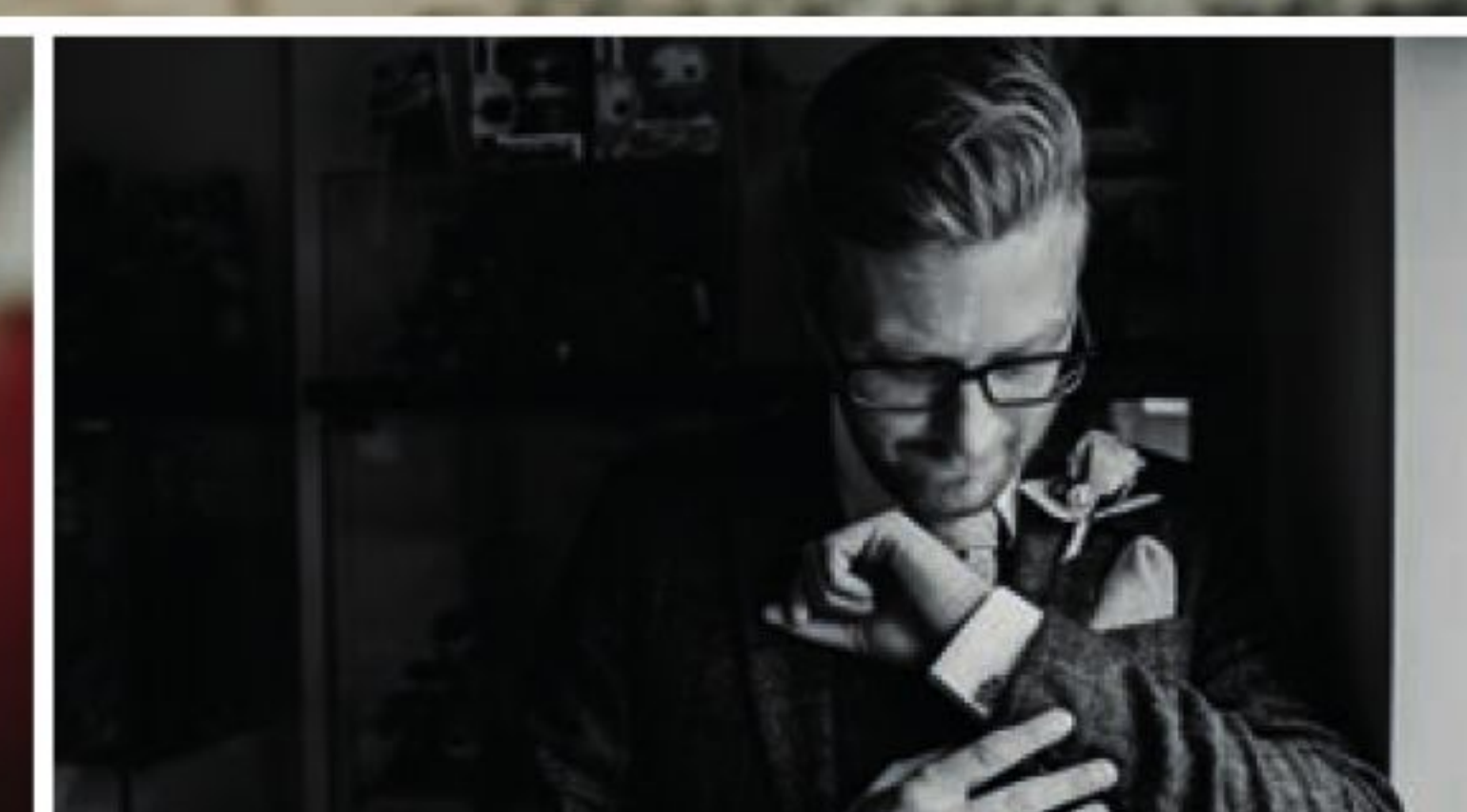
### LOOKING THE PART

Hannah looked stunning in a blush-coloured fishtail, strapless style dress *Lucille* by Viva Bride. “It fitted my body type perfectly,” shares Hannah. “My wedding dress fitter Jane Cronin was amazing and did a brilliant job of making it the perfect length as I am quite short.”

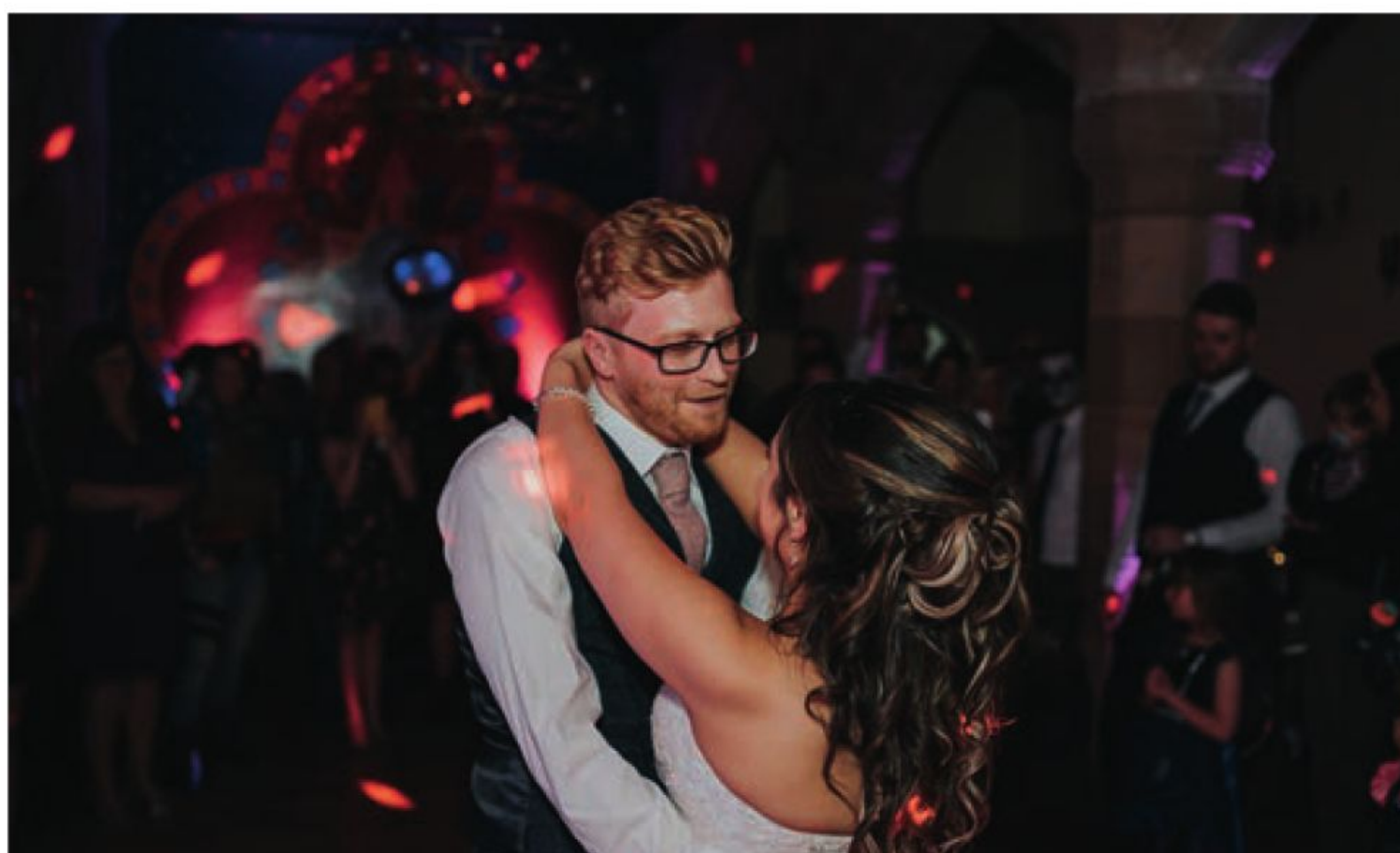
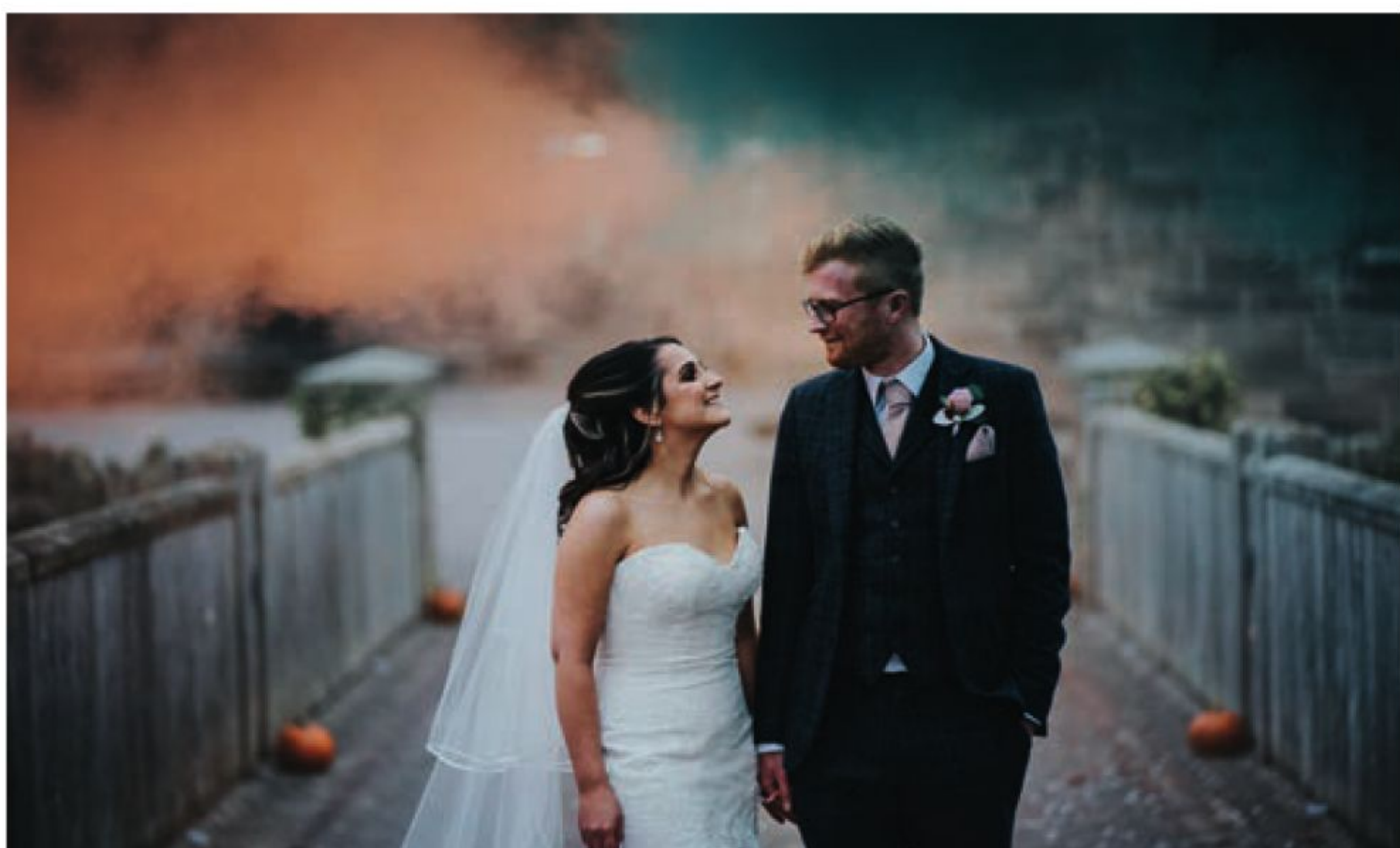
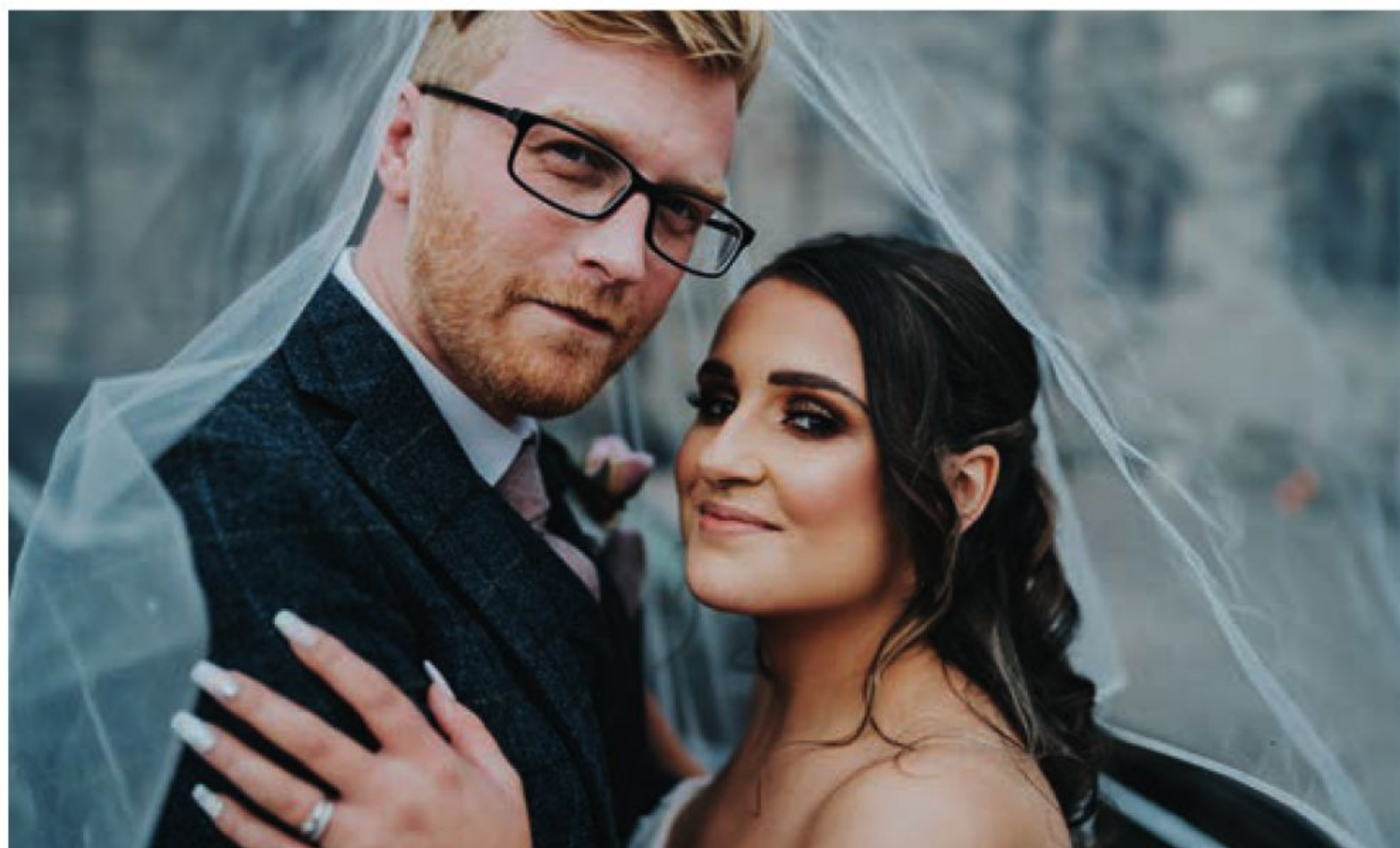
Todd looked dapper in a navy-checked tweed suit with pink accessories to tie in with the bouquets and bridesmaids’ dresses. The groom accessorised with skull cufflinks, a nod to his love of horror films. The groomsmen were in the same but each wore individual cufflinks that represented their interests – fish, guitars and tattoos!

### MEMORABLE MOMENTS

On the day, excitement took over for the pair both just ecstatic the day had arrived. “Getting ready the morning of the wedding was magical,” recalls Hannah. “The mother-of-the-bride and bridesmaids were doing their best to make sure that I was happy and had everything ready. The excitement intensified on the journey there, the realisation that this is the moment that we had been building towards for so long and it was finally here!” Emotion and happiness completely took over at the beginning of the ceremony, both were so glad to finally become husband and wife. For Todd, the most memorable part was seeing Hannah for the first time walking down the aisle. “I’m getting goosebumps just thinking about it. I was overcome with emotion, shedding more tears than a grown man should.” Hannah adds, “Saying our vows, the power of our words in that moment made time feel like it had come to complete stand-still. Emotion meant that I choked a little on my words but looking into his eyes knowing that this was so wonderful and so right made me feel somehow at home.”







