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FOR ME**

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like you do*

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*The look
OF LOVE*

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worth £3,000

*Local
hotspots*

We explore Lancashire

£3.55

*Tents, tipis and the
great outdoors*

Al fresco wedding venues

APR/MAY 2020

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foxleyphotography.com

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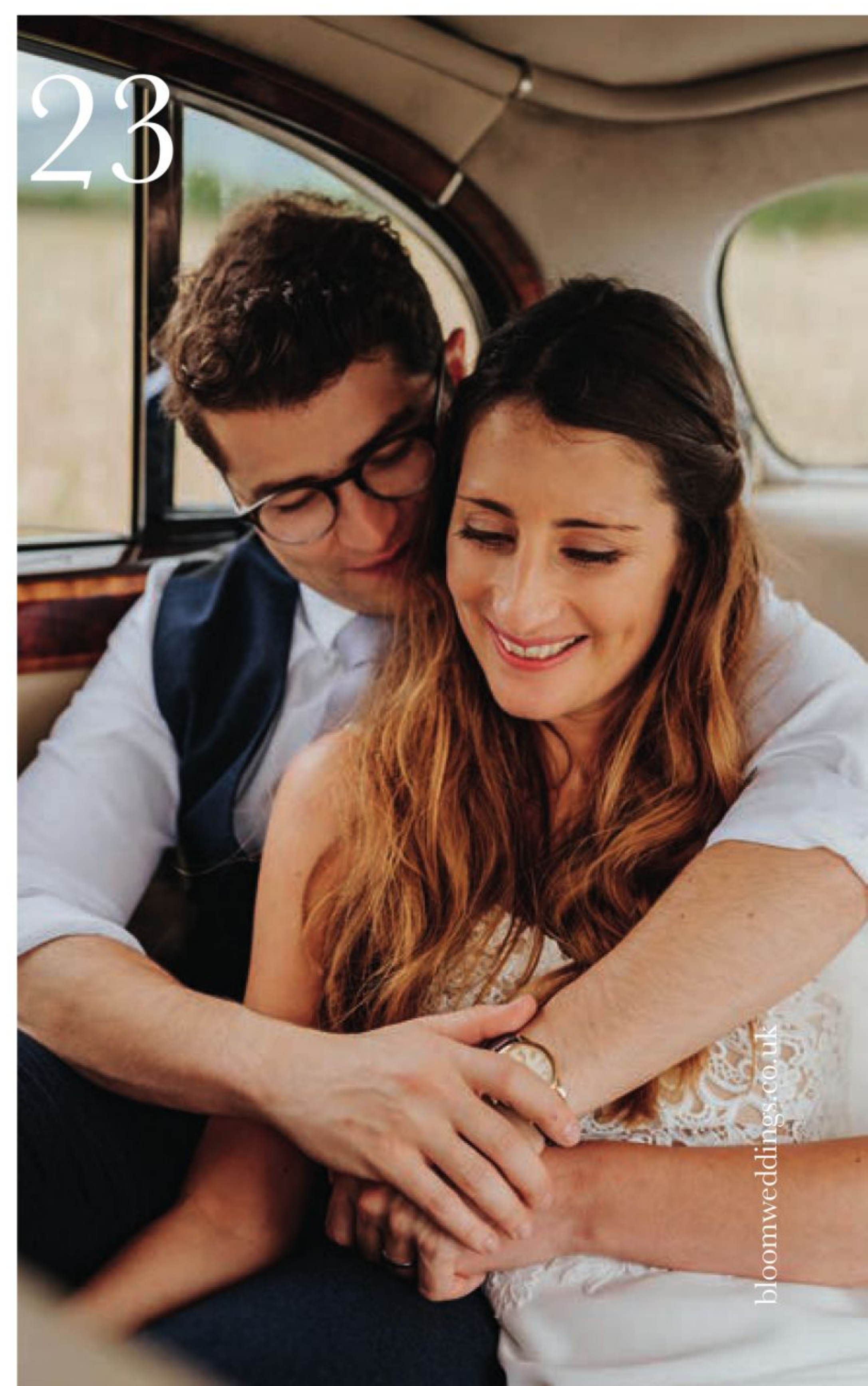
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WIN!

A LUXURIOUS FIVE-NIGHT HONEYMOON TO OMAN

Enter now for your chance to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the incredible Salalah Rotana Resort in Oman

WORTH £3,000

Rotana Hotels & Resorts has partnered with County Wedding Magazines to offer one lucky couple a luxurious five-night honeymoon at Salalah Rotana Resort in Oman.

Set against a beautiful backdrop of lush vegetation, rolling mountains, golden sands and crystal-clear waters of the Indian Ocean, the five-star resort provides a tranquil setting that's ideal for those looking to unwind.

Whilst staying in one of the resort's Deluxe Ocean View rooms, the lucky couple can wake up with spectacular views across the water and enjoy coffee in the sun from their very own private terrace or balcony. Complimentary half-board dining will ensure the winners are spoilt for choice at both breakfast and dinner at Saffron restaurant.

As well as relaxing on the private golden beach, the newlyweds will also be treated to a couple's spa massage at Zen the Spa, the

perfect way to unwind after a hard day spent in the sun.

Salalah Rotana Resort is ideally located in the Salalah Beach destination – one of the most breath-taking natural settings in the Sultanate, between spectacular mountains, freshwater springs and tropical scenery, where wildlife and frankincense trees can be marveled.

The waterfront resort's 422 rooms and suites are built around waterways, whisking guests away to a coastal utopia. The resort prides itself on providing five-star opulence synonymous with the Rotana brand, infused with traditional Omani hospitality. With four restaurants, the resort offers the perfect mélange of East-meets-West hospitality.

With its state-of-the-art facilities, couples can keep fit at Bodylines Fitness & Wellness Club, take a dip in the swimming pool or relax and rejuvenate at Zen the spa at Rotana.



Salalah
Rotana
Resort

THE PRIZE

- ♥ Five-night stay
- ♥ Half-board basis
- ♥ One couple's spa massage
- ♥ Return airport transfers in Oman

HOW TO ENTER

Which ocean does the Salalah Rotana Hotel overlook?
Enter online at yournorthwest.wedding

The closing date is 5th June, 2020. Terms and conditions apply. Please see our website for details.

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Hop into spring



Firstly, I hope all of our readers have been keeping well during this surreal, unprecedented time. It would be hard for me to not mention the dreaded c-word, however, I admire how everyone, no matter how badly they have been effected, has come together to help and support one another. The tide will start turning, and

we can all begin to re-plan cancelled weddings, re-book honeymoons and get back to our wonderful world of weddings – supporting local couples and businesses finding their feet again!

This issue is bursting with inspiration; we have four real weddings starting on page 23, a guide on how to choose your big-day jewellery on page 49 and we get to know local photographers better on page 45.

I hope you enjoy the issue and don't forget you can submit your wedding at any time by visiting this link – yournorthwest.wedding/get-involved-real-wedding

Melissa x

Melissa Barker,
Editor

WIN!
A HONEYMOON
IN OMAN,
WORTH £3,000,
ON PAGE 5.

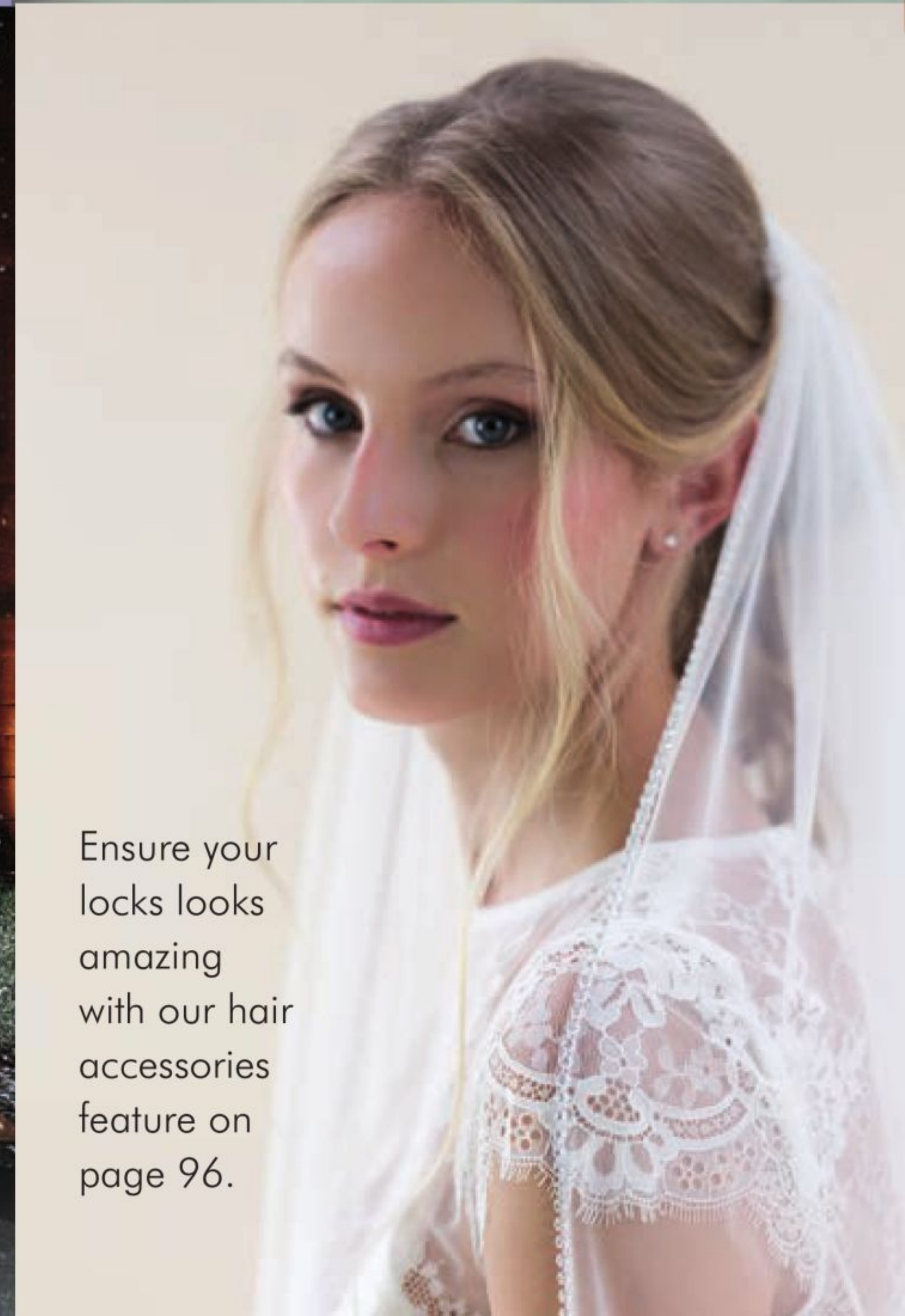
Abbey House Hotel and Gardens has purchased a snow cannon. To find out more turn to page 8.



Check out our fun and frivolous fashion feature on page 75.



It's important that you look fabulous on your wedding day and jewellery can play a key part in helping you achieve your overall bridal look. Choosing pieces that complement your dress without upstaging it can be tricky, to help we reveal our top tips over on page 49.

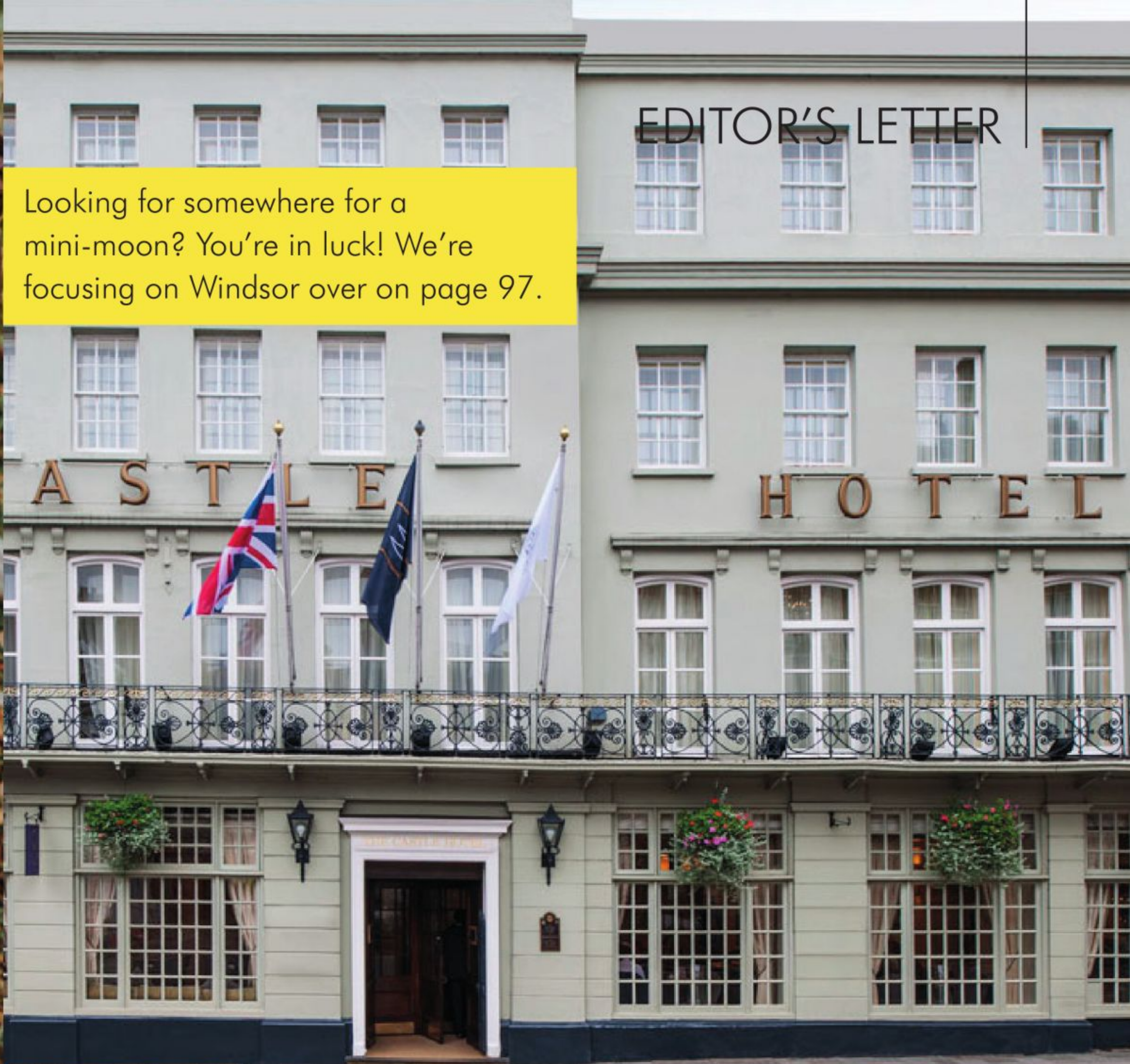


Ensure your locks looks amazing with our hair accessories feature on page 96.



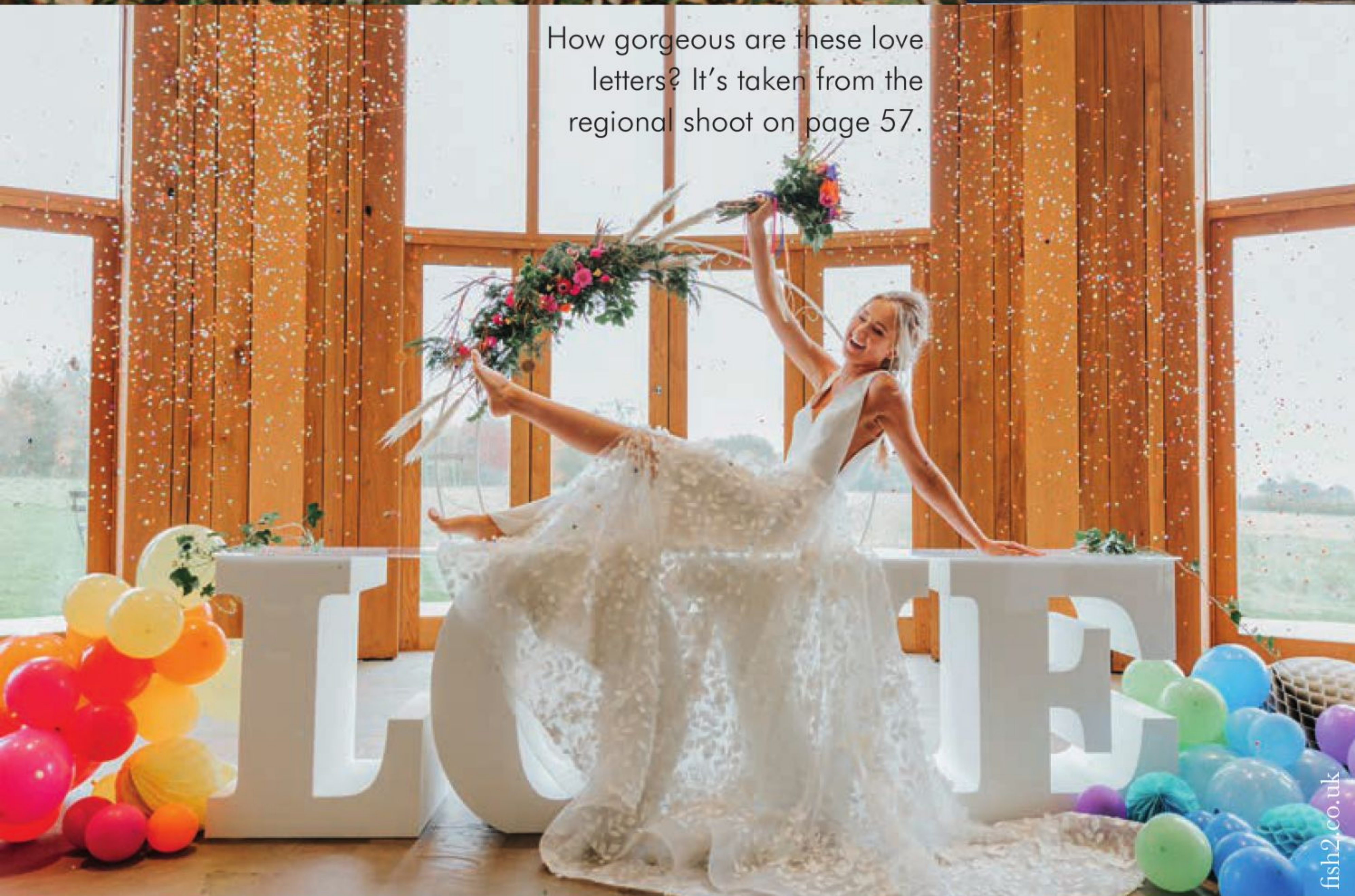
I love Katie and Oliver's gorgeous dogs. Check out page 37 to see more from their big day.

maddiefarrisp Photography.co.uk



EDITOR'S LETTER

Looking for somewhere for a mini-moon? You're in luck! We're focusing on Windsor over on page 97.



How gorgeous are these love letters? It's taken from the regional shoot on page 57.

fish2.co.uk



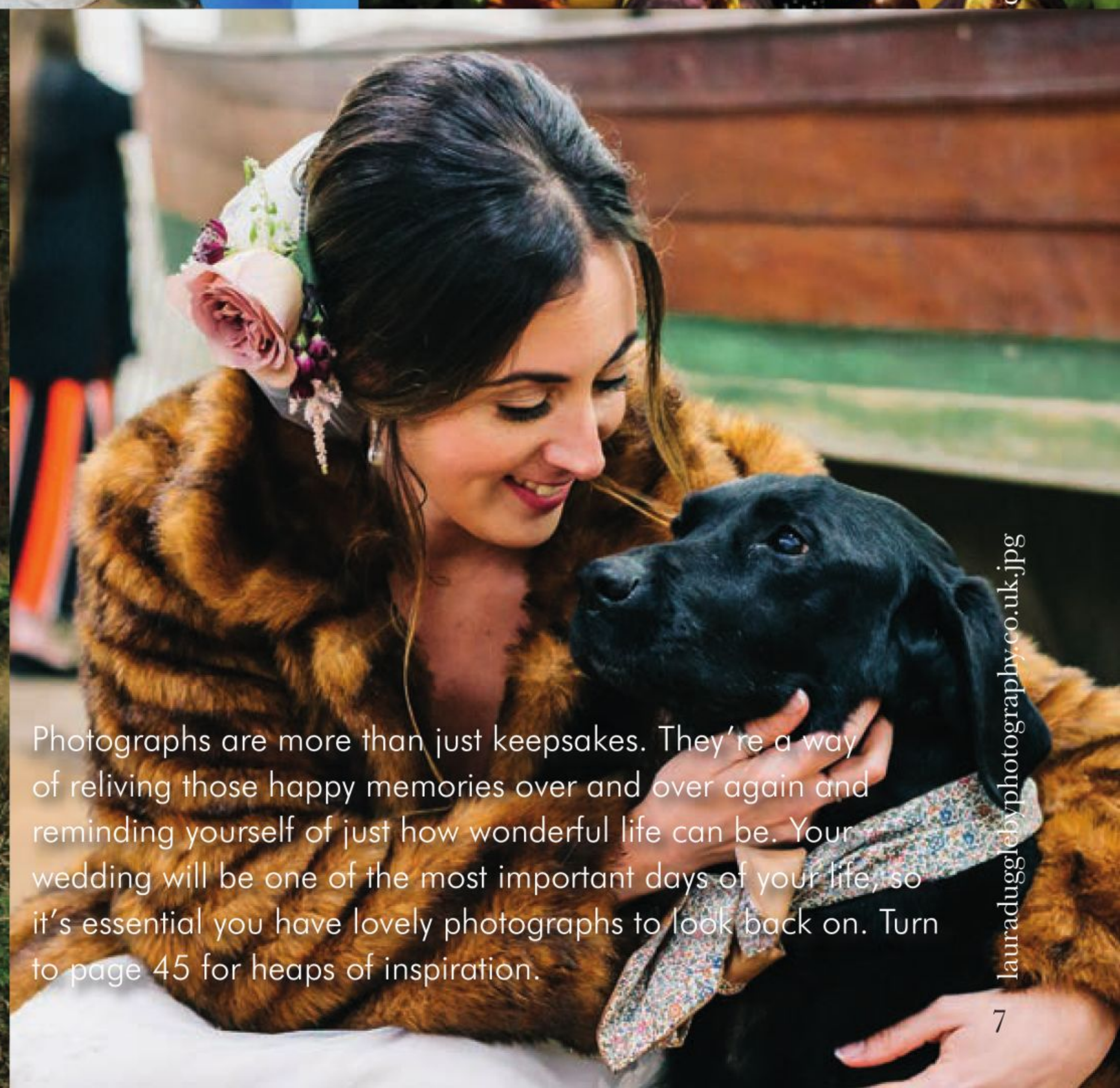
How delicious does Rachel and Richard's wedding cake look?! Turn to page 28 to find out more about their nuptials.