## HANNAH AND TODD'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Catholic Youth Retreat Centre [kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk](http://kenelmyouthtrust.org.uk), Alton Castle [altoncastle.html](http://altoncastle.html) |

**Photographer**, New Road Photography, [newroadphotography.com](http://newroadphotography.com) | **Bride's dress fitting**, Jane Cronin Creates, [janecronincreates.co.uk](http://janecronincreates.co.uk) |

**Hair**, Stoke-On-Trent Wedding and Prom Hair, [facebook.com/Michaelashair2017/](https://facebook.com/Michaelashair2017/) | **Make-up**, Tahirah Nadia Makeup, 07980 462 689 |

**Groom's suit**, Dapper Dan Formal Suit Hire, [dapperdansuithire.co.uk](http://dapperdansuithire.co.uk) | **Entertainment**, Mark Tipping DJ 07814 973 057, Finesse Photos

Magic Mirror 07504 300 773 | **Lighting**, Blackthorn Events, [blackthornevents.co.uk](http://blackthornevents.co.uk) | **Catering**, The Nash.co Events LTD, 07507 264

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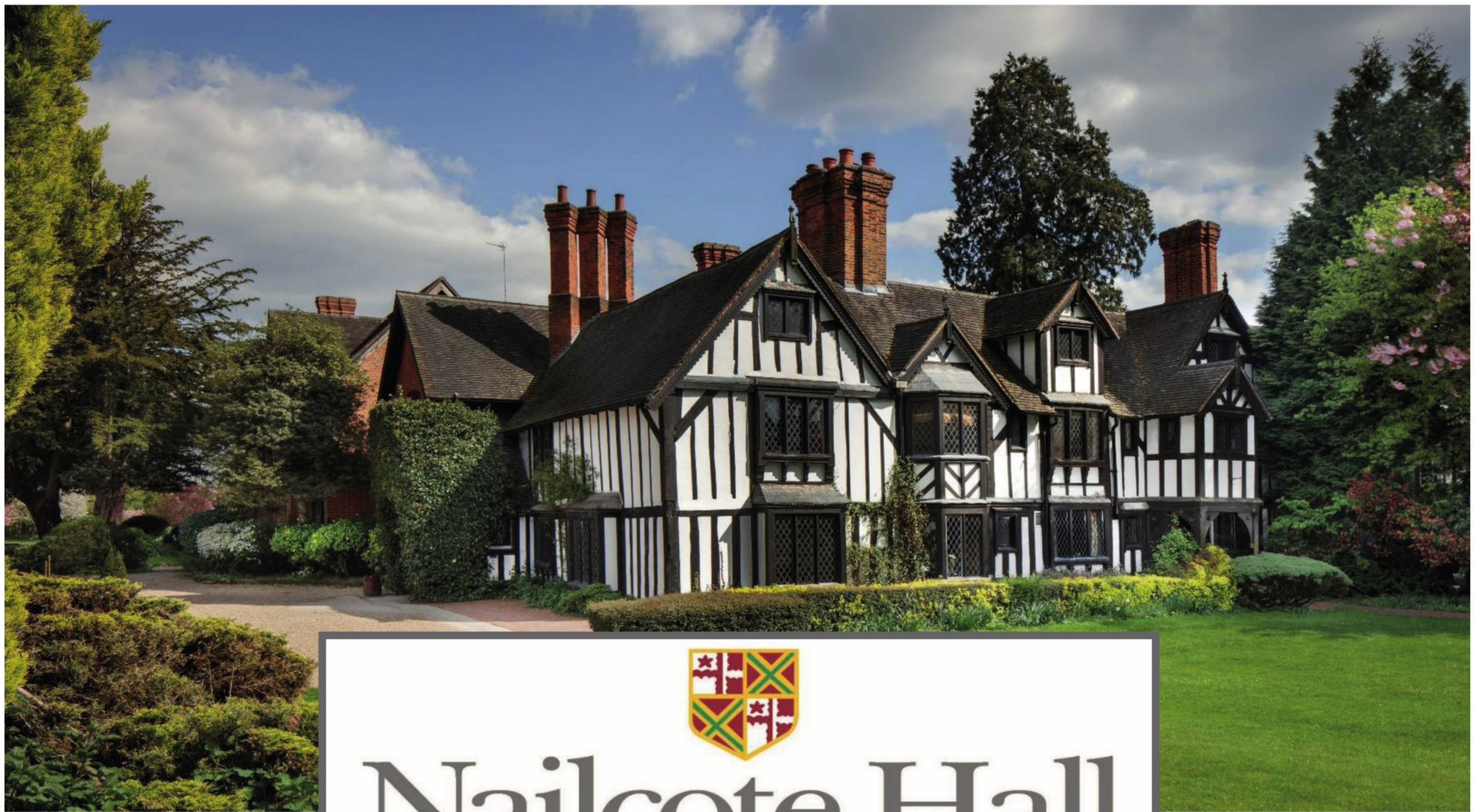






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# Nailcote Hall

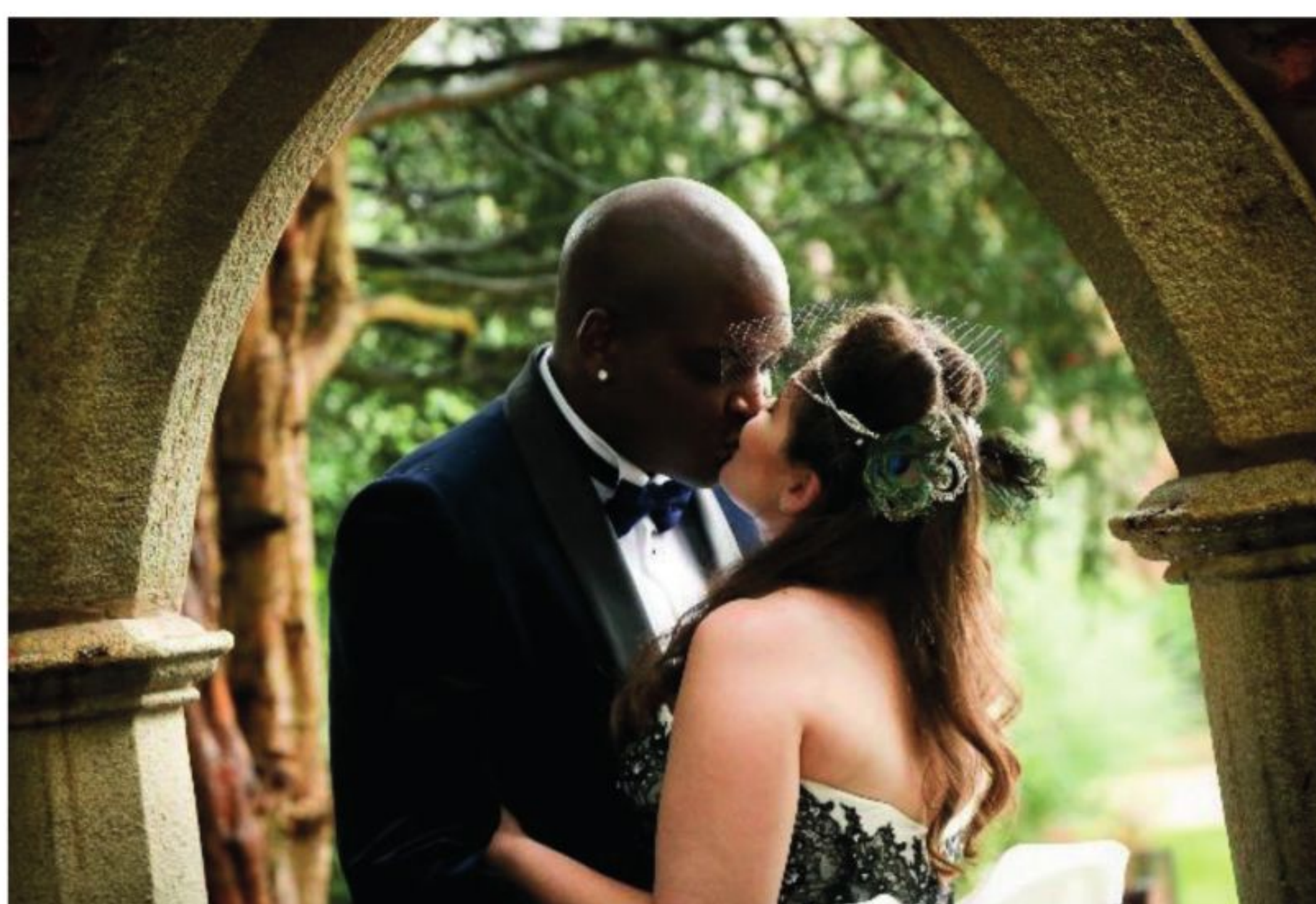
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# A BEAUTIFUL DAY

Stanbrook Abbey Hotel set the scene for Abbey and Ben's day complemented by a navy, silver and white colour palette

*Images courtesy of Still Light Photography, Katie Whitburn*

Abbey and Ben were first introduced nearly ten years ago through a close group of friends in their local town of Dartford, Kent. After various dog walking, coffee and dinner dates it was clear there was a bond between the couple, much stronger than a friendship. Abbey continues, "Ben proposed on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017, while we were on a winter break in New York. It was our first time exploring the city, and on the last day Ben popped the question on a snowy Brooklyn Bridge much to my surprise. Of course, I said yes!"

The big day was set, 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2019, and here we find out all about the finer details of their day...

## SETTING THE SCENE

The couple are originally from Kent and have no connections to Worcester, however Stanbrook Abbey Hotel offered something which no other venue could offer. "The building is so dynamic and it was able to offer an amazing abbey (Callow Great Hall) for the ceremony, a marquee for the wedding breakfast and a room for the evening dancing," shares Abbey. "It has so much character; it used

to be an old convent and aspects of this still remain today."

For the table plan the couple emphasised their colour palette of navy, silver and white in the design, as they did with the cake. "It was in a complementing design with quirky cake favours; gin and elderflower, coconut and lime and prosecco and raspberry," shares Abbey. Fitting the venue, the centrepieces were elegant candelabra with draping around the stem of the candle, while there was also blossom trees and petals in the abbey, and a light-up Mr & Mrs sign.

## LOOKING THE PART

The bride was a Dando London gown *Embrace*, an elegant style reflecting Abbey's personality. "This was the first dress that I saw in the first shop on the mannequin, and knew it was *the one*," recalls Abbey. The dress was ivory with detail and beading on the back, complemented by a handmade lace veil, a simple bracelet, embellished shoes and blue earrings to match her bridesmaids.

Ben wore a dark grey three-piece suit from Anthony Formal Wear and stood out from the rest of the groomsmen with an ivory tie.





Black shoes and a pocket watch with a rose boutonniere. The groomsmen wore the same suit as the groom with navy ties to match the bridesmaids, pocket watches and hydrangea boutonnieres.

Abbey was supported by her leading ladies in elegant navy flowing dresses, with a simple hairpiece and hydrangea flowers.

### TIME TO CELEBRATE

To entertain guests Abbey and Ben hired a Michael Bublé tribute singer which got everyone in the mood and during the evening reception an eight-piece live band got the party started. "A surprise from my mother-in-law was a saxophonist who engaged with the crowd and got everyone on the dancefloor – it was not empty all night!"

On the day, the couple were understandably overwhelmed with the variety of feelings which you experience throughout the day, from happiness to nervousness, excitement and love. "Walking down the aisle and seeing each other for the first time that day, before we committed the rest of our lives





REAL WEDDINGS



together was a standout moment,” recalls Abbey. “The speeches were also a special and personal moment for us and our family and friends. Ben mixed up his speech thanking the bridesmaids for organising our ‘honeymoon’ instead of the hen party.

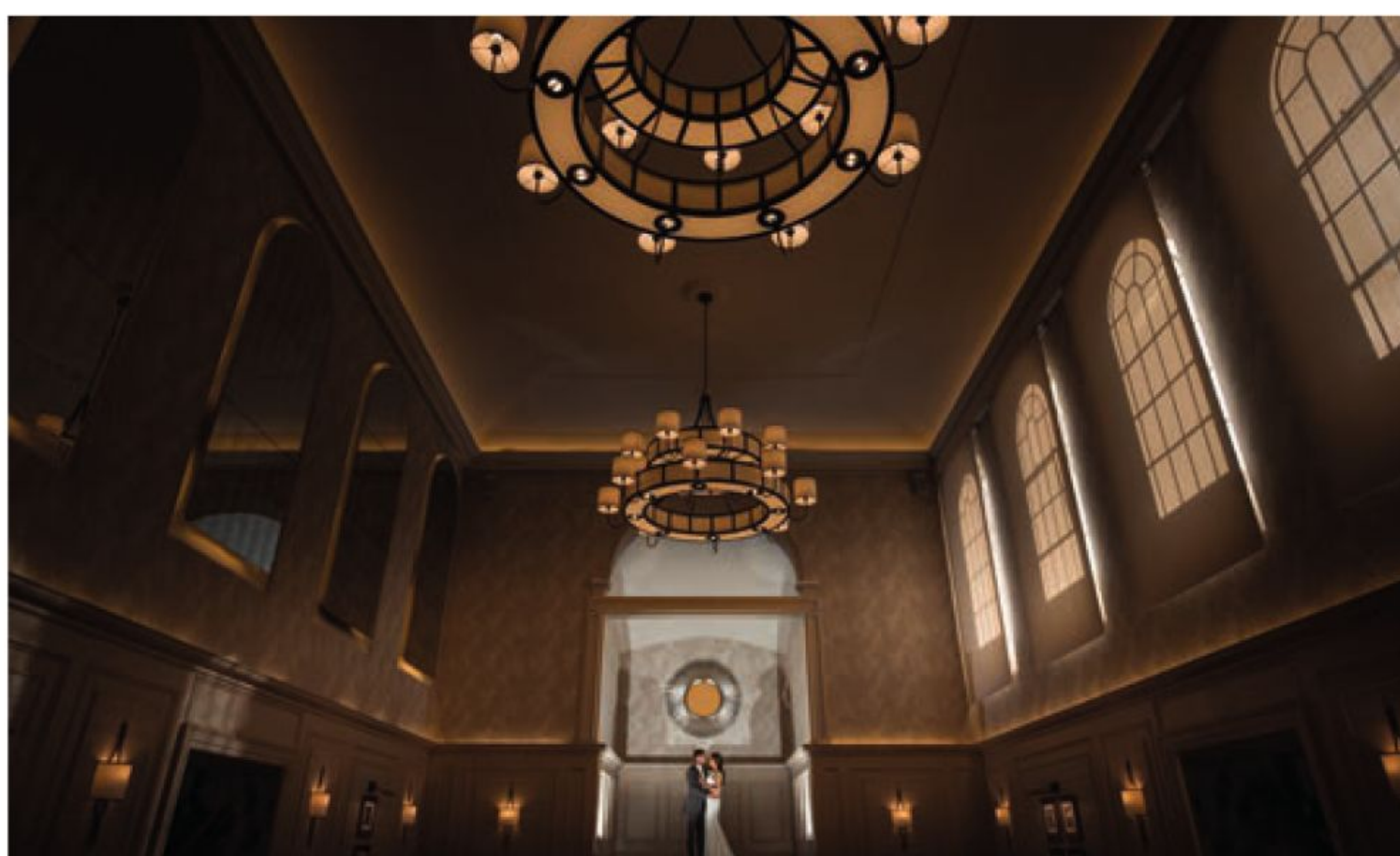
“Finally, our photographer really did go above and beyond on our wedding day, no task is too big for Katie! She was climbing up the huge tower during our ceremony shots to ensure a bird’s-eye-view of our ceremony, running up the bell tower to get group shots, diving in bushes to get extra special effects – above and beyond what we expected!”

## HONEYMOON

The honeymoon was amazing! The couple planned this for over a year and a half. They spent two nights in UBUD, Bali, then seven nights in Nusa Dua, Bali visiting the surrounding towns, with three nights in Dubai on the way home. The bride planned the honeymoon, with lots of excursions seeing the local sights; Monkey Forest, the coffee plantations, rice factories and all Dubai has to offer.



*“Wedding planning tip: if you need help then ask your family, friends and suppliers. That’s what they are there for, and they also want you to have the best day, don’t take everything on alone.”*



#### ABBEY AND BEN'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Stanbrook Abbey Hotel, [handpickedhotels.co.uk](http://handpickedhotels.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Still Light Photography, [stilllightphotography.co.uk](http://stilllightphotography.co.uk) | **Hair and make-up**, Rebecca Haines, [rebeccahaines.co.uk](http://rebeccahaines.co.uk) | **Cake**, The Bake Pod, [thebakepod.co.uk](http://thebakepod.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Crumps Florist, [facebook.com/crumpsflorist](https://facebook.com/crumpsflorist) | **Entertainment**, Jukebox Band, [jukebox-band.co.uk](http://jukebox-band.co.uk), Beas Booth, [beasbooth.co.uk](http://beasbooth.co.uk) | **Videographer**, Carbyne Media, [carbynemedia.com](http://carbynemedia.com)