creative-camera.org



I'm in love with bride Emma's wedding dress. Flip to page 23 to see more from her wedding.

bloomweddings.co.uk



Photographs are more than just keepsakes. They're a way of reliving those happy memories over and over again and reminding yourself of just how wonderful life can be. Your wedding will be one of the most important days of your life, so it's essential you have lovely photographs to look back on. Turn to page 45 for heaps of inspiration.

lauraduggie Photography.co.uk.jpg



CONGRATULATIONS

The Cake Pavilion based in Mawdesley, Lancashire has won Best Small Wedding Cake in the North West in an award provided by The Cake Professionals (thecakeprofessionals.com).

Entries needed to be real cakes, made for clients between December 2018 and November 2019.

We spoke to Susan Bunner from The Cake Pavilion to find out more: "This beautiful cake was created for a Lancashire wedding. It incorporated hand-piped royal icing taken from the bride's gown and hand-painting from their stationery. I create luxury wedding cakes and offer a highly personal and professional service using only the best ingredients."

For more information visit the website thecakepavilion.co.uk

SWEET SAVINGS

Lancaster's Royal King's Arms is celebrating renaissance year with a wedding giveaway. The hotel underwent a multi-million-pound renovation in 2018 which modernised their bedrooms, improved the car park, outdoor seating area and hired a new chef. So to celebrate, the hotel is offering one lucky couple a bespoke wedding package including a sumptuous wedding breakfast for 40 guests.

Bob Warrior, the general manager, said: "The Royal King's Arms has been a central part of Lancaster life and celebrations since 1625; needless to say, it's seen a few changes in that time! We're excited at the transformations we're making to keep it relevant and vibrant at the heart of city life, including opening the brasserie restaurant and the crypt cocktail bar. With so much to celebrate, 2020 seemed the perfect time to give something back to the city we love."

Visit royalkingsarmshotel.co.uk to enter.

Nearlywed NEWS

All the latest from around the North West



LET IT SNOW

Abbey House Hotel and Gardens in Cumbria are guaranteeing the sky will turn white at all weddings taking place in November and December 2020. The team have invested in the latest snow cannon technology to ensure a magical scene greets wedding parties as they sweep into the hotel's fairy-lit entrance. The Winter Wonderland guarantee comes on the back of feedback from brides and grooms, who said snow at their wedding would have been the icing on the cake.

Brian Conroy, the operations director, said: "The hotel looks truly stunning when it's decorated for the winter period, and while we are heavily booked for the coming November and December, we do have some availability. The only thing which we can never rely upon is the weather, and snow is a rarity around this time of year despite it being something that many people wish for. So we have decided that whatever the whim of Mother Nature, there will be snow at every winter wedding if that's the wish of the happy couple."

Check out abbeyhousehotel.com for more.



TO DINE FOR

Bill's Restaurant & Bar has been awarded Best Designed Restaurant of the Year at the Casual Dining Awards 2020 for their Spinningfields, Manchester, branch.

The restaurant boasts cosy booths, sociable sharing tables, a bespoke bar area and delicious food.

Louise Neilson, the estates and risk director, said: "We're delighted to win at the Casual Dining Awards and the recognition that the design team at Focus Design and the team at Bill's have been honoured with. The décor at Spinningfields has elevated the space and created a beautiful dining experience for guests."

To find out more, visit bills-website.co.uk



WELCOME TO THE CLUB

Hotel Brooklyn in the heart of Cottonopolis, Manchester, has opened its doors. The 189-room hotel pays homage to Brooklyn's history from the early 20th century to the present day. In addition, the venue features 18 accessible bedrooms, designed by Motionspot, one of the UK's leading accessible design companies. Hotel Brooklyn's bar and restaurant, named Runyon's after Damon Runyon, presents a diverse menu showcasing European and American influences. On the top floor is the Salvation Bar which can be used for private events and offers panoramic views of the city.

Paul Bayliss, the general manager, said: "I'm delighted to be leading the team at Hotel Brooklyn, as we look to make an immediate impact across Manchester and the North West. I've kept a close eye on the success of Hotel Gotham in recent years, and have a deep affinity for the city, so I'm excited by the challenge of making a similarly positive impact here."

Visit hotelbrooklyn.co.uk for more.

JUST ONE SLICE

Kendal-based Ginger Bakers is now supplying Liberty London (libertylondon.com) with its award-winning Damson Brandy Fruit Cake for the first time. Made using local-sourced ingredients the company offers 35 different products perfect for gifts or wedding favours.

Lisa Smith, the owner and founder, said: "It's a good British cake with a strong regional story. It's one of our original products and has won a Great Taste Award. Quality is key for us. It's very tempting to try and compete in different markets as there are always opportunities around but we've always stuck to our core values of quality, sustainability, care and creativity. We have stayed true to ourselves, stayed true to what we do and I'm very proud of that."

For more information, visit gingerbakers.co.uk



A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

The Science and Industry Museum, situated in the heart of Manchester, is home to one of the oldest surviving passenger railway stations and the world's first inter-city railway warehouse. As of April 2020, the museum is making this historically significant space available for weddings.

The top floor of this stand-alone Grade I listed building has been repurposed to allow its spacious rooms to be used as flexible spaces for wedding ceremonies and receptions, while also ensuring its original features and charm have been protected throughout.

Chris Hanley, the group event manager, said: "We're delighted to offer the 1830 warehouse as an atmospheric and charming option for wedding celebrations. The railway station was life-changing for Manchester and we're proud to be able to open the top-floor of this incredible space for couples looking to celebrate their marriage."

Check out hirethescienceandindustrymuseum.com for more.

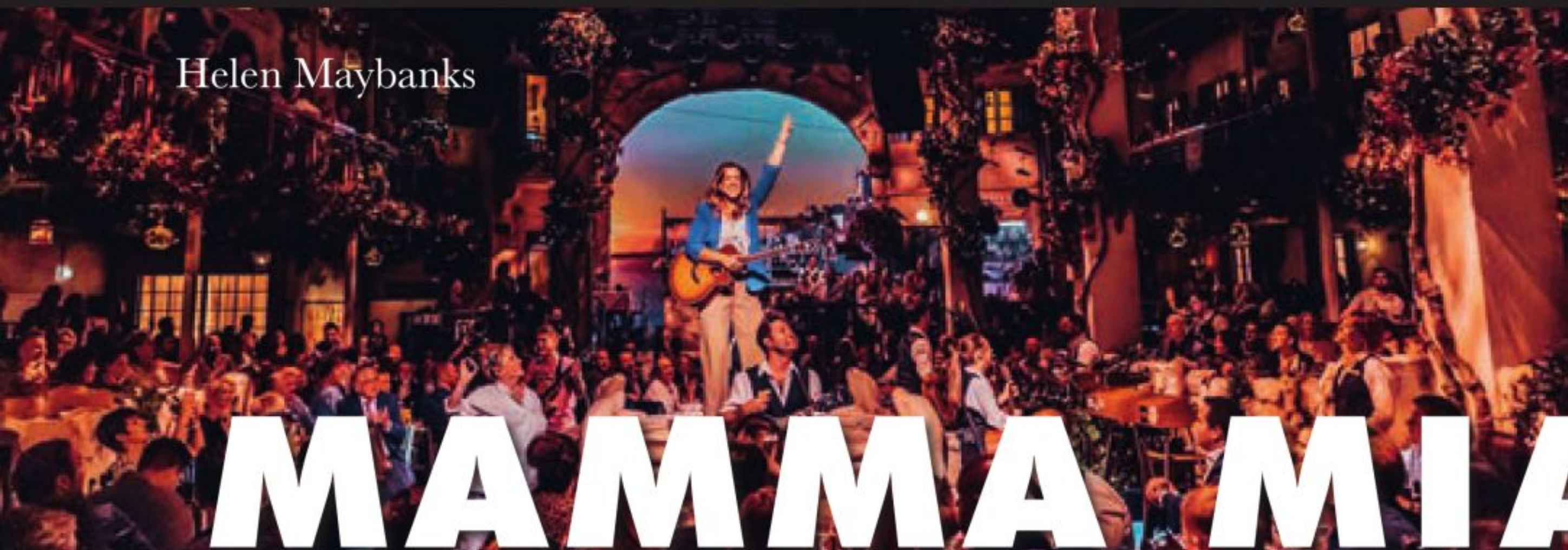
PARTY

IN THE CAPITAL

We put two London hen dos to the test

Whatever your taste, there's not much that the capital can't offer in terms of hen do celebrations. Hannah Faulder got to check out two of the best experiences – oh, the hardship – one you can invite your nan along to and the other, well, maybe not...

Helen Maybanks



MAMMA MIA! THE PARTY

I'm a firm believer that there are two types of people in this world: people who love ABBA and people who won't admit they love ABBA. I am well and truly in the first camp – in fact, obsessed is probably the correct term for my adoration of the Swedish fab four – so my expectations were very high for this event.

Billed as an immersive entertainment experience that puts guests at the heart of the action, I couldn't quite picture how this was going to pan out and all I knew was that we would be getting dinner while watching a *Mamma Mia*-inspired show. Arriving at the O2 with my sister (another ABBA nut), we walked through the big blue doors and suddenly we were on a Greek island in a pretty courtyard complete with fountain, olive trees and walls draped in bougainvillea, instead of London on a dreary Monday night. From the moment we took our seats in Nikos' Taverna, that was it; I was swept up in the brilliant and slightly ridiculous magic of it all. The free-flowing wine probably helped.

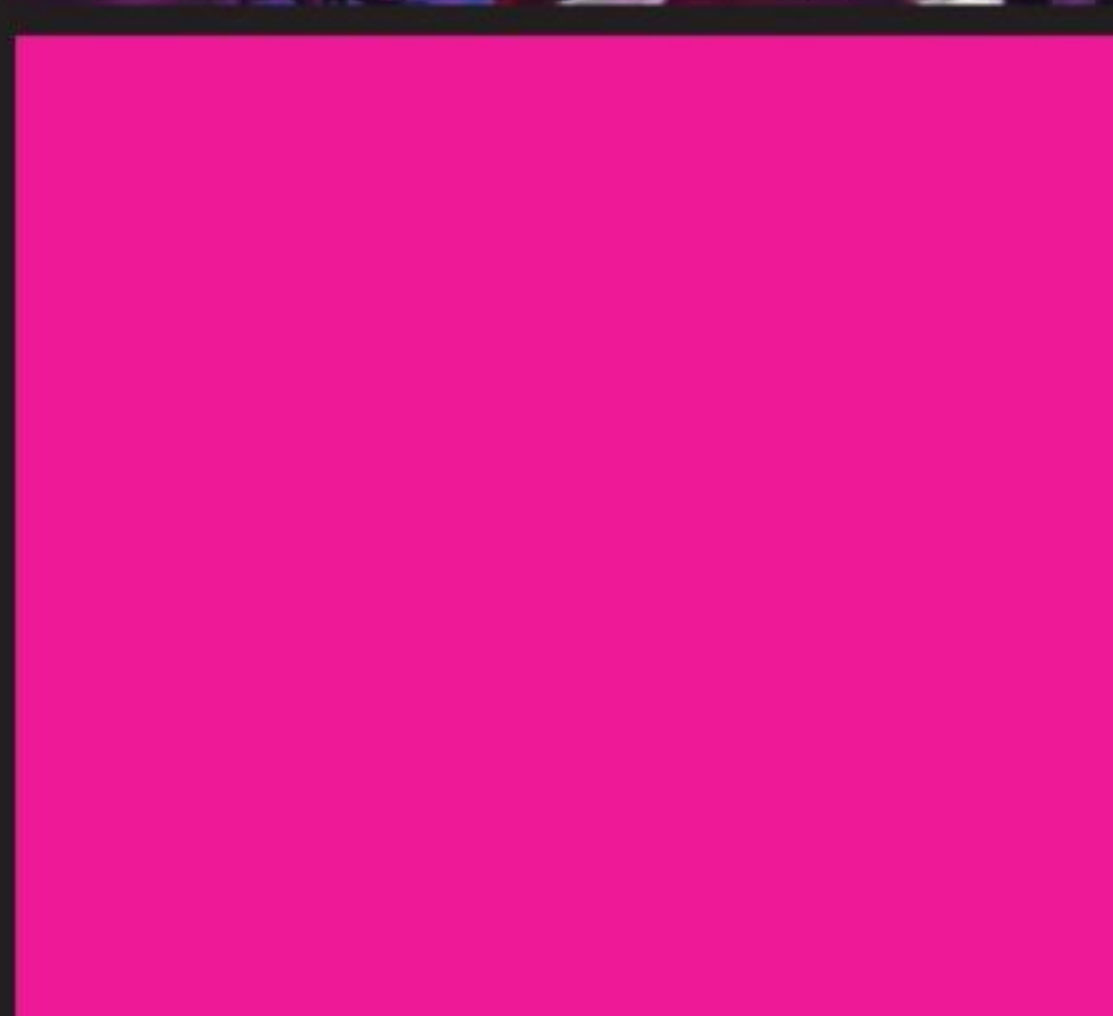
Everyone was so into the show that they probably could've got

away with mediocre food, but in truth it was delicious. The four-course gourmet meal of tasty Mediterranean fare was incredible – the bread and olives alone were to die for. And as for the show, it was just one huge incredible party – we all laughed, cried and sang along with our new found friends – and we weren't just observing, everyone was part of the action. I challenge anyone to not start dancing; we were up mid-mouthful at many points if *Gimme! Gimme! Gimme!* or *Dancing Queen* were somehow shoehorned into the plot. The joyous atmosphere was totally infectious.

At the end of the show, they roll out a huge stage and a disco starts up. My sister and I were devastated to leave but we had to get the last train home, which we soon found out had been cancelled, and with that we were back down to earth with a thud. If you don't like ABBA, the price tag may terrify you. If you do, it's worth every penny.

Visit the website
mammamiatheparty.com

Helen Maybanks



When I told people I was going to see Magic Mike Live I got a lot of giggles and some funny looks. If you're a millennial woman, there's a good chance you've seen the film (or at least, fast-forwarded to the good bits), so you probably have an idea of what the live show will entail. What Channing Tatum's extravaganza actually provides though is a somewhat more friendly experience. I won't give the premise away (although let's face it, we're not here for the story), but let's just say that the female MC is very much in charge of the situation, and we as audience members are reaping the benefits of a more feminist approach to a traditional strip show.

We arrived at the Hippodrome Casino, which is perfectly located in Leicester Square for those who want a night on the town afterwards, and are directed to the venue and order a drink right to our seats. The show is around an hour and a half, but it goes by in a flash of tanned skin and oiled muscles. The dance moves range from a bit saucy to one routine with a female dancer that verges on indecent, but the general feel-

good vibe of the evening and the comedic styling of the host stop it from careering into tacky.

I have to say, I haven't laughed so much in a long time. My friend and I were screaming and whooping along to the show – and this was a school night! I can just imagine a Saturday night with a group of your best girls and you could bring the house down. I have to mention the audience participation, as it is a big part of the show. I was slightly terrified at the prospect of this beforehand, but when you're in the moment the nerves go out the window. My friend even sat on a piano and had a hunky man serenade her! It feels like a totally safe and inclusive environment, but if you're really not up for a lap dance, just say the safe word "unicorn" and you'll be passed by. Not that we saw many people using the safe word, except for a very embarrassed looking Alex Jones from *The One Show*. All in all, this is riotous, naughty fun best consumed with copious cocktails and your best friends by your side.

Visit magicmikelondon.co.uk

MAGIC MIKE LIVE



Trevor Leighton

SWEET SENSATIONS

Union Cakes offers affordable, designer wedding cakes in Greater Manchester. The team is made up of professional cake makers brought together by award-winning artist Suzanne Thorp. The cakes are freshly baked, decorated to order and can be delivered throughout the North West.

Couples can choose from the exclusive great value designer collection, Made4U or a not-quite-naked design from pURe style.

We've teamed up with Union Cakes to offer our readers 10% off any order. To receive this fab discount, simply enter the code 'YNWW' on the website when ordering.

Visit unioncakes.uk for more information.



teresac.co.uk

Freebies & OFFERS

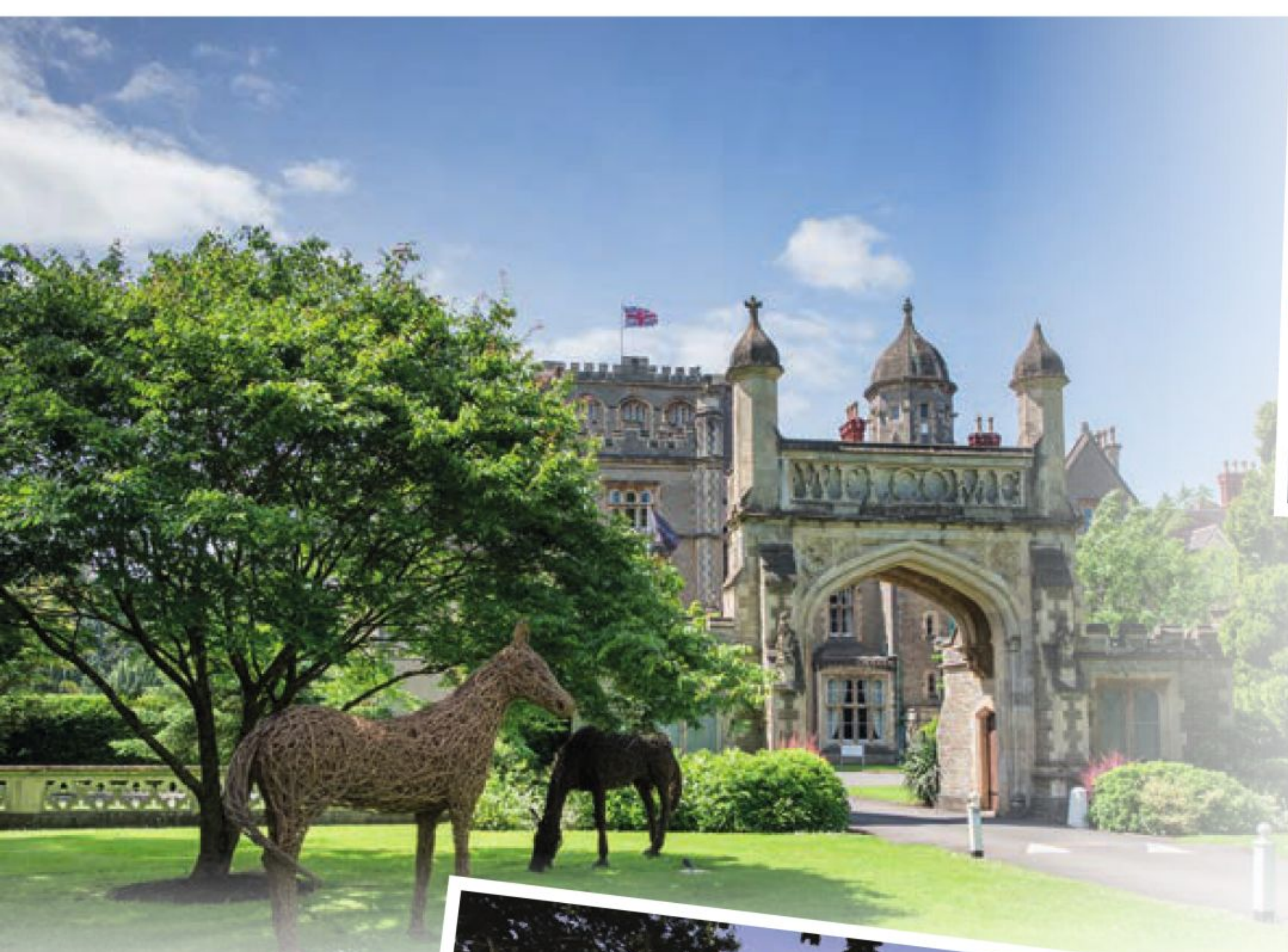
Take advantage of these gorgeous giveaways and fab offers

A PASSION FOR FASHION

Roxanne Halenko is a bespoke dressmaker in Lancashire. Roxanne tells us: "Growing up as a young child I was constantly shrouded in a world of creativity that had been handed down through generations. My grandfather and mother influenced me to take existing garments and alter them to create a completely different piece. I created Roxanne Halenko 'Wear The Change' as a new era. I've taken what was once a family pass time and created a fresh brand with a strong focus on ethical sustainability. We offer a buyback initiative whereby we buy back your no longer used or wanted garments and upcycle them into a new piece which you can then buy back at a reduced rate to help reduce waste."