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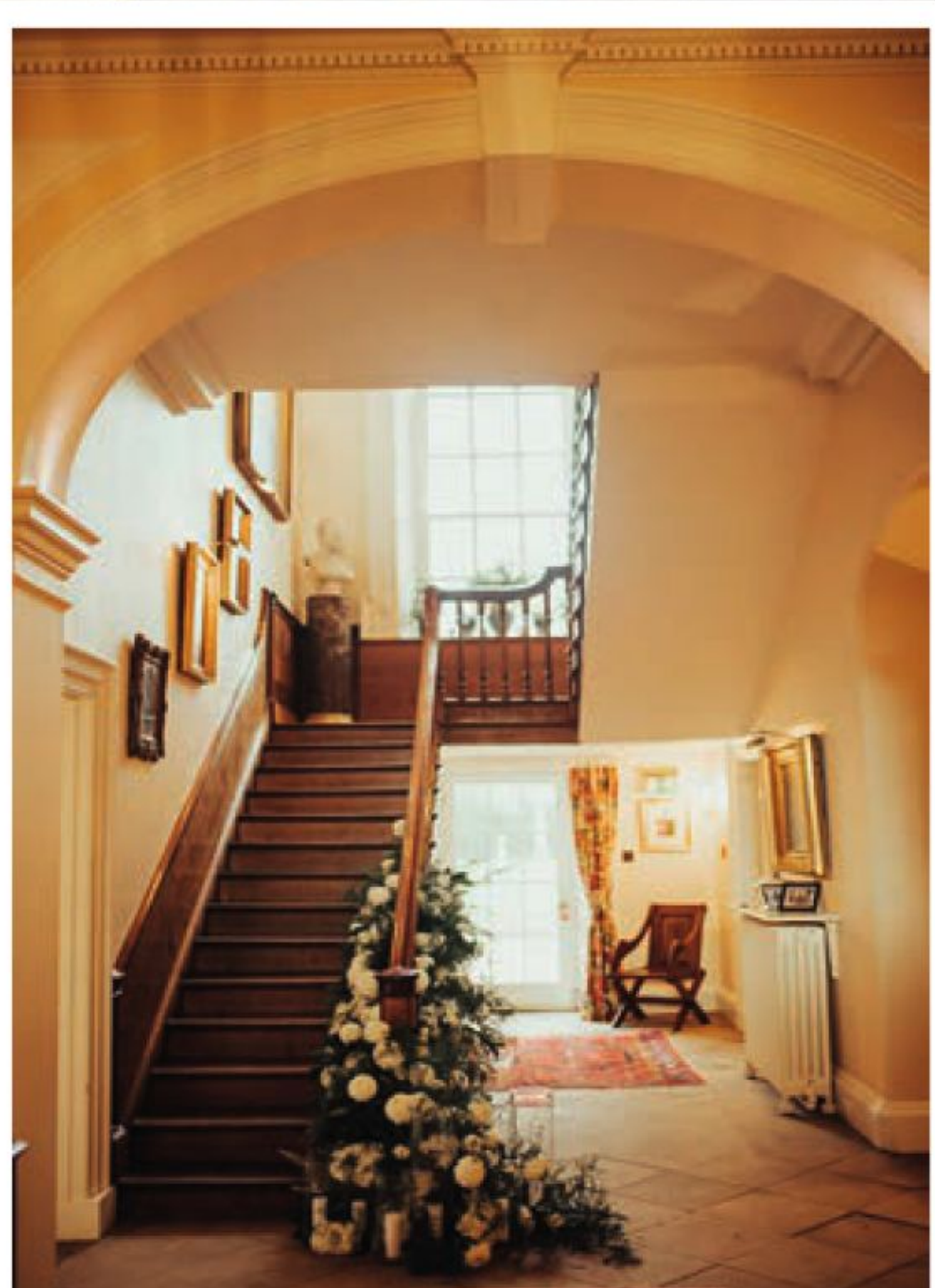
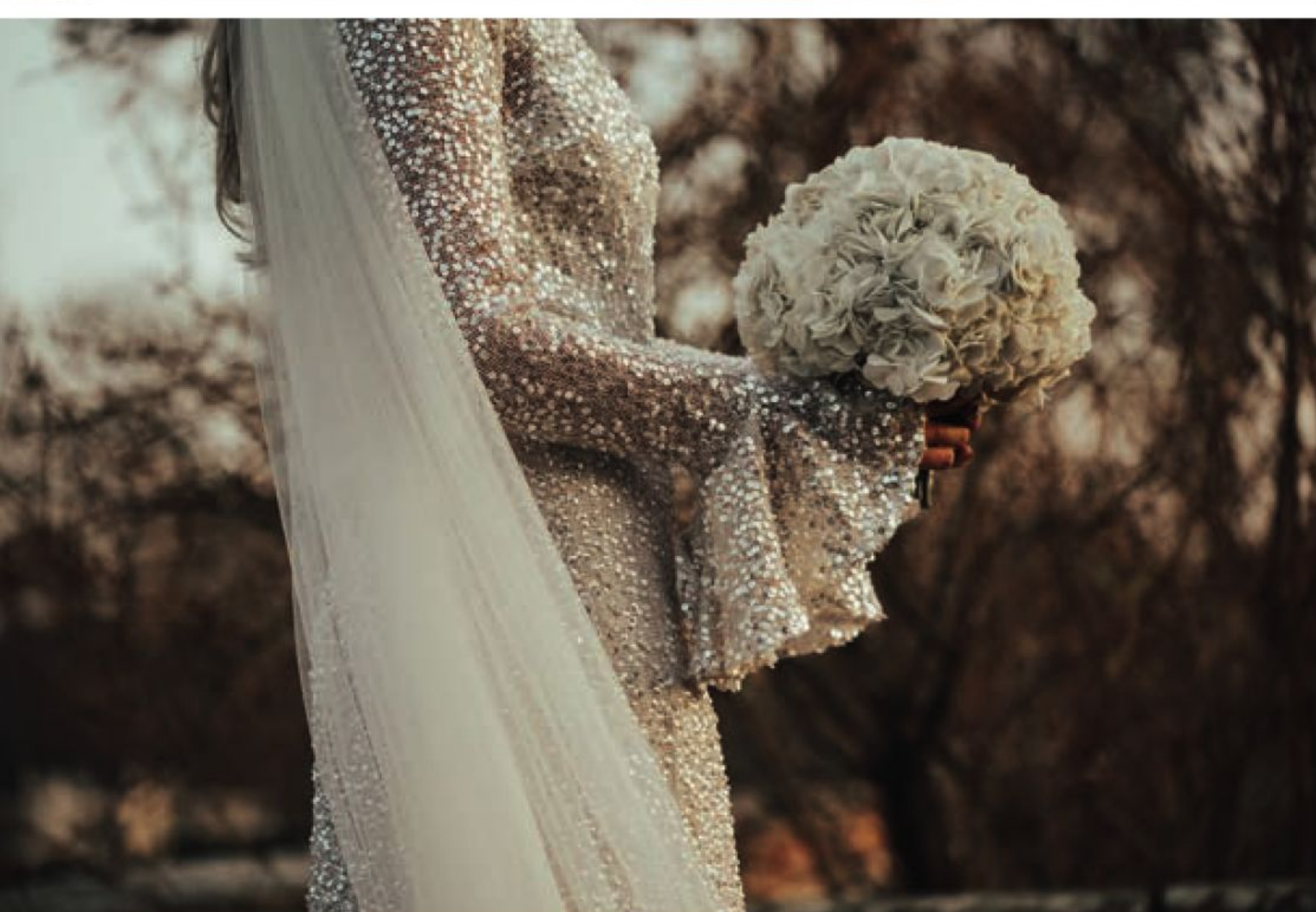


# FROM DEVON WITH *Love*

Simple, stylish and oh-so gorgeous, Fran and Tom's big day was truly picture-perfect

*Images Katie Ingram Photography*





Francesca and Tom were childhood sweethearts and met when they were just 14-years-old at school. "I was walking down the ramp in the playground at the end of the day and Tom came up beside me and started chatting away, he was so charming and confident and as we parted ways, he stuck his tongue out at me. I think I got in the car and told my mum I had fallen in love!"

Fast-forward nearly 15 years' later and Tom took Fran away to her favourite place in the world: Salcombe in Devon. "I have been going there since I was two-years-old with my family and it holds so many special memories it truly is my special place," shares Fran. "It was the weekend after my birthday and we decided to go for a walk to my favourite beach, South Sands. Once we got on the sand we walked to the edge of the sea, it was a very windy and wet December day, but the sea looked as lovely as ever! I remember so clearly Tom saying, 'I haven't just brought you here for your birthday, there is actually another reason...' I had actually had a feeling he was going to propose so I wasn't totally shocked but as he got down on one knee, I remember just wanting to explode I was so happy!"

The big date was set, 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, with St Mary's Church and Iscody Park providing the perfect setting for the day...

### SETTING THE SCENE

After a recommendation by Fran's brother and sister-in-law, the newlyweds visited Iscody Park. "The second we walked through the door we knew Iscody was the one!" recalls Fran. "It was outstandingly beautiful and meeting the staff for the first time was amazing. They made such a difference and made us feel so at home."

Decorative touches on the day included Cranch's sweet shop pick 'n' mix bags for favours a nod to the bride's favourite sweet shop, stunning flower arrangements put together by Red Floral Architecture, and a contemporary big-day cake with a modern marble-effect design. The florist Matt made the cake look even more special, he added a hydrangea on the top and placed it in on a clear cake stand surrounded by water, floating disco balls and rose petals!

The tables at the reception were named after "Mitchells Milestones" Tom and Fran had been dating on and off since they were 14 so there were lots of momentous occasions that finally got them to the big day.

"I have a mild obsession with disco balls so asked Matt if he could incorporate this into the ceiling fixture and he suggested adding giant (fake) white roses which I was sceptical about at first but my goodness the end result was breathtaking and there was an amazing photo taken of my nan walking into the marquee and seeing it for the first time, her face was priceless! The rest of the marquee was covered in white and green displays, each one being slightly different to the next it was exactly how I imagined!"

### LOOKING THE PART

The bride looked picture-perfect in an Odylyne The Ceremony gown from Ghost Orchid Bride. "I always thought I wanted a big, ballgown dress as I'm quite figure-conscious and would never have imagined wearing something slim-fitting," shares Fran. "However, every dress I tried on made me feel quite traditional and frumpy and I knew I definitely wanted something different that I hadn't seen 100 times before – as soon as I tried the dress on, I knew it was *the one*! It was covered in tiny pearls and sequins – so heavy – I loved the way it sat on my body and was





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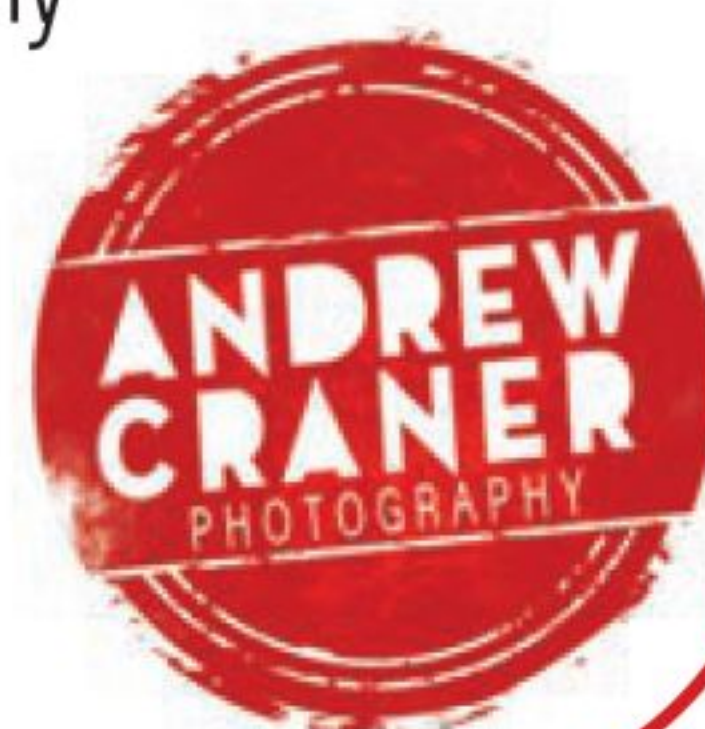
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slightly obsessed with the bell sleeves, I knew it was a winner! It was very unique, and I haven't seen another UK bride wear it. I also loved that in some lights it looked white and others silver and still actually felt traditional but also super modern, the perfect mix in my opinion!"

Looking suave and sophisticated, Tom impressed in a three-piece black tie suit, topped off with a dark green velvet blazer from Clements and Church in Birmingham.

"As all my bridesmaids were grown up women with very different figures, I really wanted them to feel super comfortable. In the end I decided on white as my dress was a different colour, I thought this would look really lovely. I really struggled trying to find dresses which were white in the winter for eight people so in the end I went for a top and skirt combo!"

## TIME TO CELEBRATE

The couple spent the day feeling incredibly happy and excited, "Walking in the church and seeing Tom and hearing the choir for the first time was amazing," recalls Fran. "The journey to the church was emotional, a last as the 'Weaver family' with my brother driving, my mum in the front and me and my dad in the back, it was a very short journey but one I won't ever forget. And finally, Tom's speech it was just so amazing, and I can't help but think back to that moment and smile it was so wonderful."

To entertain guests the lovebirds hired a magnificent choir in the church which, followed by a band in the evening: The Distractions Band. "They certainly did a brilliant job of keeping everyone on the dancefloor! In the marquee whilst food was being served, we had a playlist going in the background just to keep the atmosphere and high spirits throughout the eating and drinking."

## HONEYMOON!

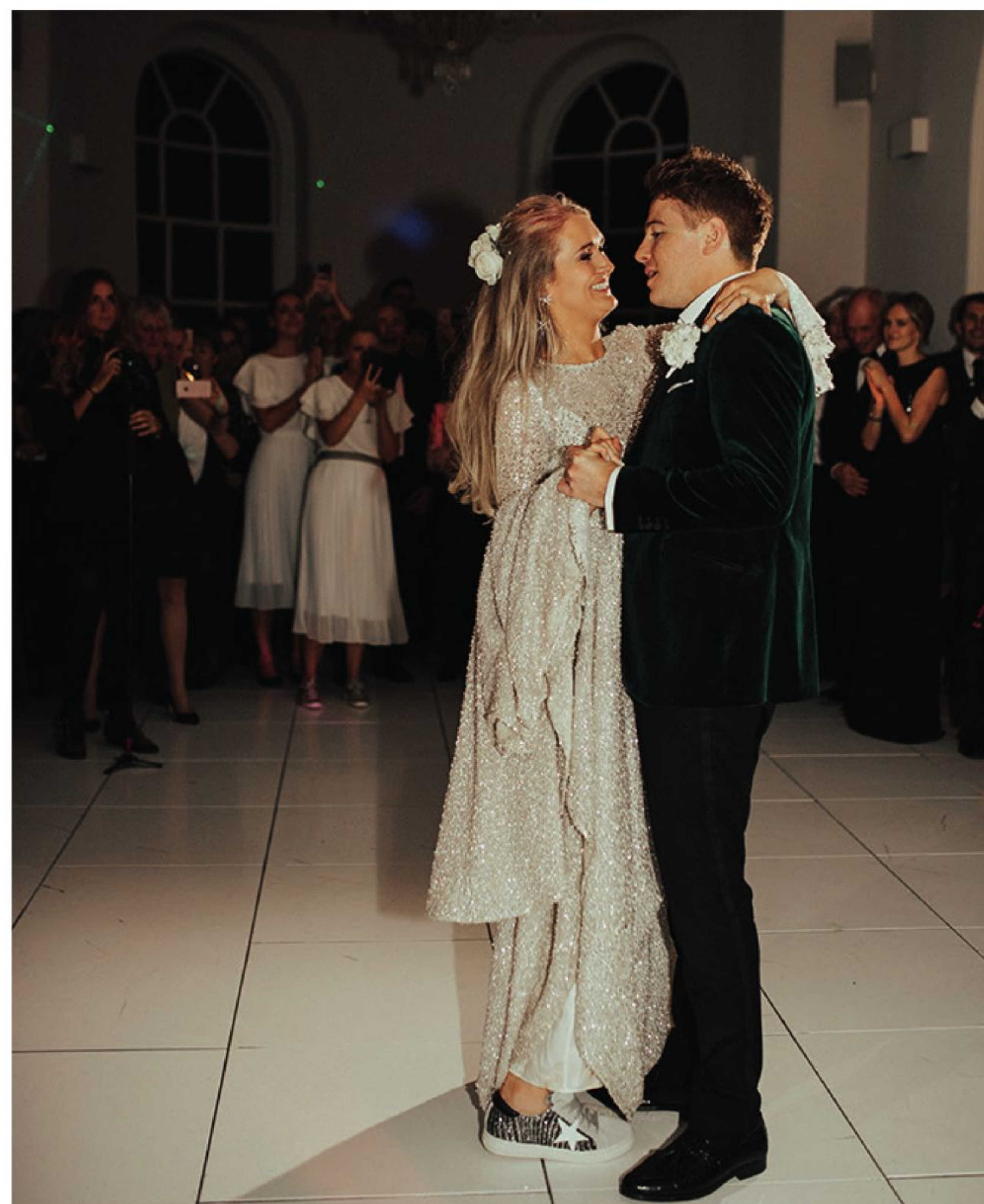
The newlyweds decided to split their honeymoon and do a few holidays rather than one big one! "It started with a tour around the Cotswolds a few days after we got married," recalls Fran. "The Cotswolds is one of our favourite places and we stayed at The Fish in Broadway, then went onto the Painswick Hotel and finished at our all-time favourite Thyme in Southrop."

"In the January we then went for four days to Gstaad in Switzerland, and we're already planning our next visit to Gstaad as we both love the snow and this was one of the most incredible destinations we've ever been to, complete with the best cheese fondue ever tasted and an amazing sleigh ride through the Swiss mountains."

"Last but not least we went to Santorini in May and this again was the holiday of a lifetime and we loved every second of it – stunning. The only down side is we would never go back in May as it rained the entire time! All in all, we are very lucky, and we definitely made it a year to remember!"







## FRAN AND TOM'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

**Venue**, Iscoyd Park, [iscoydpark.com](http://iscoydpark.com) | **Photographer**, Katie Ingram Photography, [katieingram.co.uk](http://katieingram.co.uk) | **Bride's dress**, Ghost Orchid, [ghostorchidbride.co.uk](http://ghostorchidbride.co.uk) | **Make up**, Amy Hickey, [amyhickey.com](http://amyhickey.com) | **Hair**, Lucy Woodhouse, [facebook.com/lwweddinghair](https://facebook.com/lwweddinghair) | **Groom's suit**, Clements and Church, [clementsandchurch.co.uk](http://clementsandchurch.co.uk) | **Flowers**, Red Floral Architecture, [redfloral.co.uk](http://redfloral.co.uk) | **Stationery**, Laura Truby, [lauratruby.com](http://lauratruby.com) | **Entertainment**, The Distractions Band, [thedistractionsband.co.uk](http://thedistractionsband.co.uk) | **Videographer**, Mills Films, [millsfilms.co.uk](http://millsfilms.co.uk) | **Honeymoon hotels**, [thefishhotel.co.uk](http://thefishhotel.co.uk), [thepainswick.co.uk](http://thepainswick.co.uk), [thyme.co.uk](http://thyme.co.uk)





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# BACK TO NATURE

A celebration of the great outdoors  
*Images courtesy of Trove Photography*

Deborah Kellett of Definitive Weddings Eventz has recently started her business in the world of wedding décor hire offering large and small props for the bride and groom to enhance their special day. What better way to showcase her items, from love letters and blossom trees to flower walls and bespoke centrepieces, than with a styled photo shoot! "I'm situated in the Shropshire countryside and approached Dorothy Clive Garden to ask if I could join the venue's recommended supplier list and also to style a few areas of the garden for a photo shoot showing some of my wedding décor items," shares Deborah. "I approached a local photographer Amy at Trove Photography who jumped at the chance to come and have some fun taking shots one sunny Wednesday in August."

"Dorothy Clive Garden is a beautiful outdoor venue with some breathtaking views with segments of woodland which give that

romantic almost fairytale magical feel. I had a good walk around the gardens and opted for a rustic and vintage theme to the shoot to coincide with the landscape. I dressed the Belvedere Pavilion for an outdoor ceremony with vintage props, ladders, signage, birdcages with aisle stands hosting large martini glasses and blossom trees outlying the aisle.

"The Bryan Mayer Pavilion is more of an indoor affair so we shot the large rustic love letters and dressed some tables with the vintage theme with blossom tree centrepieces and rustic log centrepieces with lanterns.

"I included shots of the vintage bureau accompanied with props to help create that bygone era feel.

"All the layouts are designed and created by myself and all props are owned by Definitive Weddings Eventz excluding the vintage crockery – I hope you enjoy!"





#### SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

**Venue**, Dorothy Clive Garden, [dorothyclivegarden.co.uk](http://dorothyclivegarden.co.uk) | **Photographer**, Trove Photography, [trovephotography.co.uk](http://trovephotography.co.uk) | **Décor, flowers**, Definitive Weddings & Eventz, [definitiveweddingseventz.com](http://definitiveweddingseventz.com) | **Vintage crockery**, Under the Brolly, [underthebrolly@yahoo.com](mailto:underthebrolly@yahoo.com) | **Marquees**, Malibu Marquee, [malibumarquees.co.uk](http://malibumarquees.co.uk)





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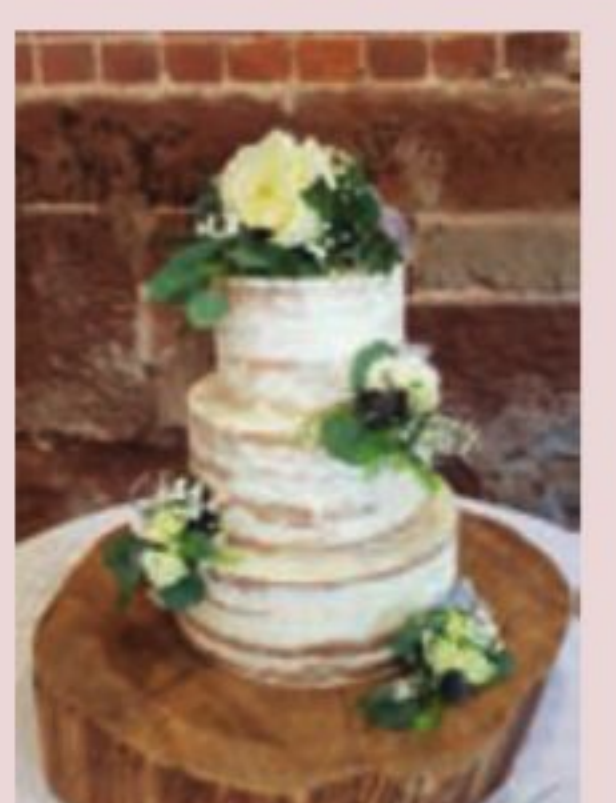
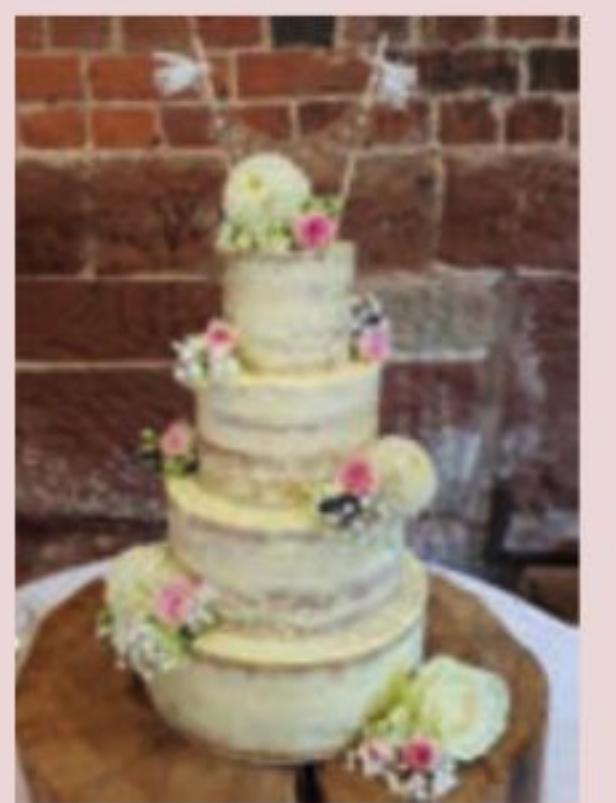
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# COSMIC *love*

Lower House Farm, Herefordshire provided the perfect backdrop to this styled shoot

*Image courtesy of Che Birch-Hayes*

"The rolling hills of Herefordshire, and the beautiful sunsets, creeping into star studded skies, this, combined with my own love of stars, was the inspiration for this Dusk into Night shoot!" shares shoot coordinator Louise Roberts, floral designer and stylist of May Rose Floral Design. "Lower House Farm, a gorgeous venue, is nestled amongst the Black Mountains, as the sun sets, it captures the last light amazingly. Due to the rural setting, we knew if we could get a clear night we would have a spectacular view of the night sky. So the theme was light, the stars, and cosmic colours while our colour palette was gold, dark blue, teals, rich purples and deep pinks.

"The dress, by Stephanie Kyles Bridal, was created specifically to emphasise the bride's shape. It was an off-the-shoulder style, with delicate star beading and a sexy side-split – it made for an awesome look! Stephanie also added a unique ombre star pattern to the veil. Amy of Amy Bemand Hair beautifully created a half-up, half-down style with loose waves, which looked awesome with wired flowers and berries. The bridesmaids' hair were styled into a loose bun, and fresh flowers delicately placed into the back of the hair. The hair was complemented by make-up by Indulge Beauty and Make-up boasting sparkle around the eyes and long fluttery eyelashes – a touch of drama, and Sam finished the look off perfectly by using rich deep-red lipstick. For the 'groom'

Bill Child Formal Wear supplied a fabulous three-piece navy suit and tie, fitting the colour theme perfectly.

"Pigment + Paper, Brittany a very talented designer, supplied wonderful detailed artwork on the invitations, menus, name tags and table plan. Also incorporating sketches of the flowers used throughout the shoot, the moon and stars, with touches of gold foil to finish. Couture Cakes by Claire created a hand-painted watercolour-style design using an ombre of cosmic colour spiralling up the cake.

"For the flowers I carefully selected blooms to reflect lots of texture and movement. I also chose flowers that mirrored a starry shape, such as eryngium thistle, clematis, and blushing bride, adding touches of gold throughout. Complementing tablescapes were created by Dress to Impress by Julie and featured gorgeous gold-edged glass chargers, gold cutlery, etched glasses, deep blue chiffon against the natural wood table looked beautiful.

"Finally, this was captured by Che Birch-Hayes Photography who used the sunset and fading light to capture stunning images. As we progressed into night time, Che was able to use various techniques to ensure some amazing shots, including the stars that were visible that night."











## SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT:

**Venue**, Lower House Farm, [bespokebynature.com](http://bespokebynature.com) | **Photography**, Che Birch-Hayes Photography, [chebirchhayesphotography.com](http://chebirchhayesphotography.com) | **Bride's dress**, Stephanie Kyles Bridal, [stephaniekylesbridal.com](http://stephaniekylesbridal.com) | **Stationery**, Pigment + Paper, [pigmentandpaper.co.uk](http://pigmentandpaper.co.uk) | **Flowers and styling**, May Rose Floral Design, [mayrosefloraldesign.co.uk](http://mayrosefloraldesign.co.uk) | **Cake**, Couture Cakes by Claire, [couturecakesbyclaire.co.uk](http://couturecakesbyclaire.co.uk) | **Hair**, Amy Bemand Hairdressing, [@amybemandhair](https://www.instagram.com/amybemandhair) | **Make-up**, Indulge Beauty & Makeup, [beauty-indulge.co.uk](http://beauty-indulge.co.uk) | **Tableware**, Dress to Impress by Julie, [dresstoimpressbyjulie.co.uk](http://dresstoimpressbyjulie.co.uk) | **Groom's suit**, Bill Child Formal Wear, [billchildformalwear.co.uk](http://billchildformalwear.co.uk) | **Models**, Freya, Jules, Emma and Katie



# Jinney Ring

WEDDINGS

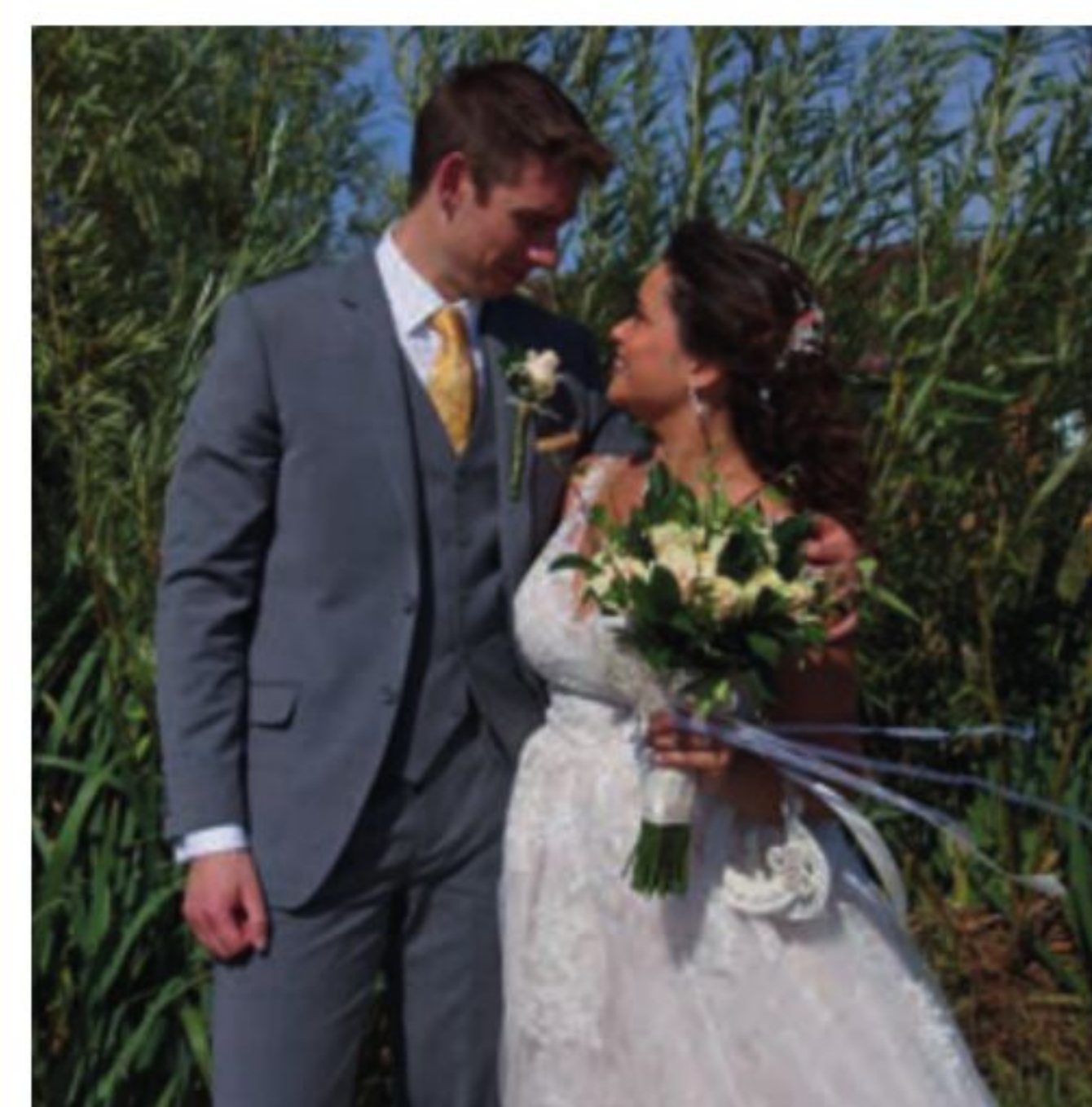


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Hidden away in the heart of England, Alrewas Hayes is a historical country estate where exceptional event experiences happen. A place to escape from the everyday, the 100-acre estate has been home to five generations of the Williams family and their heritage remains at its heart.

In the hands of its current owners, the house and surrounding estate has been renovated and reimagined over the past decade, to become a country retreat that fuses historical charm with a contemporary aesthetic.

Now entering a new chapter in its evolution, a team of talented suppliers came together to style a shoot that showcased all that this beautiful estate has to offer. Exceptional dining is integral to the Alrewas Hayes experience and an abundance of food and drink menus bring together creatively designed dishes inspired by the seasons.

The colour palette was chosen to reflect the welcoming warmth that oozes throughout Alrewas Hayes. Plums, dusky pinks and gold tones were contrasted with soft greens, greys and creams to create a look that was inviting and elegant.

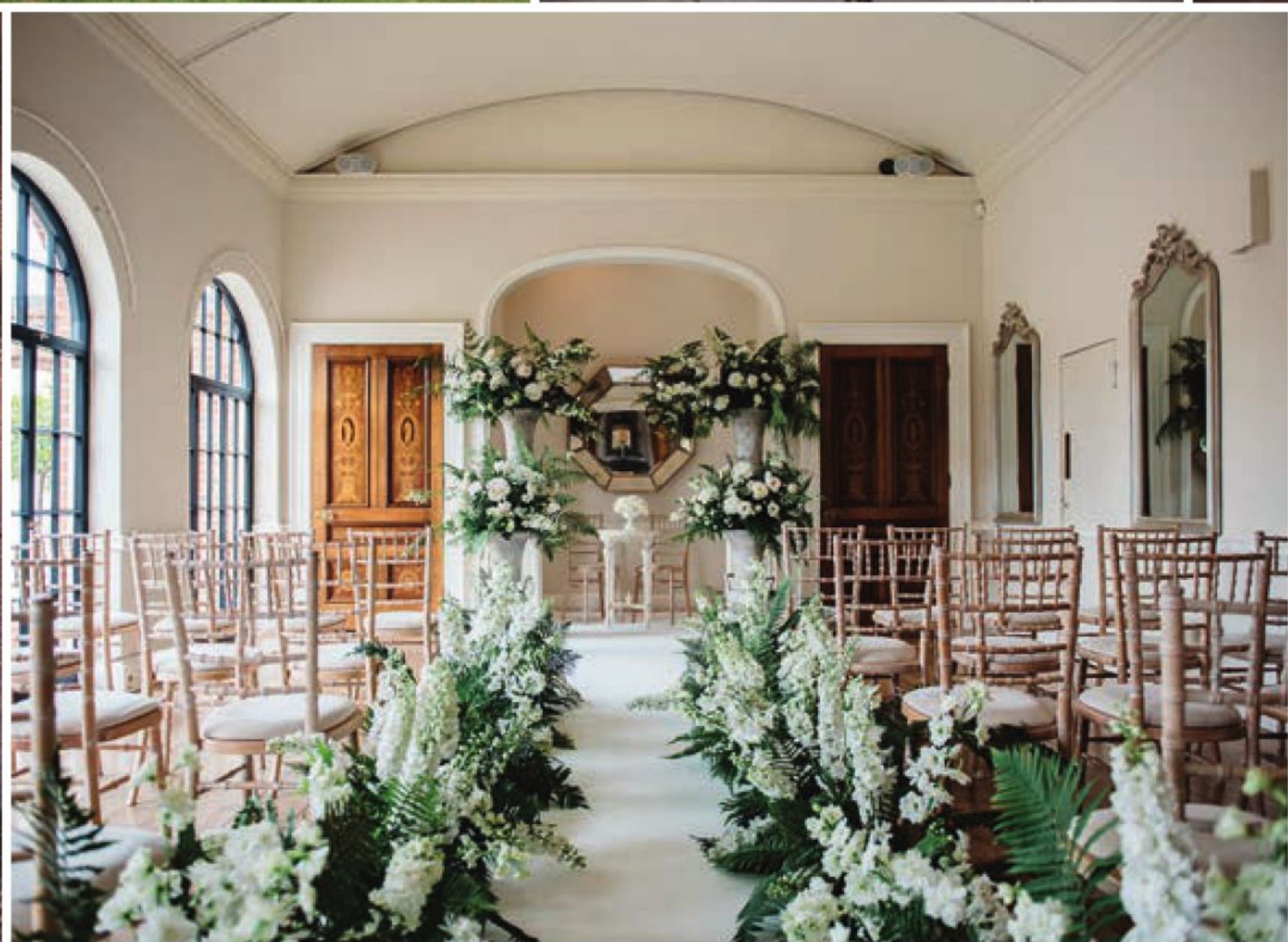
Styling details, stationery and flowers were designed to evoke a sense of the old fused with the new. Florist Emily Wisher adorned the venue spaces with timeless and romantic floral arrangements with a fresh, contemporary aesthetic.

# BE. *inspired*

We love that this collaborative shoot showcases all that Alrewas Hayes has to offer couples for the big day

*Images courtesy of Divine Day Photography*









### SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

**Venue**, Alrewas Hayes, [alrewashayes.com](http://alrewashayes.com) | **Photographer**, Divine Day Photography, [divinedayphotography.com](http://divinedayphotography.com) | **Flowers**, Emily Wisher Artisan Florist, [emilywisher.co.uk](http://emilywisher.co.uk) | **Stationery**, Ruth Kaye Design, [ruthkayedesign.com](http://ruthkayedesign.com) | **Catering**, Alrewas Hayes, [alrewashayes.com](http://alrewashayes.com) | **Stylist**, lampproductions.co.uk | **Creative coordinator**, Chapter Communications, [chaptercommunications.co.uk](http://chaptercommunications.co.uk) | **Calligraphy**, Judy Broad Calligraphy, [judybroadcalligraphy.co.uk](http://judybroadcalligraphy.co.uk) | **Charger plate/glassware**, Whitehouse Crockery, [eventcrockeryhire.co.uk](http://eventcrockeryhire.co.uk) | **Cutlery/glass/candlesticks/bowls**, Classic Crockery, [classiccrockery.co.uk](http://classiccrockery.co.uk) | **Linen**, Just4Linen, [just4linen.co.uk](http://just4linen.co.uk) | **Tables/chairs**, Alrewas Hayes/Chairman Hire, [chairmanhire.com](http://chairmanhire.com) | **Candles**, Ester and Erik, [ester-erik.dk](http://ester-erik.dk) | **Place name tile**, Fired Earth, [firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com) | **All other props** – LAMP Productions



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# A ROOM WITH A VIEW

Here's a run down of what's hot in the world of venue styling in 2020

One of the biggest decisions a couple needs to make when first embarking on their wedding planning journey is to choose an over-arching theme for their day. From personalisation to show each-other's characters and interests, to being on-trend with what's modern and contemporary, there's a number of influences to be inspired by.

Martina Paul wedding planner and coordinator at Wonderful Events ([wonderfulevents.co.uk](http://wonderfulevents.co.uk)) shares her 2020 predictions: "There is a real growth in a concierge service with couples really wanting to enjoy the wedding planning journey, not just the wedding day itself. There are other events before and after the big-day like pre-wedding drinks or a Sunday morning brunch, that couples are now seeking advice on, as well as their proposal, engagement photo shoot, and the honeymoon. So, the wedding planning has become a truly rounded service and an experience in itself.