Exclusively for *Your North West Wedding*, Roxanne is offering brides-to-be 10% off any order. To claim this offer, email her at hello@roxannehalenko.com and quote 'YNWW'.

To find out more, visit roxannehalenko.com



STAY IN *luxury*

De Vere Hotels is a group of exquisite properties throughout the UK offering an unforgettable experience for even the most discerning of traveller.

From the finest London venues like the lavish De Vere Grand Connaught Rooms, to historic 18th-century mansion houses such as De Vere Beaumont Estate, just south of Windsor, there's ample choices no matter your preference; be it a pre-wedding break with your loved one, or a group get-together to celebrate your nuptials, there's a host of properties with facilities

such as spas and golf courses to enjoy a relaxing stay.

County Wedding Magazines has teamed up with De Vere Hotels to offer our chosen winner an overnight stay with breakfast at any De Vere hotel in the UK. What's more, for those unlucky in winning this lovely prize, our CWM readers can save 10% when you book direct with De Vere by joining its loyalty scheme, Applause, devere.co.uk/applause/

For your chance to win, enter via our websites. Terms and conditions apply.



ENTER ONLINE AT Yournorthwest.wedding

Closing date is 5th June, 2020, unless otherwise stated.

CROW WOOD

HOTEL & SPA RESORT



THIS IS

The One

A TRULY
MEMORABLE VENUE

Crow Wood Hotel has become the wedding venue of choice for 2020 and beyond. It has all the grandeur of a bygone era in an ultra-modern setting, with a breathtaking panorama.



Book your 2020 wedding now
crowwoodhotel.com

Spotlight on... LANCASHIRE



WEST TOWER, L39 7HJ 01695 423 328 | westtower.com

West Tower is a grand 18th-century hotel located within 10 acres of countryside. The property has a charming apex covered entrance, a secluded driveway and is surrounded by well-kept gardens and uninterrupted views of the Lancashire countryside. Inside, couples will find 27 bedrooms, a stunning bridal suite, a cosy leather lounge and a neutral décor throughout.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Couples can get married in the Ballroom. This modern and

spacious room has grand windows, wooden floors and beautiful chandeliers, with space for 140 friends and family for the service and 250 for the reception.

The Pagoda – ideal for al fresco celebrations – is decorated with impressive plants and can accommodate 140 loved ones for the vows.

WE LOVE...

The venue offers couples a complimentary menu tasting and accommodation in the bridal suite.

The bridal party will also have access to the state-of-the-art Cristal Suite on the morning of the wedding to get ready for the big day.





THE MIDLAND, LA4 4BU

01524 424 000 | englishlakes.co.uk/the-midland

The Midland is a beautiful hotel that curves gracefully along the North West coast of Morecambe Bay and boasts a restaurant, impressive views of the surrounding area and 44 stylish bedrooms. Inside, the hotel is steeped in history and Art Deco furnishings, creating a striking backdrop for photographs.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Nuptials can take place in the Oliver Hill Suite. Named after the

architect who designed The Midland, it's a bright and airy space, which can accommodate 80 nearest and dearest for the vows.

Alternatively, the Eric Gill Suite is available, with room for 140 loved ones for the service. The area can be combined with the Sun Terrace to hold 136 guests for the wedding breakfast. A partition can be removed to join the two suites together, creating space for 150 friends and family for the reception.

WE LOVE...

All couples will receive a dedicated wedding coordinator, a menu tasting and an anniversary stay when booking certain packages.



PRESTON MARRIOTT HOTEL, PR3 5JB

01772 866 503 | prestonmarriott.co.uk

Originally a Victorian manor house, the four-star Preston Marriott Hotel is situated within 11 acres of charming woodland. The property is full of character, boasting an original décor with a contemporary twist. Guests will be impressed by the long driveway, complimentary parking and extensive grounds that are perfect for garden games.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The Orangery Suite overlooks the courtyard and is ideal for intimate nuptials, with a maximum capacity of 40 loved ones.

Alternatively, the Restaurant can be transformed to accommodate up to 60 guests for the vows.

The Broughton Suite is perfect for larger celebrations and can hold 150 friends and family.

WE LOVE...

Couples will receive a complimentary menu tasting, a bedroom on the night of the wedding and a discounted room rate on their first anniversary.



SHAW HILL GOLF & SPA HOTEL, PR6 7PP 01257 269 221 | shaw-hill.co.uk

Shaw Hill Golf & Spa Hotel is a triple award-winning Grade II listed Georgian manor in Lancashire. Set in a picturesque 18 hole golf course, guests will be impressed by the 192-acre golf course, on-site bedrooms, leisure club, restaurant and spa. Couples can choose from a variety of treatments, including manicures and pedicures, massages, lashes, brows and waxing.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Ceremonies can take place in the restaurant. This charming space

houses large windows, gorgeous floors and has room for 200 guests.

The Penina Suite, with its glittering chandeliers, open layout and private bar, is also available. It can hold 200 friends and family for the service.

For more intimate nuptials, the Gold Room – with a maximum capacity of 60 loved ones – is ideal.

WE LOVE...

The three all-inclusive wedding packages, late availability and weekday promotional offers. Also check out the refurbished bridal suites and new Shaw Hill Spa and Hair Salon.

ALSO CHECK OUT...

BROCKHOLES NATURE RESERVE, PR5 0AG

01772 872 000 | brockholes.org

The stunning wedding venue at Brockholes Nature Reserve is set in the heart of 250 acres of wetland. Brockholes' eco-friendly venue has a unique floating design and all profits from nuptials are invested back into the site to continue vital wildlife conservation work.

RIBBY HALL VILLAGE, PR4 2PR

01772 685 858 | ribbyhall.co.uk

Located within a five-star holiday village, The Spa Hotel at Ribby Hall Village is the perfect place for a pre-wedding pamper, accommodation for the special day or a relaxing mini-moon.

TEEPEE TENT HIRE, PR6 8BP

01254 208 166 | teepeetenthire.com

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THE WELLBEING FARM WEDDING AND EVENTS VENUE, BL7 0BY

01204 852 113 | thewellbeingfarm.co.uk

The Wellbeing Farm Wedding and Events Venue is surrounded by moorland and incredible far-reaching views. The property boasts three bars, a firepit, a pizza oven, an Indian tipi and a llama boudoir photobooth.

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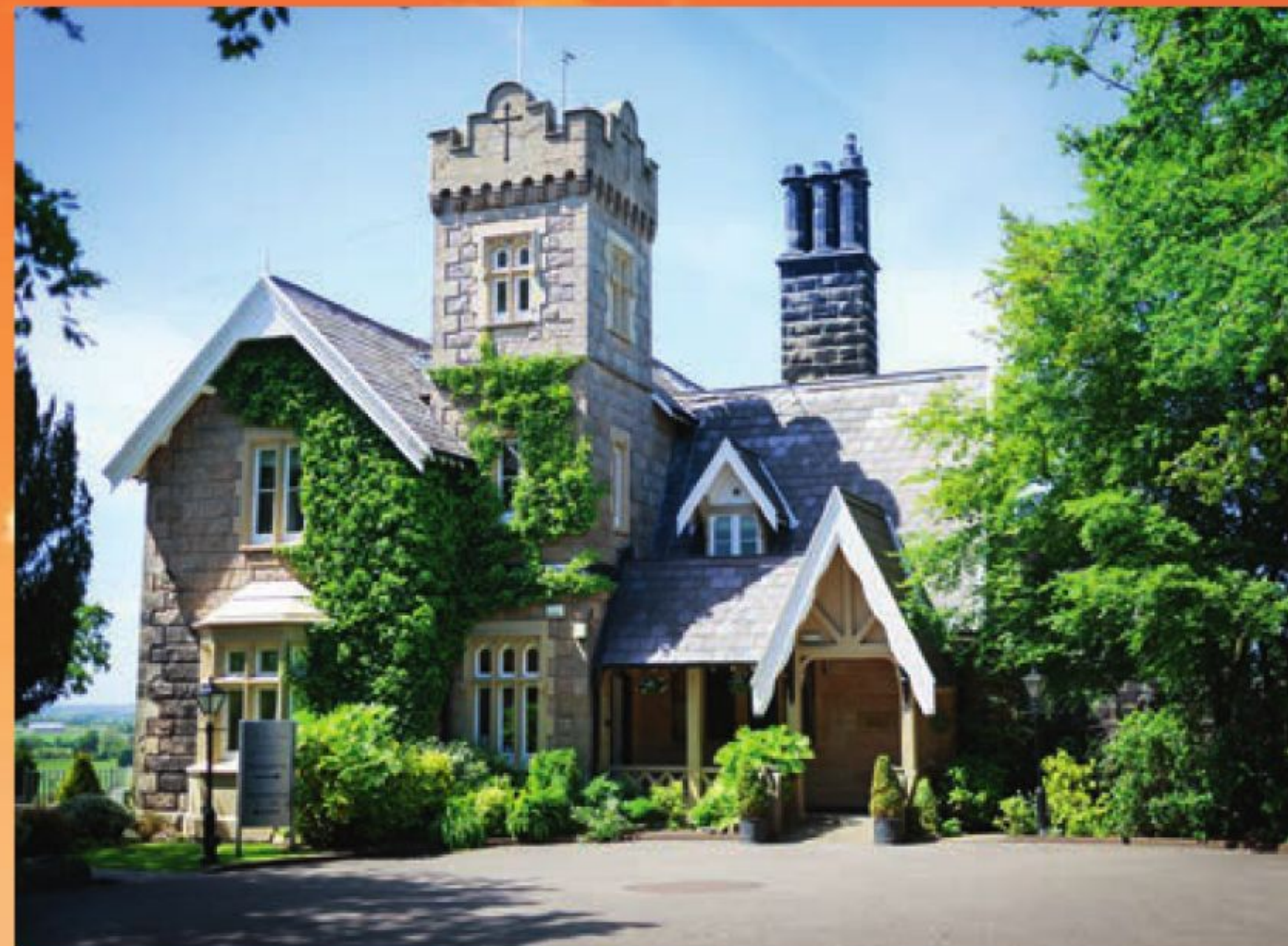
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Tuesday 7th April 4pm - 8pm

Next Wedding Showcase

Sunday 7th June 12pm - 4pm.