"There are cultural and international influences clearly seen in nuptials as couples are well travelled and are embracing new flavours and more daring colours.

"Nearlyweds are also opting to modernise the old traditions, this way they are making a new statement of who they are while respecting their parents' heritage.

"There is a great focus on the venue and showing it in the best light, literally. Couples really should consider the light in each room of the venue and invest in up-lighters in the reception rooms, plenty of candles, and professionally lit dancefloors."

To add to this, Deborah Kellett, of Definitive Weddings & Eventz ([definitiveweddingseventz.com](http://definitiveweddingseventz.com)) says, "In talking to many brides-and grooms-to-be they want to create an impact for their guests but also to symbolise their union and show what's true to them and to make sure everyone remembers their special day and celebrates in style." Deborah continues, "It's becoming apparent anything goes, from mixing odd crockery with silver tableware, to the mixing of patterns and chintz, it all depends on what wants to be achieved.

"Vintage furniture to dress areas is becoming more apparent, as well as rustic touches still proving extremely popular such as wooden ladders, flower frames and signage.

"Personalisation and confidence is the way brides and grooms are approaching the new decade and creating something bespoke to them, some running from tradition others embracing it, nothing wrong with being traditional.... just be you!"



Kelly Moorcroft of Country Foxes ([countryfoxes.co.uk](http://countryfoxes.co.uk)) shares her 2020 trends:

1. Rustic touches
2. Soft neutral florals
2. Foliage
4. Bringing the 'outside in'
5. Meadow/wildflower 'roughness'

## SUSTAINABLE WEDDINGS

You can't go anywhere without reading about 'sustainability' and the emphasis of this precious topic is set to continue in 2020. With Princess Eugenie's environmentally-conscious wedding this year, the 'eco-friendly' term has well and truly made it's way in to the wedding industry – which, in hindsight, did generate a lot of waste leaving a huge impact on the environment, from the travel required to gather everyone in one place, to the food waste produced by the meal.

Couples are looking at many ways to reduce the amount of plastics used across the wedding day, as well as choosing locally grown and locally sourced seasonal produce and products reducing carbon footprint.

Expect to see more living trees and plants in ceramic pots and cool containers instead of cut flowers – these can be planted after the wedding or given to guests monopolising on the traditional seed packets given as wedding favours.





definitiveweddingseventz.com,  
facebook.com/mollygeorgiaphoto

#### Tips for reducing venue styling waste

- Reuse fabrics
- Paper or bamboo straws
- Petal confetti instead of paper
- Recycled paper
- Repurposing ceremony florals

### LONG BANQUET TABLES

It will be all about the banquet table in 2020, “Long banquet tables have become popular especially for outdoor wedding settings,” shares Deborah Kellett, of Definitive Weddings & Eventz. “The emphasis is on everyone mixing together and sharing food. The table décor can range from large foliage displays to rustic logs with glass vases of natural, locally picked flowers teamed with patterned tablecloths and bright napkins.”

As far as wedding reception trends go, this one is budget-friendly and you can get creative with the table placement, try winding tables in an ‘S’ shape or use multiple tables pushed together to create a design. While this looks incredible at outdoor weddings it works inside as well. Try this set-up in a marquee, big barn or in a long gallery at a stately home or castle venue. It doesn’t just work for large numbers – anything from intimate dos to grand affairs looks amazing!

Table styling has become an important part of the wedding design, coordinating the tableware, linen and glassware with flowers and wedding theme.



### FLORAL INSTALLATIONS

“Although the rustic wildflower look is still very much loved, we will be seeing single hand-picked flowers in single vases dotted around venues and minimalistic bridal bouquets,” shares Martina Paul wedding planner and coordinator at Wonderful Events. What’s more, over-sized centrepieces have been replaced by low displays to encourage guest interaction. The floral displays have moved from the tables to the ceilings and walls to transform your venue: think floral sculptures and clouds and suspended lighting.

As mentioned before, sustainability is key and this can be adhered to with flowers. More and more couples are choosing florists that use locally grown seasonal blooms, wildflowers or dried flowers.

Living plants are another option for adding to your big day, perhaps a fabulous foliage archway and floral hanging installation, adds showstopping opulence to venues without breaking the budget.



*“In 2020 we have lots of weddings featuring plenty of greenery and foliage in a wild messy style. Everybody wants to bring the outside indoors and create a wonderland of fairy lights and woodland themes. The most popular bouquet Of 2020 is a messy shower bouquet.” - Kristie Mccullough, Sorella Events, sorella-events.co.uk*



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## VENUE STYLING

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### IDEAS

- An artfully created wall-mounted dispenser
- Donut walls are giving way to more interactive culinary moments such as conveyor belts – it's all about the presentation
- Decorative ways to display drinks such as beer barrows are still proving very popular
- Seating areas with quirky furniture
- Horsebox bars for rustic themes

## MAXIMALISM

It's hard to deny Instagram's enduring influence on wedding day décor, and 2020 is all about maximalism: the rise of fuller, fussier overall styling.

To create the overall vibe, the devil is in the detail, patterns clashing and mixing materials, decorativeness and chintz are key; from the colour of the cutlery to the texture of the tablecloth.

Aesthetically pleasing tablescapes are the biggest trend and complement the previously mentioned long trestle table trend: ornamental and OTT styles are being celebrated!



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dearestlove.co.uk

## FOOD INTERACTION

Part of planning the wedding reception scene will be incorporating self-service areas which can be decorated to fit the theme of the wedding. "We are all very aware that the world has gone gin crazy and I have joined in (of course)," shares Martina Paul. "Couples do like to create their signature cocktails for the big day, try new flavour gins, and let their guests really appreciate a good quality drink or two – couples have become very beverage savvy. 2020 bars will be quality over quantity!"

Wine expert Sam Tyson of Winebuyers.com says, "More and more couples are choosing to create self-service bars, beer taps and '70s-style cocktail bars at their weddings which I anticipate to only rise in 2020."



countryfoxes.co.uk

## A FINAL THOUGHT FROM MARTINA PAUL...

"Balloon styling for weddings and events has become massively popular. They bring fun, colour, and a twist to each event. Balloon walls, arches, and backdrops can be all enhanced with various floral displays. We have seen them around in 2019 but they are going to be super popular in 2020!"

"Simply elegant and minimalistic looks will be very much in trend in 2020. Pairing of dark and light colours and textures, dark furniture with crisp white linen or white furniture with black linen. We will also see black and white bridal bouquets especially in spring and autumn. I think there is nothing like a big white wedding with a smart touch of black colour.

"Couples like to really show their personality and the overall theme of the upcoming wedding in their stationery. There are so many superb designers who can create personalised logos out of the couple's initials or their favourite item (tree, a dog, leaf, etc) and then use them across the stationery selection.

"Minimalistic, elegant, various textures and calligraphy are very much on point for 2020."



# Boho luxe

Feathers, flowers and blush – oh my!  
*Images courtesy of Dearest Love Photography*

Shoot coordinator of this stunning creation was Louise Roberts of May Rose Floral Design, with an aim to create a boho-luxe-vibe at Burton Court, we hear how it came together. “We really wanted to incorporate lots of feathers and dried flowers and grasses throughout the shoot,” shares Louise. “This is seen in every aspect from the dress and flowers through to the stationery and cake. To complement this we kept the palette blush and neutral with some pops of rich and warm elements too.”



## THE DRESS

Handmade by Stephanie Kyles Bridal, it was fitted specifically to emphasise our bride's shape from the waist up and then a gorgeous A-symmetric feathered skirt and trail made it totally stunning.





**THE STATIONERY**  
 Brittany at Pigment+Paper picked out the earthy tones from the inspiration for her artwork, to create the beautiful stationery included in this shoot. Brittany also had the great idea of adding touches of gold foil for that luxurious feel.



LOCAL INSPIRATION



**THE TABLESCAPE**  
 Julie at Dress to Impress created the most wonderful tablescape. With a linen coloured tablecloth as a neutral background, wicker chargers, nude chair covers, and gold cutlery. Adding etched smoky glasswear just topped this look off with perfection.

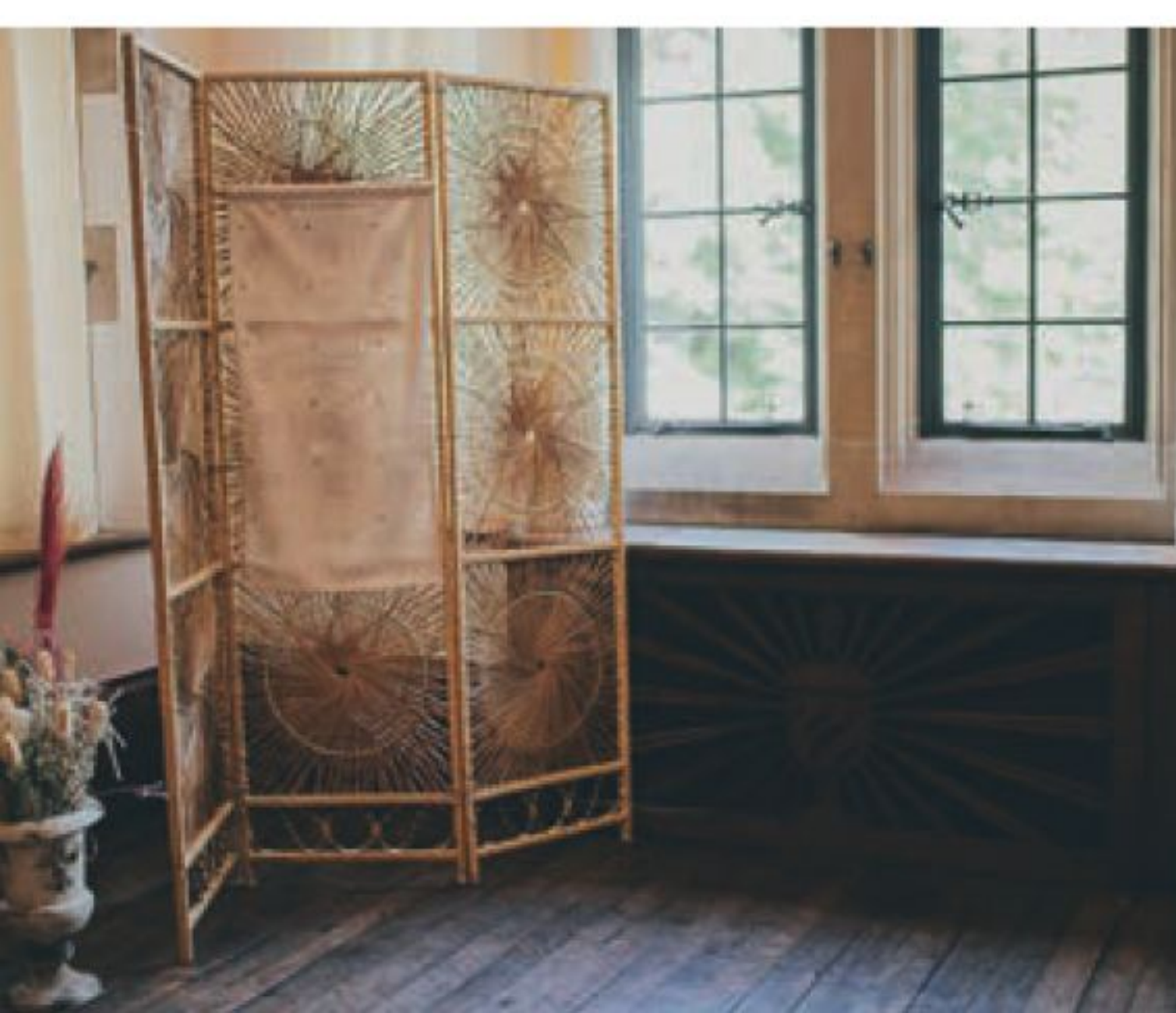
**THE CAKE**  
 Couture Cakes by Claire specialises in hand-painted cakes, and the duo she created for this shoot combined gorgeous drama and detail – lots of feathers, wild pink oats and grasses were added!



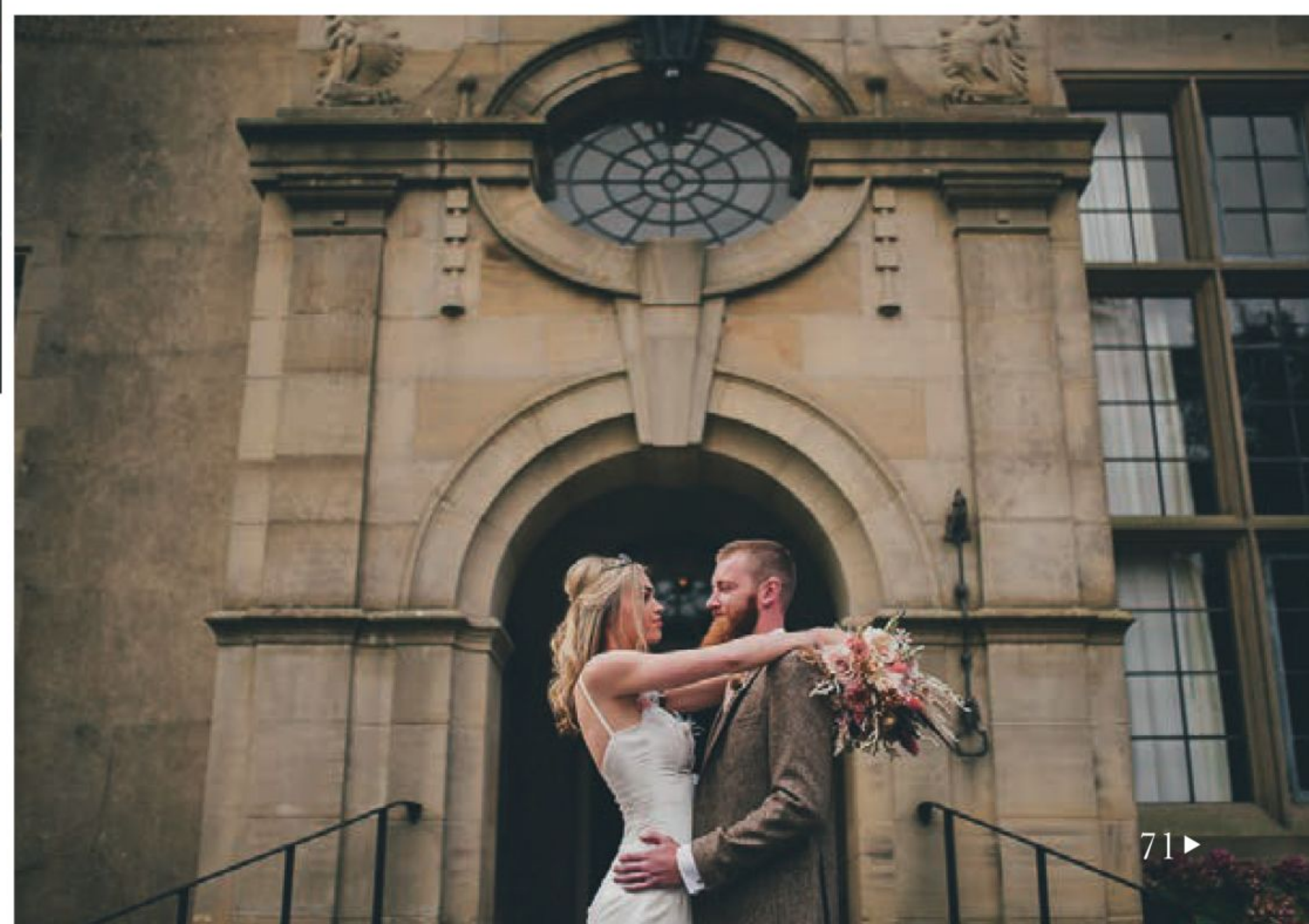
**THE GROOM**  
 The suit was carefully selected by Carolyn at Bill Child Formal Wear. She chose a three-piece suit in brown tweed and a nude tie to match in perfectly.



**THE VENUE**  
 The beautiful Burton Court in Herefordshire completely oozes character and is steeped in history. Every room tells a story and we were really spoilt for choice for backdrops inside and out.



**THE HAIR**  
 Curled and tousled by Amy Bemand Hair, with our first look being a half-up half-down affair and then a more relaxed bohemian-vibe for the second look to tie in with the fedora and jacket inspiration.