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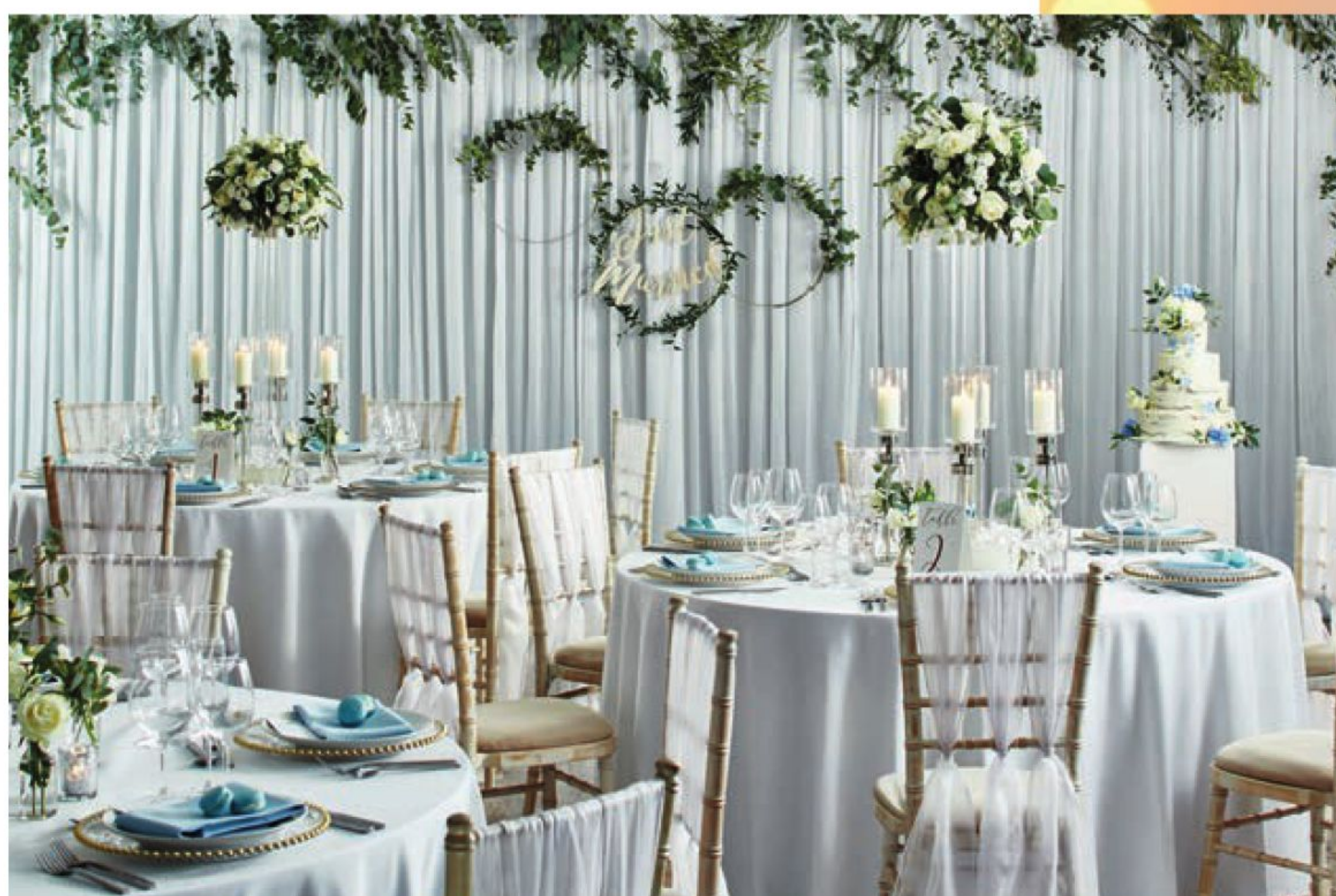
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MemoriesMadeMarriott.co.uk/Preston

Preston Marriott Hotel
01772 866503
preston.events@marriott-hotels.co.uk
Garstang Road, Broughton,
Preston PR3 5JB


MARRIOTT
PRESTON

TENTS, TIPIIS AND THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Tie the knot in an al fresco venue

THE VILLA, WREA GREEN, PR4 2PE

01772 804 040 | thevilla.co.uk/wrea-green

The Villa, Wrea Green, is a 19th-century wedding venue nestled between Preston and Blackpool. This historic property is surrounded by acres of breathtaking countryside and has a neutral décor throughout. Inside, there are 31 bedrooms, two suites, four state rooms, a variety of wedding spaces and a restaurant.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

There are plenty of areas where couples can tie the knot. The Hall boasts an oak-beamed ceiling, with space for 150 friends and family for the ceremony and 100 for the reception.

Alternatively, The Pavilion can be used. Perfect for summer

nuptials, this room has been purposefully built to resemble a marquee, with a starlit canopy and mood lighting. It's capable of holding 250 loved ones for the vows and 300 for the evening celebration.

The Octagon, with a maximum capacity of 19 guests, is ideal for more intimate weddings.

Lastly, the cosy Piano Lounge can be used for receptions. The area has high ceilings, glistening chandeliers and a grand staircase with space for 50 nearest and dearest.

WE LOVE...

That couples will receive a complimentary breakfast taster, a bedroom on the night of the wedding and a reduced rate on their first anniversary.

h2photography.co.uk





HOLBECK GHYLL, LA23 1LU

01539 432 375 | holbeckghyll.com

Holbeck Ghyll is a 19th-century hunting lodge built by Lord Lonsdale. In 1973, it was transformed into a hotel and boasts acres of countryside, large bay windows and an ivy covered façade. Guests will be impressed by the far-reaching views of the nearby mountains, lakes and fells, creating an impressive backdrop for photographs.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The Oak Room is a charming space in the hotel's main restaurant that houses a large fireplace and oak-panelled walls. This room will seat 45, however, there's the option to open out the room into the Bar and Lounge to seat 64.

The Seagrave Room is a purpose-built, contemporary room set

20 yards from the main hotel. It has a striking décor, stunning views and can hold 32 friends and family for the service.

The Lonsdale Room is located in the original part of the property and boasts a beautiful fireplace and bay windows. It can accommodate 20 (including the bride and groom) for the vows.

The Drawing Room is used for more intimate celebrations, this space boasts a neutral décor throughout, ideal for couples looking for a blank canvas, with room for eight (including the bride and groom) for the ceremony and reception.

A Marquee can be erected to hold up to 150 people, giving unprecedented views of the lake and beyond.

WE LOVE...

Couples will receive a personalised menu and tasting session created by the venue's head chef.

helenwhitaker.com



THE GARDEN AT EDEN, CA6 4RA

01228 573 003 | gardenateden.co.uk

The Garden at Eden is a charming venue perched on the banks of the River Eden. The marquee is a permanent fixture with a gravel path that lights up in the evening, heating, a wooden pergola, a double-sided bar, a neutral décor throughout and an oval-shaped conservatory with large windows that overlook the Lake District fells.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Ceremonies can take place in The Garden Room, which has an arched pathway and a private entrance for the bridal party. This area can hold up to 180 guests for the service and 100 for the wedding breakfast.

Receptions are held in the main section of the marquee, which can accommodate up to 400 loved ones throughout the day or can be made smaller if needed.

WE LOVE...

Lovebirds will receive a complimentary menu tasting and use of the on-site management services.



TWEEDIES BAR & LODGE, LA22 9SW

01539 435 300 | tweediesgrasmere.com

Tweedies Bar & Lodge is a rustic wedding venue in Grasmere. Nestled amongst some of the most famous Lake District fells, guests can enjoy 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains, perfect for photographs. The on-site bedrooms feature individual Harris Tweed, bespoke cushions and soft furnishings to create a modern yet cosy space.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

There are three areas licensed for ceremonies. The Lodge has recently been refurbished, it features tweed made by local Herdwick sheep farmer, Charlotte Harnby, and is capable of holding 70 guests for the vows and sit down meal.