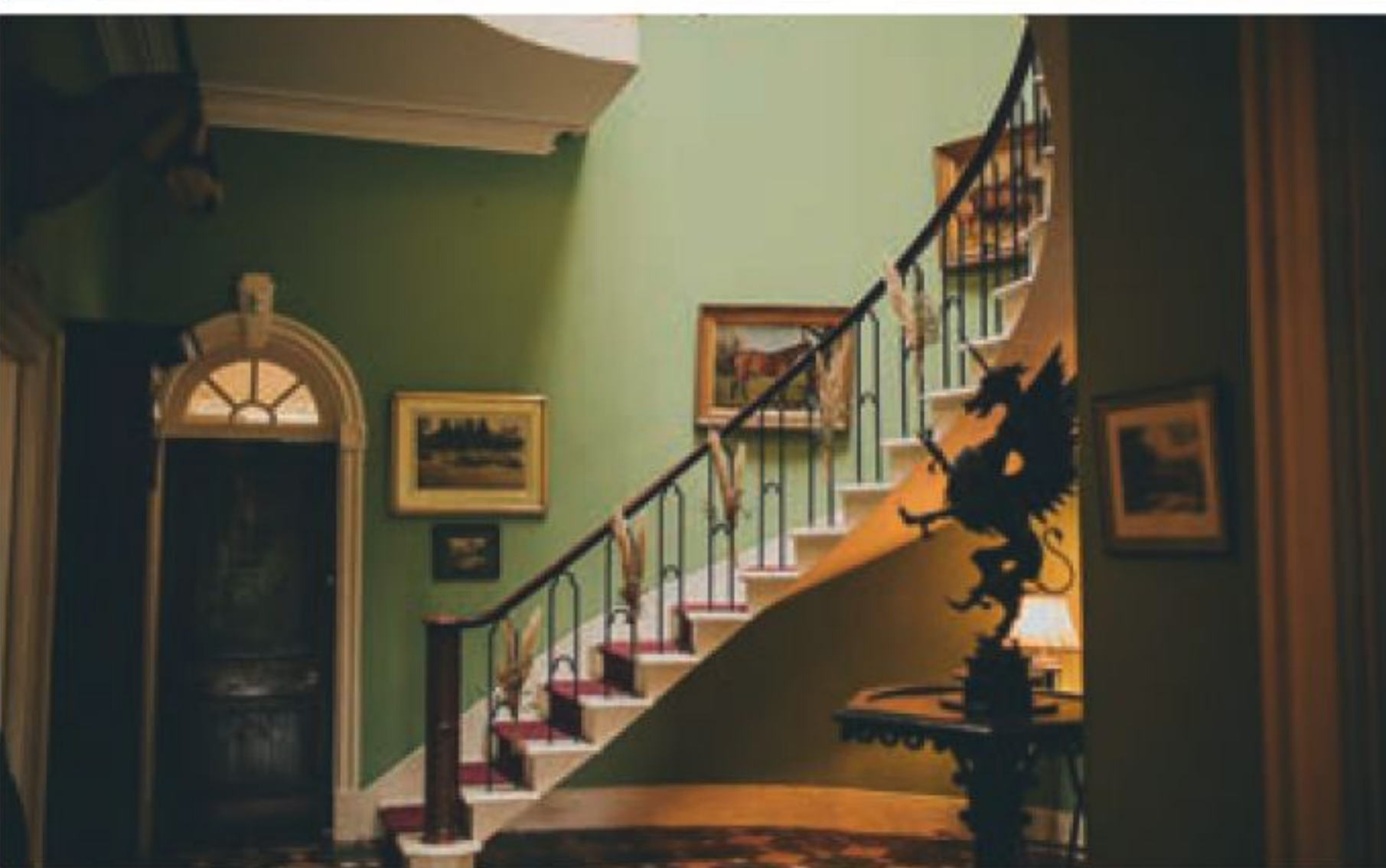


## THE PHOTOGRAPHY

All images were beautifully captured by the amazing Jim and Kerri of Dearest Love Photography. Their unique style of photography fitted in perfectly with the bohemian-vibe of this shoot.

## THE FLOWERS

I used pampas, bunnytails, teasels, flax, limonium, desert yearning and feathers combined with quicksand and cappuccino roses, single bloom chrysanthemums and safari sunset. The combination of colour and texture made for an earthy bohemian-vibe.



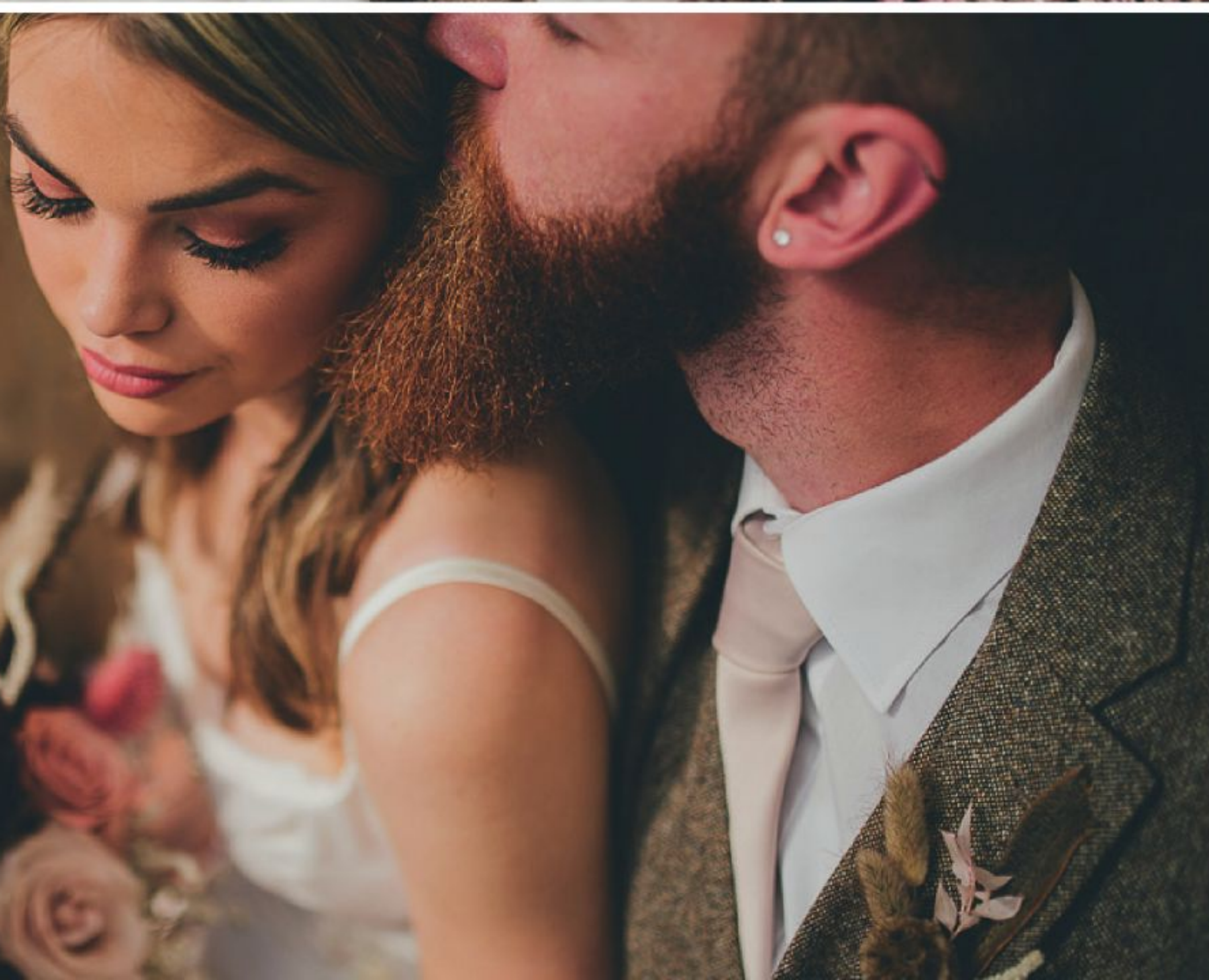
## THE JEWELLERY

Elizabeth Terzza supplied her hand-crafted jewellery for this shoot and boy did we have trouble choosing from the stunning selection she had. The hairpiece, necklace, earring and even wedding rings, and cufflinks for the groom – all inspired by nature were totally beautiful.



## THE MAKE-UP

As you can see Sam at Indulge Beauty and Make-up worked complete magic; dramatic eye colour and long lashes with a warm sandy-coloured lipstick tied in perfectly with our theme.



## LOCAL SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT:

**Photography**, [dearestlove.co.uk](http://dearestlove.co.uk) | **Dress**, [stephaniekylesbridal.com](http://stephaniekylesbridal.com) | **Stationery**, [pigmentandpaper.co.uk](http://pigmentandpaper.co.uk) | **Flowers and styling**, [mayrosefloraldesign.co.uk](http://mayrosefloraldesign.co.uk) | **Cake**, [couturecakesbyclaire.co.uk](http://couturecakesbyclaire.co.uk) | **Hair**, @amybemandhair | **Make-up**, [beauty-indulge.uk](http://beauty-indulge.uk) | **Tableware styling**, [drestoimpressbyjulie.co.uk](http://drestoimpressbyjulie.co.uk) | **Jewellery**, [elizabethterzza.com](http://elizabethterzza.com) | **Suit**, [billchildformalwear.co.uk](http://billchildformalwear.co.uk) | **Venue**, [burtoncourt.com](http://burtoncourt.com) | **Models**, Chris Burch @chrisburch1991, Emogene Mullis @emogenemullis



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# Rose and Rainbow

## PHOTOGRAPHY



Wedding photography by Samantha Davis

[www.roseandrainbowphotography.com](http://www.roseandrainbowphotography.com)





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Weston Hall was originally a 16<sup>th</sup>-century manor house and has since been converted into a hotel and wedding venue. "After a tour and talking with the venue I thought it had so much shoot potential," shares Lee-Anne Newton of Deliciously Divine.

"We used the new light and airy marquee and the stunning grounds around it. For the theme, we kept a wintry feel and went for grey, blue and silver on the table with rustic branches overhead and hanging Nordic stars.

"Jenna chose frosted stationery to complement the theme while the floral creations had a design focus on greenery and with touches of blue.

"The bride wore a simple gown with a beautiful train, and for added glamour the make-up had a blue shimmer combined with an elegant hair style."

# BLUE FOR YOU

*Before the seasons change, we're in awe of this wintry-styled shoot*

*Images courtesy of Grace Nicole Photography*









### SUPPLIERS INVOLVED IN THIS SHOOT

**Photography**, [gracenicolephotography.com](http://gracenicolephotography.com) | **Cake**, [deliciouslydivine.co.uk](http://deliciouslydivine.co.uk)  
**Flowers**, [lilacwild.com](http://lilacwild.com) | **Styling**, [therusticweddingcompany.com](http://therusticweddingcompany.com), [bramblemskyeventdecor.co.uk](http://bramblemskyeventdecor.co.uk)  
**Venue**, [bw-westonhallhotel.co.uk](http://bw-westonhallhotel.co.uk) | **Stationery**, [jennaclairstationery.co.uk](http://jennaclairstationery.co.uk)  
**Make-up artist**, [louiseanessmakeupartist.co.uk](http://louiseanessmakeupartist.co.uk) | **Hair**, [occasionhairbyhelen](http://occasionhairbyhelen)  
**Dresses**, [dressmepretty.co.uk](http://dressmepretty.co.uk) | **Models**, @loanamch @michalkubin\_official





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# WEDDING planning SOS

Our local experts answer your pre-wedding worries...

## PLANNED TO PERFECTION

Here are three top tips from Definitive Weddings & Eventz to make sure your wedding runs smoothly allowing you to enjoy your special day...

♥ **Plan Plan plan.** Start early and plan as much as you can and make lists, brainstorm what you both would like for your day and then dilute your ideas into one list keeping in mind cost and necessity. Please don't let this stop you adding the little luxuries as it is your special day but ideas and cost have to be a priority in the build up stage of your big day.

♥ **Make the little details personal.** You will inevitably need an army of suppliers ranging from the venue, venue décor to flowers and catering. Keep to what you truly want and how you see your day planned out. The morning of your wedding you want to enjoy and take in those special moments with family and friends and not be worried regarding set ups of tables, flowers and if you have enough chairs!

♥ **Enjoy your day.** You are marrying the love of your life so you don't want to miss a thing! Try to be stress-free and have a back-up plan in case something does go wrong. The weather is always an issue especially with an outdoor venue, but they will have plans in place to embrace that change of forecast and have helping hands preempted.

Deborah Kellett | Definitive Weddings & Eventz | [definitiveweddingseventz.com](http://definitiveweddingseventz.com)



## FOREVER FLOWERS

**Q What are the wedding flower trends in 2020?**

**A** A big trend I'm seeing for 2020 is sustainable weddings and flowers. This meaning no floral foam as the effects of floral foam are huge to the planet – no foam doesn't stop you going big or having hanging installations!

Also, another eco-friendly trend is keeping flowers locally sourced from Britain which will certainly cut down on your CO emissions.

Joanne Capewell | Buttercup & Daisies | [buttercupanddaisies.com](http://buttercupanddaisies.com)

## More cake please!

**Q My hubby-to-be and I love cake, and we're excited about choosing our big-day bake. However, with a number of guests with allergies and intolerances, how do we keep everyone happy?**

**A** There are so many options when it comes to wedding cakes these days, keeping everyone happy shouldn't be difficult!

Dessert tables are hugely popular with a variety of treats on offer including macarons, decorated biscuits and doughnuts, all of which create a stunning centrepiece at your wedding venue. Labelling these is a great way of ensuring your guests know what is suitable for them to eat should they have an allergy or intolerance (be creative with your labelling, they can match your table signs/plan).

When it comes to the main wedding cake, most bakers can cater for intolerances (in cases of severe allergies, always do research into their premises/food handling practises etc). Having a tiered cake with alternative flavours is a great way of guaranteeing you have your dream wedding cake which can be gluten, egg or dairy free!

Jessica Hicklin | Tilly Flo's Cakes | [facebook.com/Tilly-Flos-Cakes-235268523158967](https://facebook.com/Tilly-Flos-Cakes-235268523158967)





whiteapplebybibboyle.co.uk

## High brow

**Q I read that eyebrows are quite key to 'shaping the face' how do you know which shape works best, and can my make-up artist help?**

**A** Our brows have the ability to bring out the most of our features, give our face proportion and frame our eyes beautifully; so it's no shock that there are so many brow treatments available, including tinting, threading, micro blading and more recently, brow laminating.

The size of your brow should be in line with the size of your face. If you have a long face you don't want an arched or high set brow as it will make the face look longer. A straight, flat brow on a square face will accentuate the square shape, so if you add in an arch to lift the brow, the face will look softer. Having a round brow on a round face will accentuate that shape, so a brow with an arch will give it more of an oval look.

Your make-up artist will be able to measure your brows and work with you to get the correct shape, length and look you require for your big day.

**Laura Timms | Hair & Make-Up by Laura Timms | lauratimms.co.uk**

## Winter wonder

**Q We had always wanted a barn wedding venue, however, we've now decided to have a Christmas wedding in December; would a barn venue be warm and cosy enough for this time of year?**

**A** Definitely! Barn venues can certainly be considered for weddings whatever time of year. When viewing potential venues ensure you check the barn is highly insulated, has double glazing and has underfloor heating – like we do here at Camlad Barns making it nice and toasty!

**Alex Leeke | Camlad Barns | camladbarns.co.uk**

## IT'S ALL ABOUT THE BASE

**Q My partner and I are unsure of the cake size needed for the number of guests; we want a showstopping wedding cake but also something that won't break the bank – help, what do you suggest?**

**A** Trying to decide on the number of guests to cater for will depend a great deal on what other food you are including during your wedding celebrations and it's worthwhile taking into account whether you want to share it with the day guests only or include all the evening guests too.

Not everyone will eat cake at your wedding so there's not always a need to buy cake for everyone. Talk through your wedding day plans with your cake designer and they will advise you on what size would be best for your wedding celebrations.

A popular request for 2020 is including fake tiers or perspex tiers in the cake design. These are a fabulous way of adding height and with the perspex (or clear separators) they are brilliant for adding the element of elegance to the cake without having to buy more cake than you really need.

**Caroline Bailey | Hunkington House Kitchen | hunkingtonhousekitchen.co.uk**



sharoncooper.co.uk

## SIZE DOES DOESN'T MATTER

**Q I love Fiat 500s and have always known it would be the perfect car for our summer wedding; however, I haven't chosen my wedding dress yet do I need to be wary of space inside for my dress and the wedding party?**

**A** The size of the classic Fiat 500 is a question we get asked a lot, but the good thing about the car is that the front passenger seat can be removed so there is more leg room and space for a wedding dress. We've provided the car for more than 70 weddings and never had a problem with wedding dresses or getting bridesmaids and guests in the cars.

**Olivia Gauch | Fiat 500 Hire | fiat500hire.com**

## TO VEIL OR NOT TO VEIL?

**Q I've opted for a simple wedding gown design but thought I could have a bit of wow-factor with my veil. What could you suggest?**

**A** If you're wanting to spruce up your veil embroidery is always a great place to start. Whether you want something little and delicate like a simple monogram or something a little bolder like trailing flowers and pet portraits (yes it's a very popular request) then a touch of embroidery could be perfect for you!

If you want to go super bold, there are so many fully embroidered veil designs available, why not take the opportunity to be covered head to toe in gorgeous beading adding an extra bit of sparkle to your wedding outfit?

**Ashley King | Adorn by Ashley | adornbyashley.co.uk**



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### WHAT'S YOUR FLAVOUR?

**Q** My hubby to be and I would love to wow our guests with a flavoursome wedding cake? Which interesting flavour combinations do you think work well and will keep our guests talking about the big-day cake long after the wedding?

**A** My menu is so extensive, however I find most couples stick to the traditional flavours of vanilla, chocolate and lemon. My chocolate and caramel sponge is like no other you've ever tasted, it's so light and moist, and even people who don't usually like chocolate cake fall in love with it. People constantly tell me my vanilla and chocolate cakes are the best; so, actually I'm less convinced there's a need to find an interesting flavour combination or to try new/unusual flavours rather than focussing on selecting a cake maker who can provide a cake that has an amazing texture, lightness and is of the highest quality. That will impress guests far more than a niche or trendy flavour, which can often only appeal to a small selection of those eating it. If you do want to try unusual flavours, which I often make upon request, we always recommend this be limited to only one or two layers of the cake, so that other more traditional flavours can also be incorporated to please all tastes.

However, what I can highly recommend is the technique that I use with most of my cakes, which is to cover them in ganache rather than buttercream, as the layer before the sugarpaste is added. This not only has an aesthetic benefit of providing a much more highly quality, smooth finish for the sugarpaste, but makes the cakes richer and, according to all my customers, far more satisfying and enjoyable! We use a very high quality Belgian chocolate to make the ganache, using white chocolate for vanilla or lemon sponges, and either milk or dark chocolate for chocolate sponge-based cakes.

**Laura Nolan | The Nuthouse Bakery**  
nuthousebakery.co.uk

### I do, I do, I do

**Q** We've just got engaged and starting to plan our big day and already I'm unsure of a couple of things; what's the difference between the role of a registration office, having a civil wedding at a venue, and I've also heard the term celebrant?

**A** I know the terminology is a bit mystifying isn't it? There are only two kinds of legal marriage at present, one conducted by a religious body or a civil wedding conducted by a registrar. A registrar can conduct a legal marriage ceremony either at an appointed office (register office or registration building) or at a licensed venue.

In Warwickshire we are now also offering a 'duo' ceremony, this involves having a short no frills legal ceremony at one of our offices and then you can have a ceremony at a location of your choice subject to a H&S inspection as long as it isn't a venue that could be licensed under our usual terms. We may refer to the registrar who does this type of ceremony as a celebrant. However there also now a lot of independent celebrants. These are people who can offer a non legal ceremony but it must be preceded by a legal ceremony conducted by a registrar or religious minister.