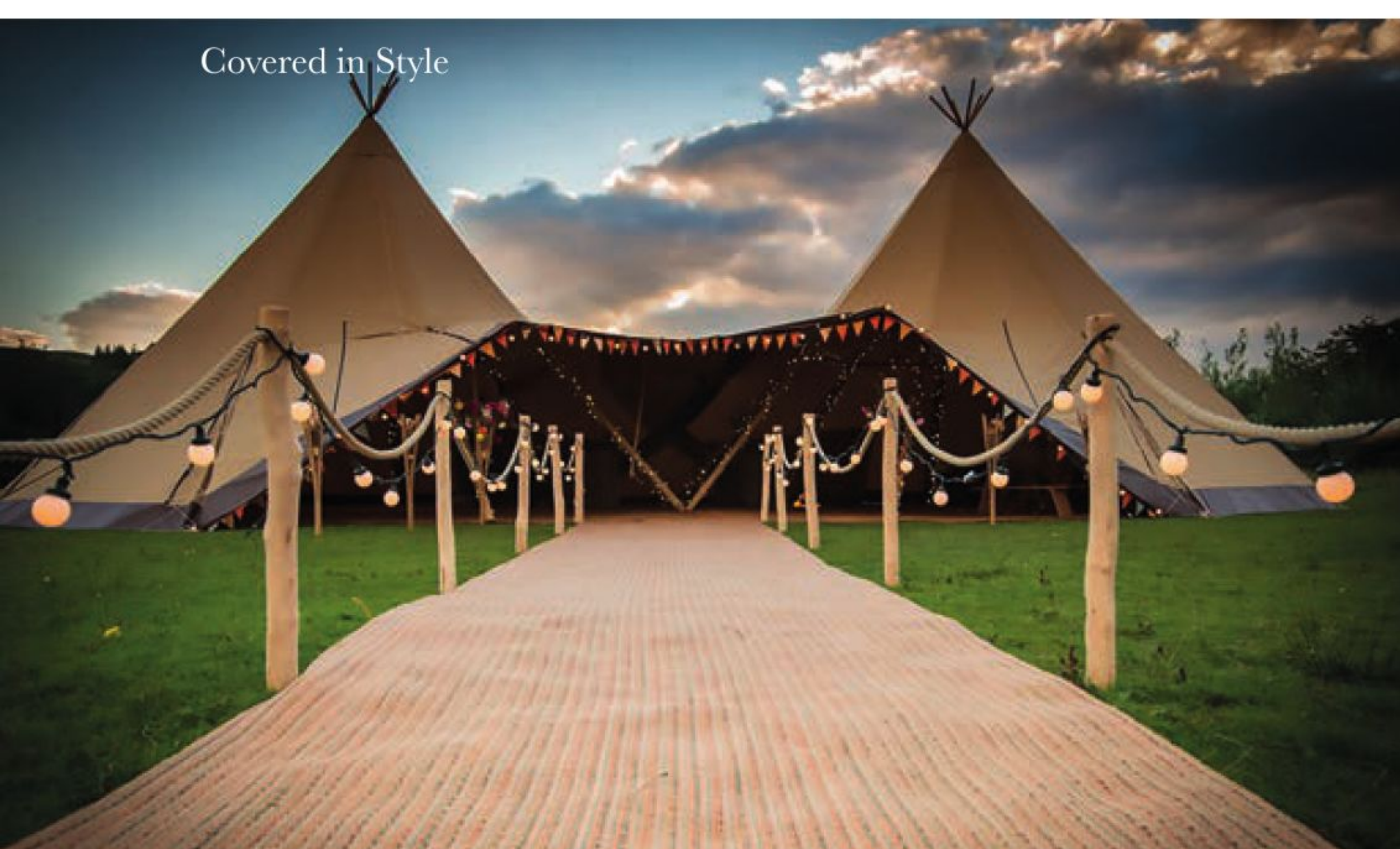
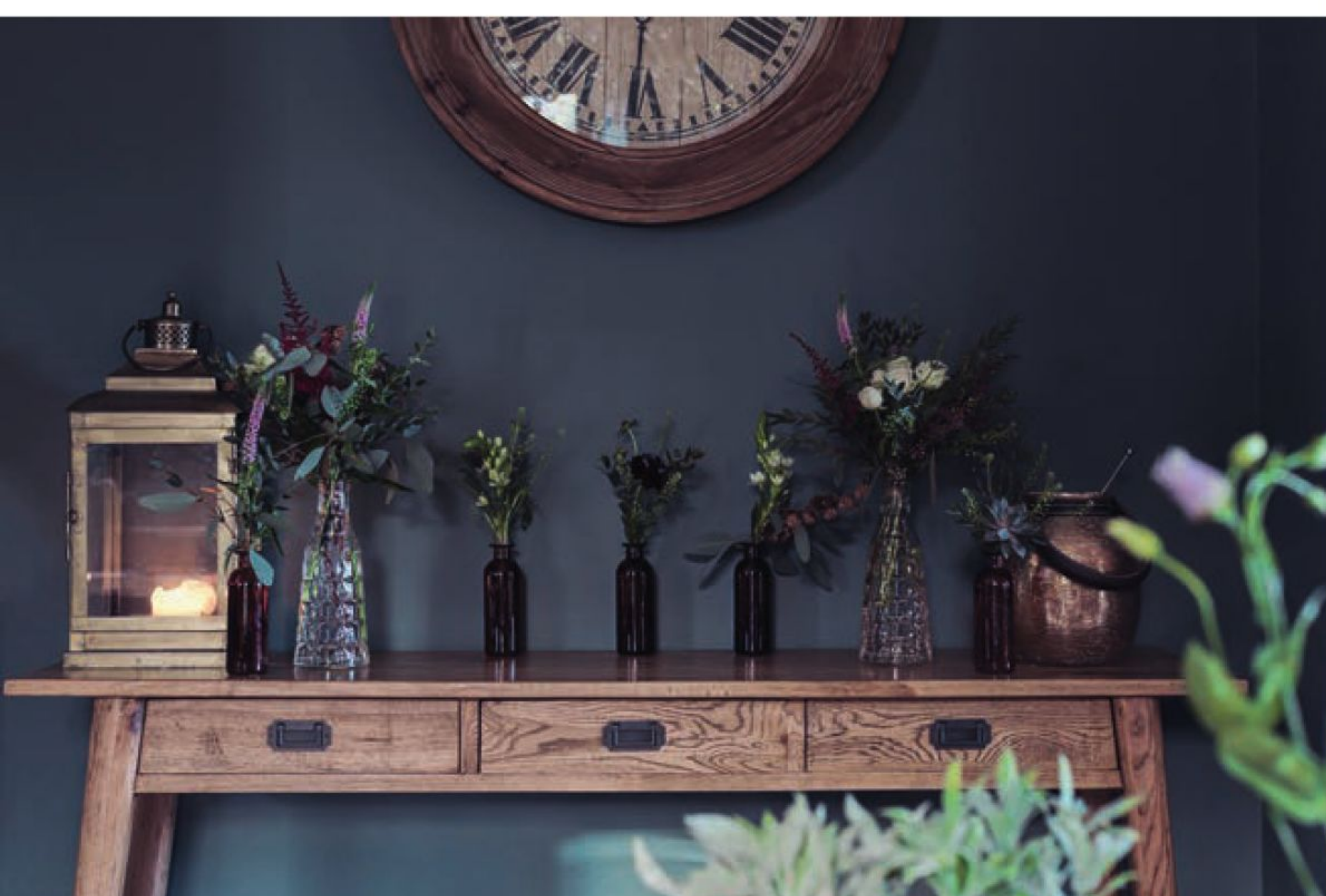
Alternatively, the Lounge can be used. The space can hold up to 25 loved ones for the service.

Couples looking for al fresco celebrations can tie the knot in the garden or a marquee can be erected for larger nuptials.

The property is within walking distance of St Oswald's Church for those preferring a traditional church ceremony.

WE LOVE...

The grounds play host to the Lake District's largest beer and music festival. The venue also has a great reputation for both food and drink, and the staff are great at organising large-scale events.



ABBHEY HOUSE HOTEL & GARDENS, LA13 0PA

01229 838 282 | abbeyhousehotel.com

Abbey House Hotel & Gardens is a modern venue which blends a contemporary style with impressive architecture. The property recently underwent a multi-million-pound refurbishment making every room and suite tastefully modern. The hotel was originally a mansion designed by the famous architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens before it was converted into the current premises. Set within 14 acres of private woodland, the grounds are lovingly cared for by the hotel's head gardener and his team.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

The Great Hall is the ideal space for couples looking for a more



traditional setting. It has space for up to 80 guests throughout the day.

Larger celebrations can take place in the Cavendish Suite, which can hold 200 loved ones for the ceremony and reception.

Alternatively, The Garden Room provides a more intimate setting with room for 20 friends and family for the service and evening celebration.

For the first time in 2021, the hotel will be hosting tipi and marquee weddings for up to 100 nearest and dearest.

WE LOVE...

Couples will receive a complimentary stay for the initial show around and depending on the package chosen a menu tasting and anniversary stay.



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RIBBY ROAD, WREA GREEN, PR4 2PR

A DAY TO *remember*

Emma and Elliott were close friends before becoming a couple. "It took us a few years to finally take the plunge and get together," says Emma. "I think it worked out perfectly as friendship is the perfect base for any relationship."

Elliott popped the question during a trip to Thailand for Emma's 30th birthday. "We were surrounded by elephants after a day of trekking through the Chiang Mai Highlands," shares the bride. "It was towards the end of the day, and it was just us and the elephants when Elliott got down on one knee and asked me to marry him. I was on such a high, and it took me by complete surprise. We then spent the most incredible three weeks travelling around Thailand."

Here she shares some of her favourite moments from their big day...

Emma and Elliott danced the night away at
Edenhall Estate

Images courtesy of Bloom Weddings



Edenhall Estate was the first venue we viewed in the Lake District. We had looked at a few in Yorkshire, but quickly decided we wanted to tie the knot near where I was born and grew up. As soon as we saw the barn, beautiful mountains and woodlands, we knew it was the place for us. The team at Edenhall Estate gave us total control over the day, which was exactly what we wanted. We were optimistic and planned to have people outside most of the day, and luckily it paid off, as the clouds cleared revealing stunning views.



I'm a wedding stationery designer and have my own business called Blush & Blossom. From the beginning, I wanted our save-the-dates to be something a bit different that our guests could have fun with. I designed a piece that could be built into an upstanding tipi structure that then revealed our wedding details. These went down a storm and I now offer them as a product on my Etsy shop. I then went on to create matching invitations. I made folded invites which included custom illustrations of us both, along with a handy map to find the venue and a tear-off rsvp. I wanted everything to match so I also created the order-of-service, name cards, menus and tags to tie around our gin-bottle favours. I absolutely loved making my own stationery, even though I do it as a job there was still something special about getting to design my own creations.



For our decorations, we used a company called Wilde & Romantic. We met the lovely Janet who invited us to her unit, which is a treasure trove for anything vintage and quirky. We ended up hiring several items including whiskey barrels, gold-framed chalkboards, fruit crates, a vintage bike, candlesticks and some slate signs which were beautifully decorated by a local calligraphy artist called Jill Liley Lettering.



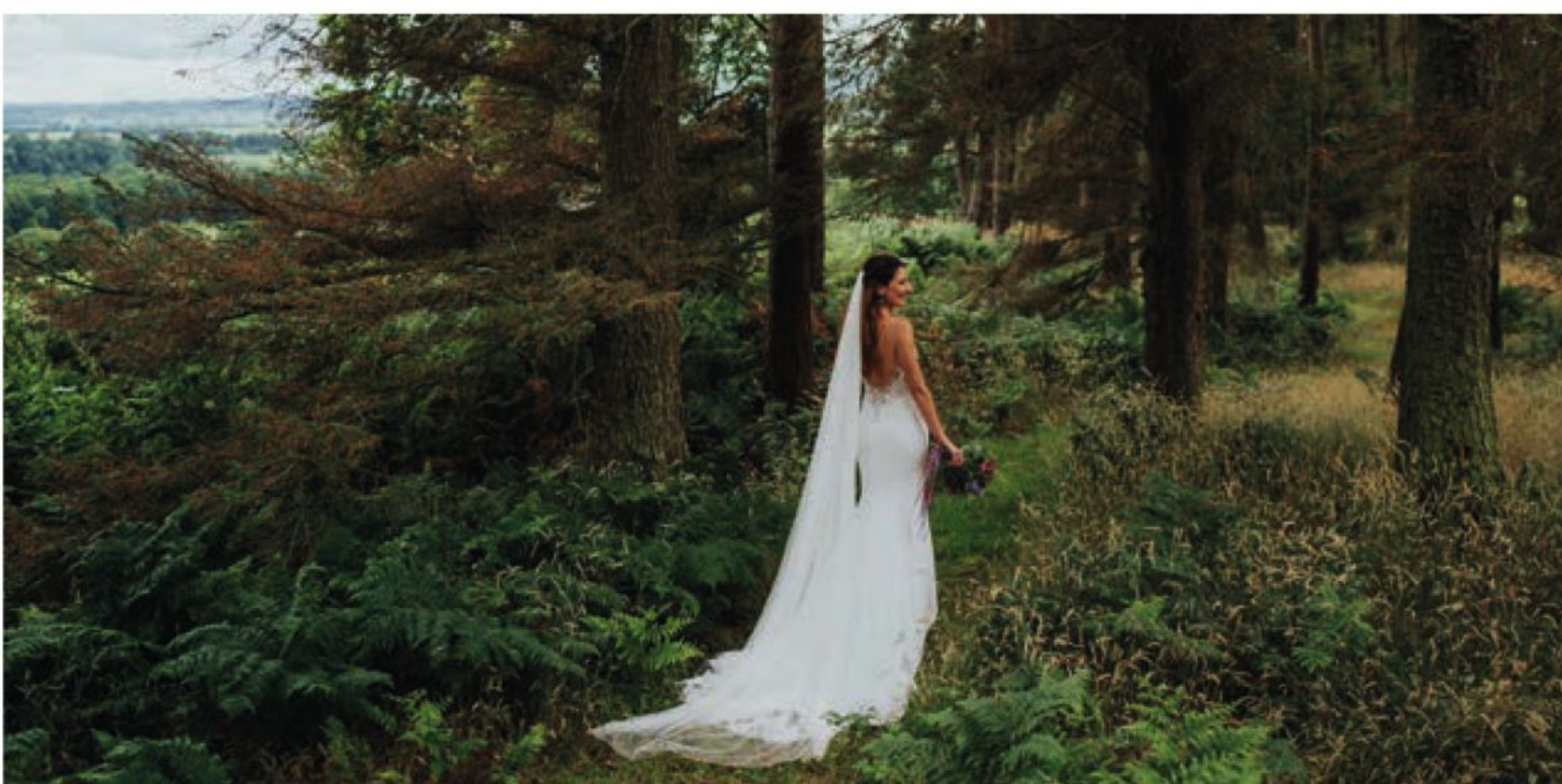
Special Event Tipis who provided our tipi were outstanding. The team were so helpful during every part of the planning process and gave us the flexibility to choose our own layout, furniture and props. We chose to have an outdoor firepit for toasting marshmallows, Moroccan lanterns and a carnival sign for the dancefloor. They made it look so magical in the evening and were an absolute dream to work with.