**Diane Lampard | Warwickshire Registration District | warwickshire.gov.uk**



### Made you blush

**Q** Is there a hard and fast rule to blusher colours, as I never pick the same shade but was wondering whether it can actually enhance your complexion?

**A** When it comes to blusher colours it can go so easily wrong, my biggest tip when selecting your shade of blush is to pick something which is similar in colour to the lipstick you have chosen. By doing this you know that the colours will complement each other instead of clashing for example if you have chosen a bright red lipstick you need a stronger blush with red undertones to offset the lips or if you have selected a pinky nude lipstick you should then opt for a light pink blush to enhance the cheekbones with, always apply your blush last.

**Stephanie Morgan | SJM Beauty | sjmbeauty.com**





## FEELING CONFIDENT?

**Q** We obviously want our wedding day documented and know we want a professional photographer, however neither my partner or I are confident in front of the camera – we’ve never taken a selfie or have loads of pictures of ourselves! We don’t want our lack of confidence to stand out in the pictures, what do you suggest?

**A** You’re not alone! Most couples are a little nervous about having their picture taken, but there are things that you can do to help this. The first, and probably most important, is to choose a photographer who you get along with, not just someone who fits a particular budget, but try to find a photographer whose work you love but who can also put you at ease and make you feel comfortable. Your photographer is likely to be the supplier you spend the most time with so it’s crucial that you like each other!

You could also look into booking a pre-wedding photo shoot, sometimes called an engagement session, this is a great way to have a practice run before the wedding and can really help to calm any nerves. Most wedding photographers offer these kind of shoots and they are a great way to have some relaxed portraits of the two of you ahead of the wedding day.

When you’ve found the right photographer for you and your wedding, trust them. They will do their best to make you feel comfortable and give you the best experience possible.

**Nicola Gough | Nicola Gough Photography | [weddingphotographyinshropshire.co.uk](http://weddingphotographyinshropshire.co.uk)**



## Fresh is best?

**Q** We’re tying the knot in December and I would love fresh flowers, will I be limited in variety compared to a spring or summer wedding?

**A** Winter weddings in terms of flowers are certainly not limited, there is so much choice and we love the richness of deep burgandy winter flowers such as anemones, berries, burgandy wine ranunculus and the classic rose.

Or, choose the winter greys and whites of eucalyptus, olive, astilbe, asparagus fern, ivy – a real luxury winter wedding feel!

We often use an abundance of foliage in winter which really adds texture and layers to wedding flowers.

**Zara Smith | Crumps Florist | [facebook.com/crumpsflorist](https://facebook.com/crumpsflorist)**

## The eyes have it

**Q** I’ve been experimenting with false eyelashes leading up to the wedding and I’m just not getting on with them. What could I do in the run-up to the day, and is there on-the-day make-up tricks that can help give a full-lash look?

**A** I totally understand, this is an issue for many of my brides who struggle to achieve a perfect application. Your make-up artist will no doubt have an array of mascaras, (all waterproof I’m sure), alongside oodles of standard lashes including corner and clusters to fill gaps and elongate the eye, but there are several options pre-wedding I recommend you explore, the last of which can be used even if you have very few or no natural lashes. The lash market has some innovative new designs which I’m a huge fan of! Let’s start with the basics. The aim is to add definition and accentuate your natural lashes, you may be looking for an understated or more dramatic effect, either way remember practice makes perfect!

- ♥ **Lash curlers.** The original ‘eye opener’ non-permanent, the curlers are best used before mascara and slightly warmed, (your hairdryer is good for this). If used often they can help train the lashes into your desired shape.
- ♥ **Lash lift.** A salon-based treatment comprising of a tint and curl system which separates, colours and curls your lashes upwards for a natural but gently enhanced look which lasts several weeks. Mascara can be used to add further definition.
- ♥ **Traditional false lashes.** These rely on a glue to adhere strip lashes to the upper eyelid. They can be quite fiddly, messy and difficult to apply but once mastered give a fuller lash look that is totally adaptable depending on your choice of lash, the options are endless.
- ♥ **Magnetic lashes.** This system consists of two magnetic lashes which clamp together over your natural lash giving a glue-free, three layer lash finish. The lashes are easy to use, reusable, and again the styles available are seemingly limitless.
- ♥ **Magnetic liner and lash system (my favourite).** With this method the eyeliner itself is magnetic, so again no glue required. Applied like a regular liner, this waterproof game changer allows the lash to simply slip into place creating a super strong bond. Your lashes and liner are complete in one process, and as I said, this technique works with little or no lash-incredible!

**Maria Knight MUA | Sprinkle Magic | [sprinklemagicmua.co.uk](http://sprinklemagicmua.co.uk)**

## GROOMED TO PERFECTION

**Q** The groom can often get overlooked on a wedding day so I would love to give my hubby-to-be a special memento of the day – what do you suggest?

**A** Give your groom something personalised to complete his outfit, a set of bespoke cufflinks is the perfect gift! You can have them engraved with your wedding date or venue coordinates. Did you know that we can etch your own handwriting onto cufflinks? The handwriting looks fantastic on tie pins too! Stick to a classic timeless design so that he can wear these sentimental pieces again on special occasions, reviving fond memories from your special day.

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## Gift it

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

wanderlustlife.co.uk

wanderlustlifejewellery

## Editor's favourite

Wedding Buttonique custom-makes button and brooch bouquets that will last a lifetime, [etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/WeddingButtonique) weddingbuttonique



## Stylish maids

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

In other news, the company has launched their first pair of white leather wedding trainers, ideal for brides wanting comfort and fashion, [graceloveslace.com](https://www.graceloveslace.com)

grace\_loves\_lace



FASHION

## BEST FOOT FORWARD

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



# Fashion focus

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

## NAME IT

This sterling silver name necklace, £40, is from the new personalised collection from [jewellerybox.co.uk](https://www.jewellerybox.co.uk) and makes the ideal big-day keepsake. jewelleryboxuk



## PICK YOUR OWN

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

Emily discusses initial ideas and then produces a three-dimensional CAD design, along with a quote that's always within budget. Only the best quality gemstones and GIA-certified diamonds are sourced. Emily will also remodel heirloom pieces, [emilmortimer.co.uk](https://www.emilmortimer.co.uk) emilmortimerjewellery



## EDITOR'S PICK

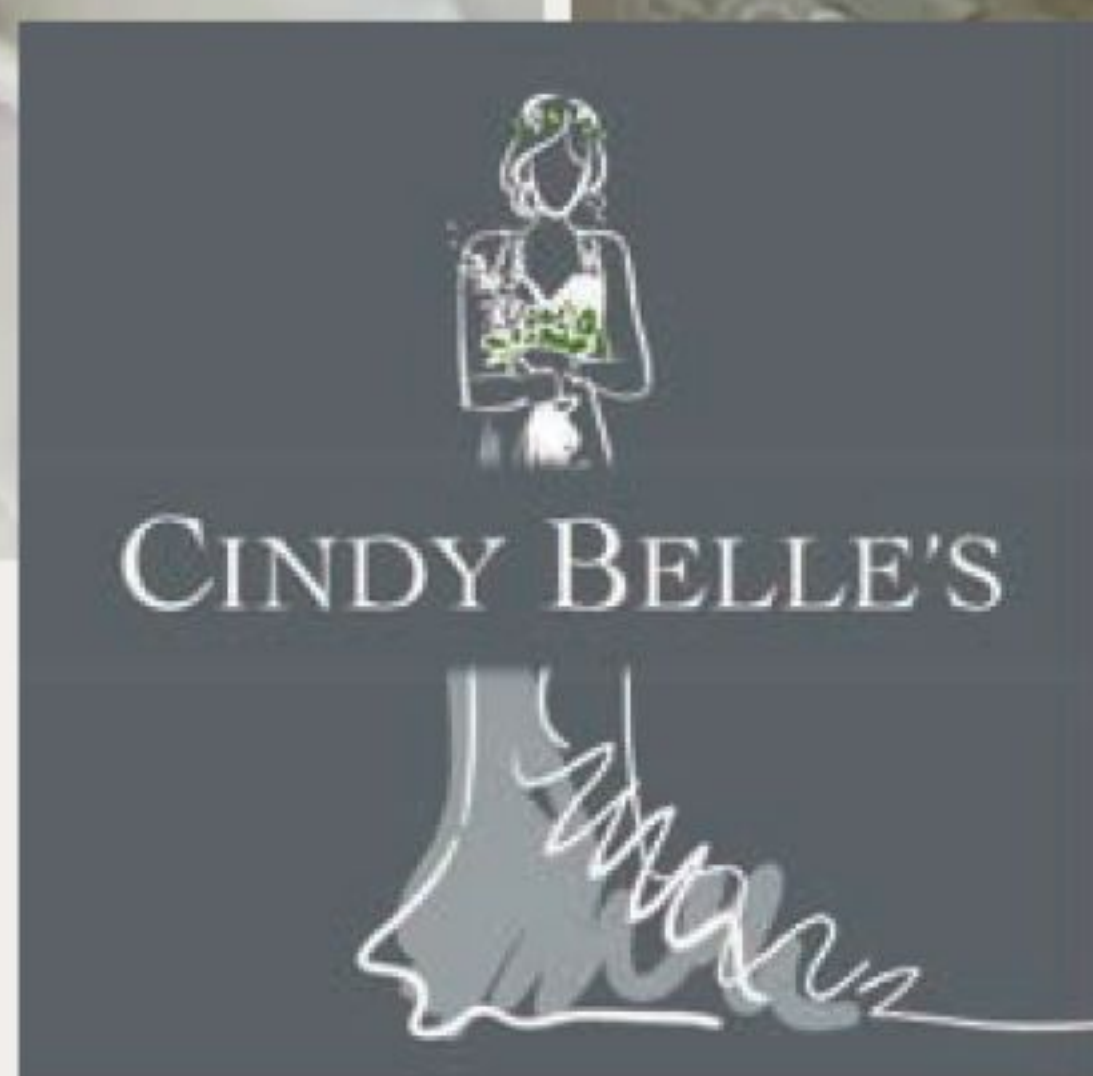
Thank your best girls with this gold-tone crystal bracelet, £89, from the new Tarot Magic collection by [swarovski.com](https://www.swarovski.com) swarovski



## What lies beneath

Lingerie, swimwear and nightwear brand Boux Avenue has released Bouxique by Boux Avenue, a luxury new capsule collection inspired by traditional corsetry techniques and French lace fabrics. Bold red and black pieces feature supportive designs and are honeymoon lust-haves, [bouxavenue.com](https://www.bouxavenue.com) bouxavenue





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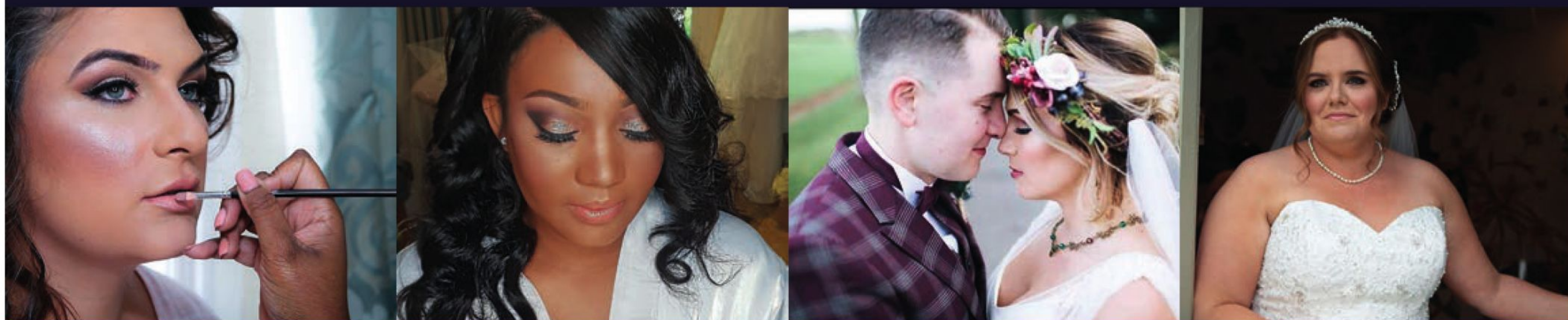
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t: 01905 22814 e: hirewear@armstrongs.co.uk www.armstrongs.co.uk

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Nicky Foster is a West Midlands based makeup artist with over twenty years experience in Bridal make up. Nicky prides herself in her abilities to execute high quality makeup for any client request. Nicky has developed a team of trusted artists to replicate her signature style and service; ensuring all clients ooze sophistication on their special day.

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Nicky Foster Make Up Artist

www.nickyfostermua.com f Nickyfostermua @ nickyfostermua @ nickyfostermuabrides



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[jennypackham.com](http://jennypackham.com)



[jesuspeiro.com](http://jesuspeiro.com)



[justinaalexander.com](http://justinaalexander.com)



Kelly Faetanini at [elliesanderson.co.uk](http://elliesanderson.co.uk)



[stephanieallin.net](http://stephanieallin.net)







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# Dare To BARE

Dresses featuring decorative back detail are this season's hottest trend











Full-length dresses,  
£125 each, [dessy.com](http://dessy.com)



# Into the blue

Team this popular shade with crystal silver accessories



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and pearl hair slide, £24,  
[aliceandblair.co.uk](http://aliceandblair.co.uk)



Silver satin  
two-piece, £370,  
[graceloveslace.com](http://graceloveslace.com)



Silver glitter clutch bag, £65,  
[rainbowclub.co.uk](http://rainbowclub.co.uk)



Sterling silver crown  
bracelet, £70,  
[uk.pandora.net](http://uk.pandora.net)

Silver shimmer  
necklace, £89, DKNY  
at [shadesoftime.co.uk](http://shadesoftime.co.uk)



Silver crystal and  
pearl earrings, £18,  
[jonrichard.com](http://jonrichard.com)



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court shoes, £120,  
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# Get the look...

Our experts tell you how to recreate this stunning bridal look

## ...THE HAIR!

To create this hairstyle yourself...

**Step 1.** Curl your hair using tongs/straighteners/curling irons, (always remember to use heat protector products prior to using any heated equipment).

**Step 2.** Backcomb the roots slightly to give height, leaving out a one centimetre section round the hairline.

**Step 3.** Using your fingers, pull all your hair back into a low ponytail and fasten with a hairband.

**Step 4.** Tie the ponytail into a knot, a simple loop and pull through the knot, and use hair grips to secure it in place, leaving the ends loose.

**Step 5.** Once the knot is fixed, tuck the loose ends into the knot and grip into place.

**Step 6.** Using your thumb and forefinger, gently pull loose a few strands throughout the hair, (making sure not to fully pull out of the style), to give texture. You may also want to pull a few strands totally out around the face, to give a softer look.

**Step 7.** Spray with a strong hold hairspray.

Contact: Sally Thomas Hair  
07725 842 069 |  
sally@sallyscissorhands.co.uk |  
sallythomashair.com

## ...THE MAKE-UP!

Are you the bride that will break all the rules this season with this super fresh but glamorous twist on bridal make-up? Having prepared many brides for their special day, requests and makeup trends evolve. This year in particular, brides are starting to move towards soft and glamorous looks. Opting for flawlessly polished skin, naturally contoured and highlighted cheekbones, sultry eyes, and soft pops of colour on the lips and cheeks; radiance is back for 2020.

Let's take a look at what products, tools and tips will help the 2020 bride to recreate this stunning look!

### Skin

Start by priming the skin using Charlotte Tilbury's Wonderglow skin primer, designed to blur imperfections and keep the skin looking radiant all-night long. The perfect way to prep for the application of foundation and/or concealer.

### Foundation

For flawless coverage to the skin, use a beauty blender to apply Illamasqua Skin Base foundation which is lightweight and buildable. A sponge application delivers a soft veil of product, perfect for an opulent glow and will create a flawless finish to the skin.

### Eyes

Apply the following products by MAC Cosmetics for a sultry eye focus. Groom the brows with Prolongwear brow gel to frame the face. Then apply Mulch eyeshadow all over the eye lid and buff under the eye. Apply Coffee pencil under the lower lashline for depth and Engraved pencil smudged as a top liner; kohl products are easy to use and blend beautifully. To finish soften the application with a Morphe M507 brush to blend and shape the eyes.

### Cheeks

To contour the cheeks apply Anastasia Beverly Hills Contour Kit with an Morphe E4 angled contour brush to create definition to the cheeks. Then apply L'Oreal Life's A Peach blusher to the apples of the cheeks for warmth, smile while applying as it will ensure the placement is perfect. Finish with a sweep of MUA Cosmetics Highlighter in Golden Scintillation on top of the cheek bones for a gorgeous glow.

### Lips

Couple NYX lip liner in Nude Pink with Bobbi Brown's Crushed Liquid Lip Lipstick in Peach & Quiet to give a pop of colour to the lips; perfecting your pout morning until night.

Contact: Nicky Foster Make Up Artist  
07921 502 449 | facebook.com/  
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10/10

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



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

*Danielle x*

Danielle Harvey, beauty editor



## Brush it off

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

# BEAUTY BUZZ



## THE FACE HAS IT

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

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

## HONEY, HONEY

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



## PERFECTLY BAKED

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

## MIGHTY MULTITASKING

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





## BE KIND

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

### ♥ BRIGHTEN

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

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

### ♥ HYDRATE

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

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

### ♥ CALM & SOOTHE

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

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

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

## GOING GREEN

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

## DAY TO NIGHT

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

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

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

## SAVING PLANET EARTH

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

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

## BRONZED BEAUTY

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

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

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



# HOT TOPIC

## #TRENDING

What's hot in the world of weddings in 2020...

### MUSIC MAESTRO

**Q** Wedding music has changed a lot over the years, how can we be modern in 2020 with our music offering for the day?

Liam says: Versatility is the key. Whatever type of artist you choose, a wedding crowd will always have a diverse taste in music. Not only should the professional you hire be able to adapt to different styles, but they also need to deliver it well. The client gets more for their money and the wedding party gets a flavour of all genres!

**Liam Price Music | 07794 913124 | [liampricemusic.com](http://liampricemusic.com)**



[dominiclemoinephotography.co.uk](http://dominiclemoinephotography.co.uk)

### CAKE

**Q** Were struggling choosing a cake design for the big day, what 2020 wedding cake trends can we be inspired by?

Caroline says: There are so many exciting colours and designs being asked for by couples this year and a mixture of shaped tiers works beautifully. I always advise couples to consider what would complement their special day and this could even be by starting with their colour scheme.

The trends this year are lots of flowers be it big and bold colours or tiers of flowers, adding extra height and a new dimension to the cake.

Another popular request for many of my couples is cascading sugarpaste petals, these are utterly beautiful and can be the classic white or a colour combination to match the wedding theme.

The final element I'd recommend is taking time to consider how you want your cake displayed. Decorating your cake table can take your wedding cake to a whole new level and ensure it is showcased perfectly.

**Caroline Bailey | Hunkington House Kitchen | [hunkingtonhousekitchen.co.uk](http://hunkingtonhousekitchen.co.uk)**

### MAKING IT PERSONAL

**Q** We want to move away from tradition for our 2020 wedding, in what ways can we make our vows more modern?

Neree says: To make vows more modern, mix and match with the traditional; couples could maybe personalise and incorporate a special memory of their other half. Alternatively mention something which each other has said that has always stuck with them.

**Neree Mckenzie | Poetry by Neree | [poetrybyneree@yahoo.com](mailto:poetrybyneree@yahoo.com)**







tjpphotography.co.uk

## FABULOUS FLORALS

**Q What's hot in 2020 in the world of flowers for us to be inspired for our big day?**

Judith says: Whilst blush flowers will continue to be popular we are going to see a lot more colourful flowers and less foliage-heavy bouquets.

Eco credentials are becoming increasingly important and so locally grown flowers and floral provenance will be more a focus this year. Locally grown flowers can add that touch of magic to the designs with movement and often fragrance too.

Flowers From The Farm is a national network of flower farmers and florists who use locally grown flowers so why not visit their website [flowersfromthefarm.co.uk](http://flowersfromthefarm.co.uk) and find a local supplier of British flowers.

Couples are increasingly aware of environmental concerns. There's a growing movement towards more sustainable floristry so avoiding the use of floral foam in designs and instead opt for traditional methods of foam free designs using chicken wire and moss. Using these mechanics results in much lighter and more natural designs too. Large cloud installations using this method are becoming more popular and table centrepieces which are heavily influenced by the Japanese style of floristry are starting to appear.

The other notable trend which started last year and is gathering pace is the use of dried flowers, not in a dusty old way from the 1970s but often in among fresh flowers adding lots of interest and texture. Bleached foliage is also becoming popular and adds another dimension to the floral designs.

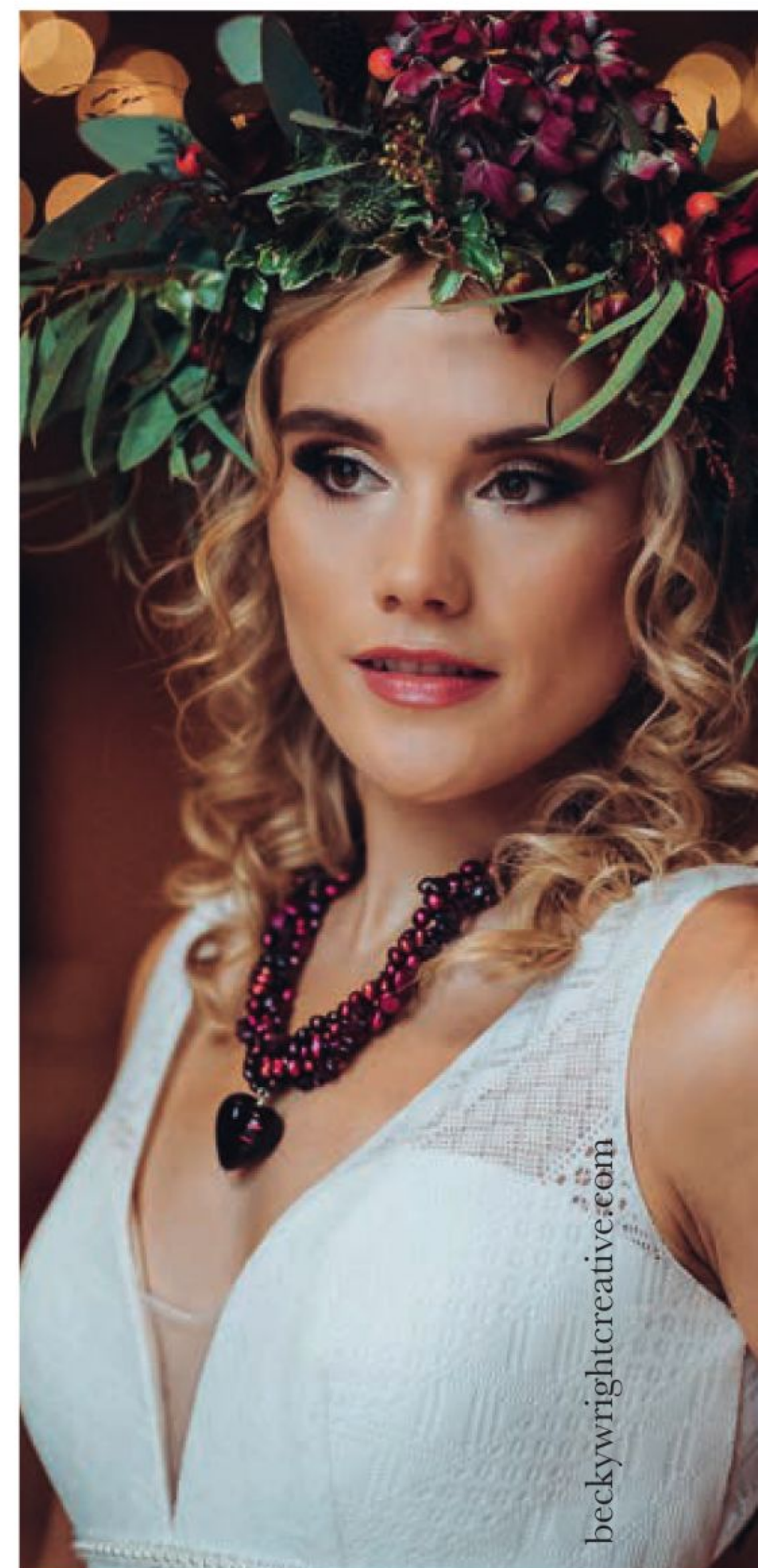
**Judith McCormack | Pollen Floral Joy | [pollenfloraljoy.co.uk](http://pollenfloraljoy.co.uk)**

## THAT BRIDAL GLOW

**Q What will be the key bridal beauty trends in 2020 that I can be inspired by for my bridal look?**

Stephanie says: This past year has seen a very strong shift in the bridal world towards the more minimalistic make-up trend. Ever since the Duke and Duchess of Sussex tied the knot and showed off her beauty enhancing bridal make-up people have been opting more and more for this way of application. It's all about enhancing your natural features rather than concealing them with contour and thick insta brows! Ditch the highlighter and opt for a rosy glow instead, try using a luminous foundation to give you that natural radiance from within. Show off your fluffy brows, avoid the matte eyeshadows and instead opt for a gorgeous shimmer to really make your eyes pop and lastly add a lip gloss on top of your lipstick to give that fuller, brighter appearance to your lips.

**Stephanie Morgan | SJM Beauty | [sjmbeauty.com](http://sjmbeauty.com)**



beckywrightcreative.com



hellosorriso.com

## GROOMED TO PERFECTION

**Q My hubby-to-be is heavily influenced by the fashion industry what will be hot in 2020 for grooms?**

Carolyn says: Tweed suits are still a huge trend for 2020 whether that's in greys and blues, plain, checked or herringbone tweeds, all are proving popular.

Checked wool and flannel suits are starting to make an appearance, both small and large checks, while the most popular colour for suits is blue, in all its shades, from pale to dark navy.

Three-piece suits are the most popular because even when the jackets are taken off the groom and his groomsmen still look dapper.

Double breasted waistcoats are going to be more popular in 2020, in Prince of Wales Check, dog tooth and flannel, to be worn with morning or lounge suits.

**Carolyn | Bill Child Formalwear | [billchildformalwear.co.uk](http://billchildformalwear.co.uk)**



# *A Venue you'll fall in Love with*



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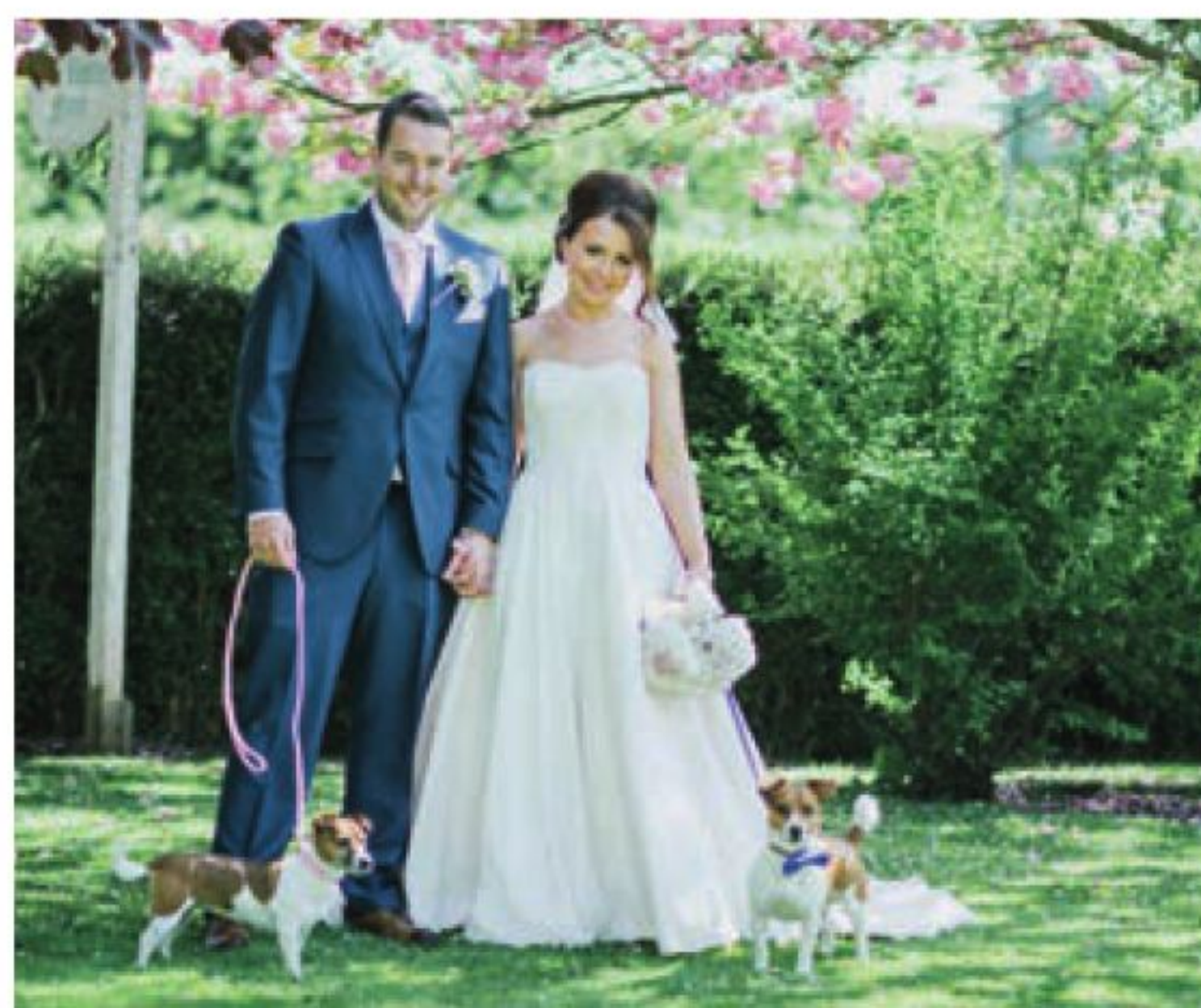
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## KEEPING WATCH

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

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

Priced £499 from [hourtime.co.uk](http://hourtime.co.uk)



## FROM THE WAIST UP

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

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



## Read all ABOUT IT!

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



## Showers forecast

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

From The Groomsmith collection these mini shower gels are certain to refresh and revive you, priced at £5, from [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)



## BEST FOOT FORWARD

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

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

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

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

## Super hero

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

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





# CHEEK MATE

Rock this perfectly patterned look





£14, mandco.com

£130, joebrowns.co.uk



POA, atelier412newyork.etsy.com



£429, tedbaker.com



£225, chesterbarrie.co.uk



£70, riverisland.com



£60, simoncarter.net



£69.99, Maestro Brown, baselondon.com



£25, farrar-tanner.co.uk





## SHORT-HAUL SUNSHINE

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

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

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

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

For further details about Lindos Village Resort & Spa, visit [lindos-village.gr](http://lindos-village.gr)



## YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS

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

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

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

Sprat & Winkle is priced from £425 for three nights. To book, visit [mulberrycottages.com](http://mulberrycottages.com)

# HONEYMOON



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

## BEACHSIDE BLISS IN ST LUCIA

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

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

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

Visit [theromanticholiday.com](http://theromanticholiday.com) to find out more



## Bright ideas

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





## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

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

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

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

Find out more at [blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors](http://blakeshotels.com/offers/behind-closed-doors)



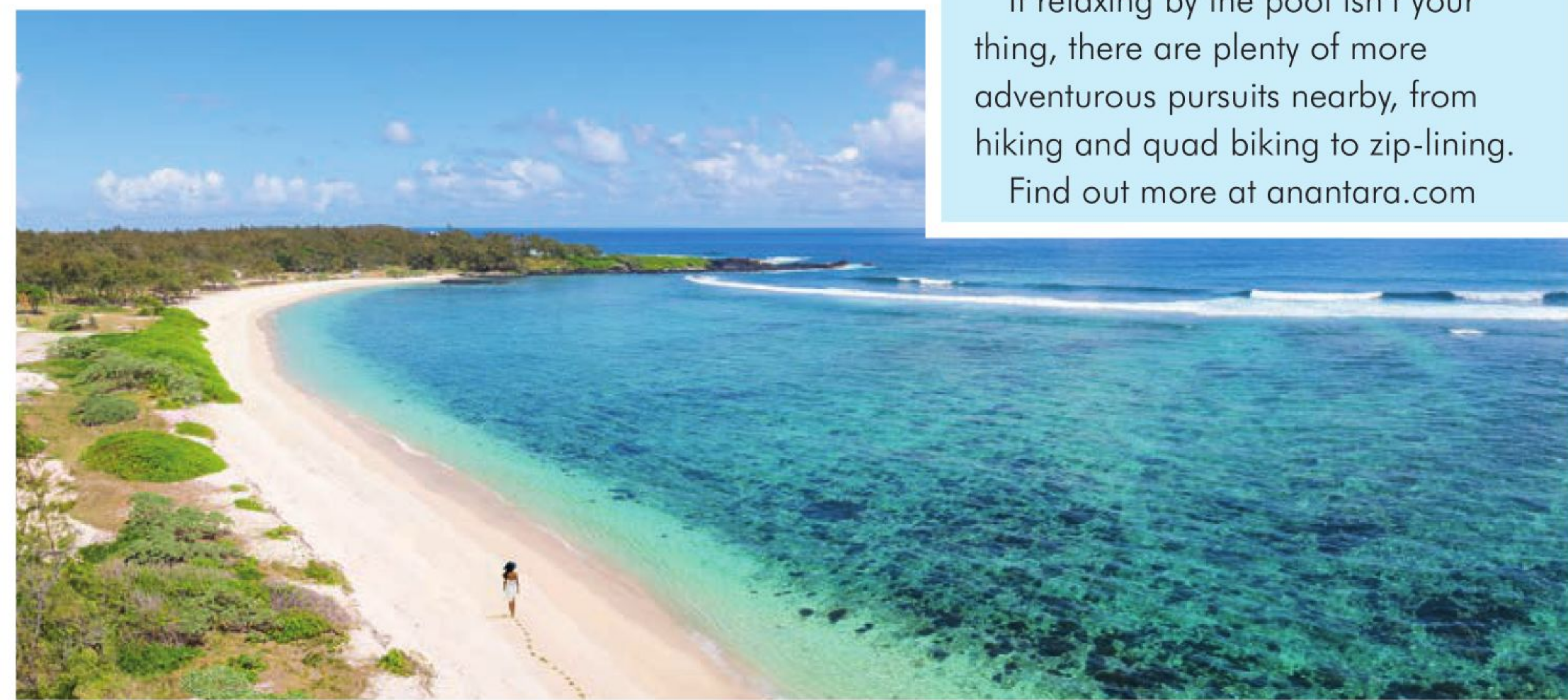
## TREAT YOURSELF

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

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

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

Find out more at [anantara.com](http://anantara.com)



## EXPLORE SOUTH AMERICA

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

For further details visit [hayesandjarvis.co.uk](http://hayesandjarvis.co.uk)



## KUONI'S TOP 10

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

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

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

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

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

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

Find out more at [kuoni.co.uk](http://kuoni.co.uk)



# WIN!

## A LUXURIOUS THREE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO TUSCANY

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

## WORTH £1,500

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

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

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

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

Find out more at [fonteverdespa.com](http://fonteverdespa.com)



### THE PRIZE

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

### HOW TO ENTER

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

***In which region in Italy is Fonteverde located?***

Enter online at [yourwestmidlands.wedding](http://yourwestmidlands.wedding)

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





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# NEXT ISSUE

APRIL/MAY 2020

ON SALE: 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2020



## GOING LOCAL

Wed in Coventry, Nuneaton & Rugby



## GLORIOUS GARDENS

Picture-perfect settings



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Get to know your local photographers



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How to entertain your guests



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

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

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

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

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

The Alphabet Collection is exclusively available to purchase in Shearer Candles stores including its website [shearer-candles.com](http://shearer-candles.com). All you need to do to claim your gift is take out a year's subscription to *Your West Midlands Wedding*.\*

\*Subject to availability.

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# WEDDING OPEN DAY - SUNDAY 8TH MARCH 2020, 11 AM - 3PM

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