We wanted the day to feel personal, so we created a Polaroid photo wall which included photos of our friends and family, mixed with some amazing holiday snaps of Elliott and me. We also had an area set up for cards, our guestbook and seating plan.



Elliott and I wanted wild looking flowers, and when we met with Laura from Greenwheat Flowers & Fika, we loved her rustic style and booked her straight away. Laura did all of the bouquets, buttonholes, milk churns and a basket full of flowers for our vintage bike. For the tables, we visited Cumberland Flower Farm and bought some buckets of mixed wildflowers. We also purchased a hanging Edison bulb chandelier provided by Roseberry Floral Design that looked stunning.



After trying on a few dresses in the style I thought I'd originally go for and not really loving them, Allyson from The Harrogate Wedding Lounge pulled a wildcard design. As soon as I tried it on, I instantly loved it, and could tell from the look on my mum and bridesmaid's face it was *the one*. It was called *Juri* by Enzoani and had a beautiful lace bodice with an illusion train and low back. I paired it with a full-length veil, ivory heels and gorgeous earrings from Liberty in Love.



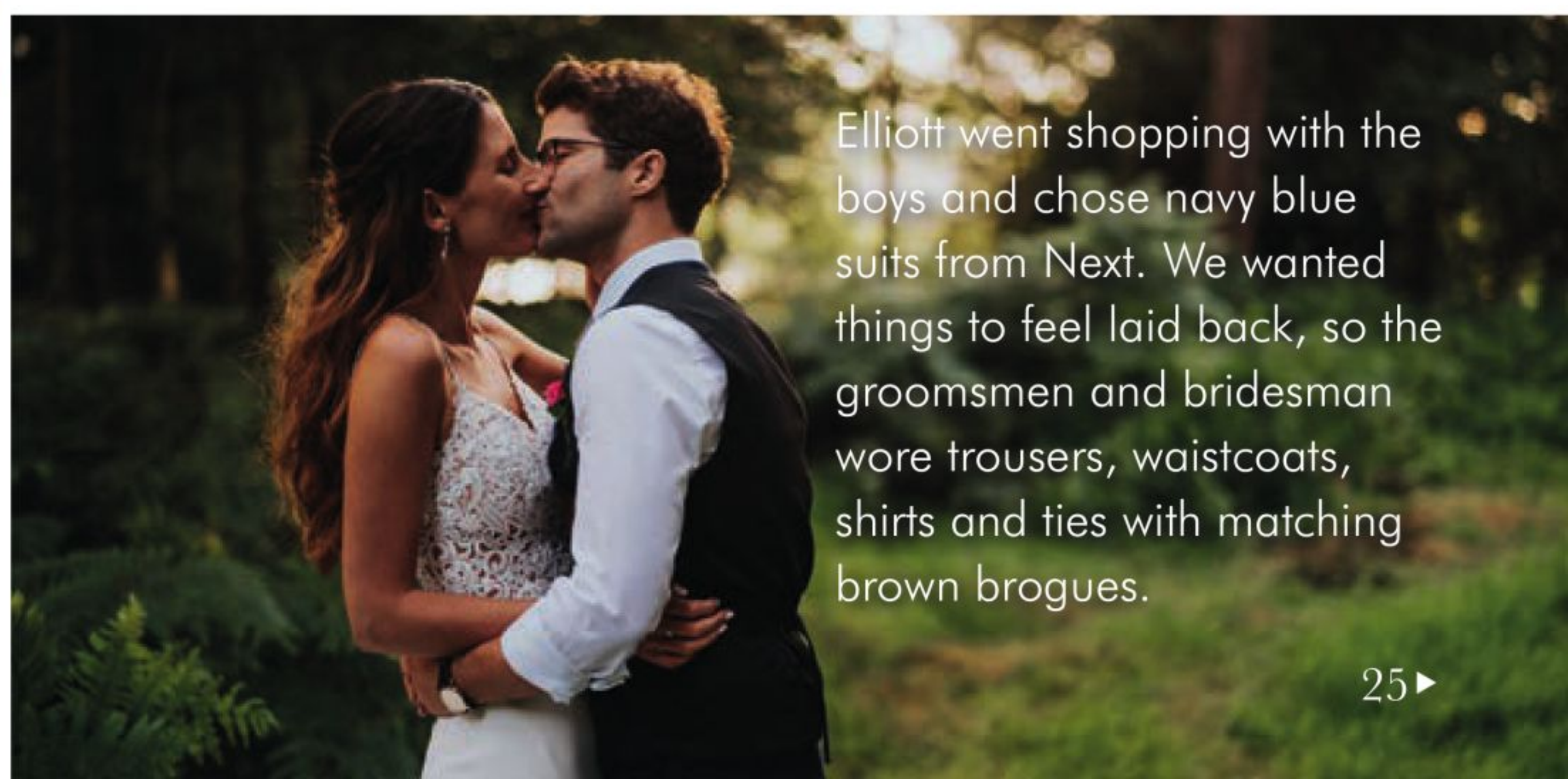
Getting ready in the morning with all of my favourite people around me was an amazing feeling. I loved getting chauffeured to the church with my dad by Elliott's uncle in his golden Jaguar and seeing Elliott as I walked down the aisle.

REAL WEDDINGS

Although we both love cake, we adore cheese too, so we decided to have a grazing board in the evening and a tower of mixed cheese instead of a traditional bake. We found Penrith-based company J&J Graham Penrith. They advised how much we needed and invited us to a tasting session which we loved. The tower was delivered on the morning of the wedding and decorated by our caterers, Bears Pantry, with grapes, figs and ferns.



To keep everyone entertained, we created music playlists for certain parts of the day as we wanted each to have a slightly different vibe. We had playlists for welcome drinks, during dinner and then in the evening our friend, Owen, busted out the tunes until the early morning. It's safe to say the dancefloor was full all night and we loved that our loved ones could play such a big part of our day.

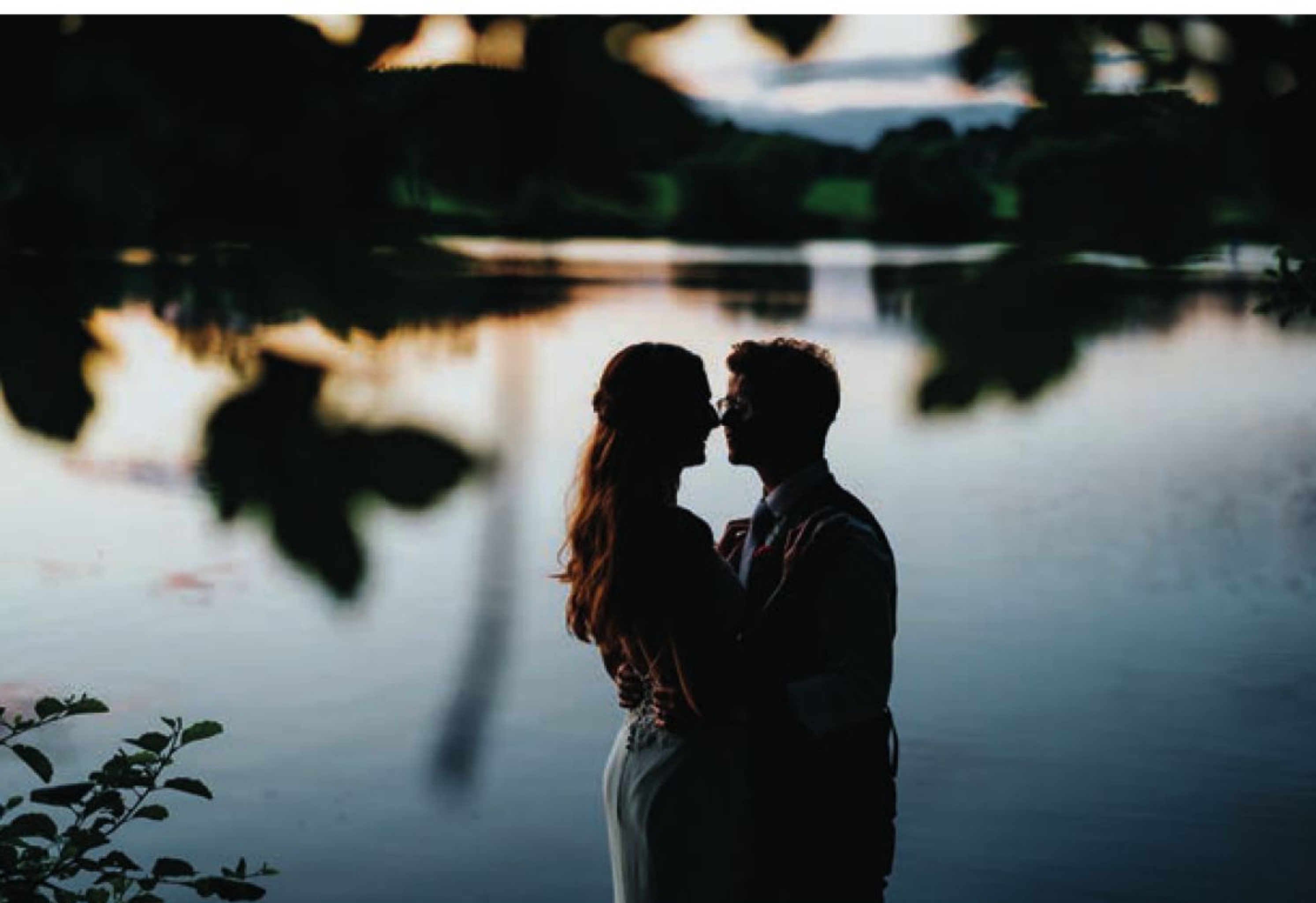
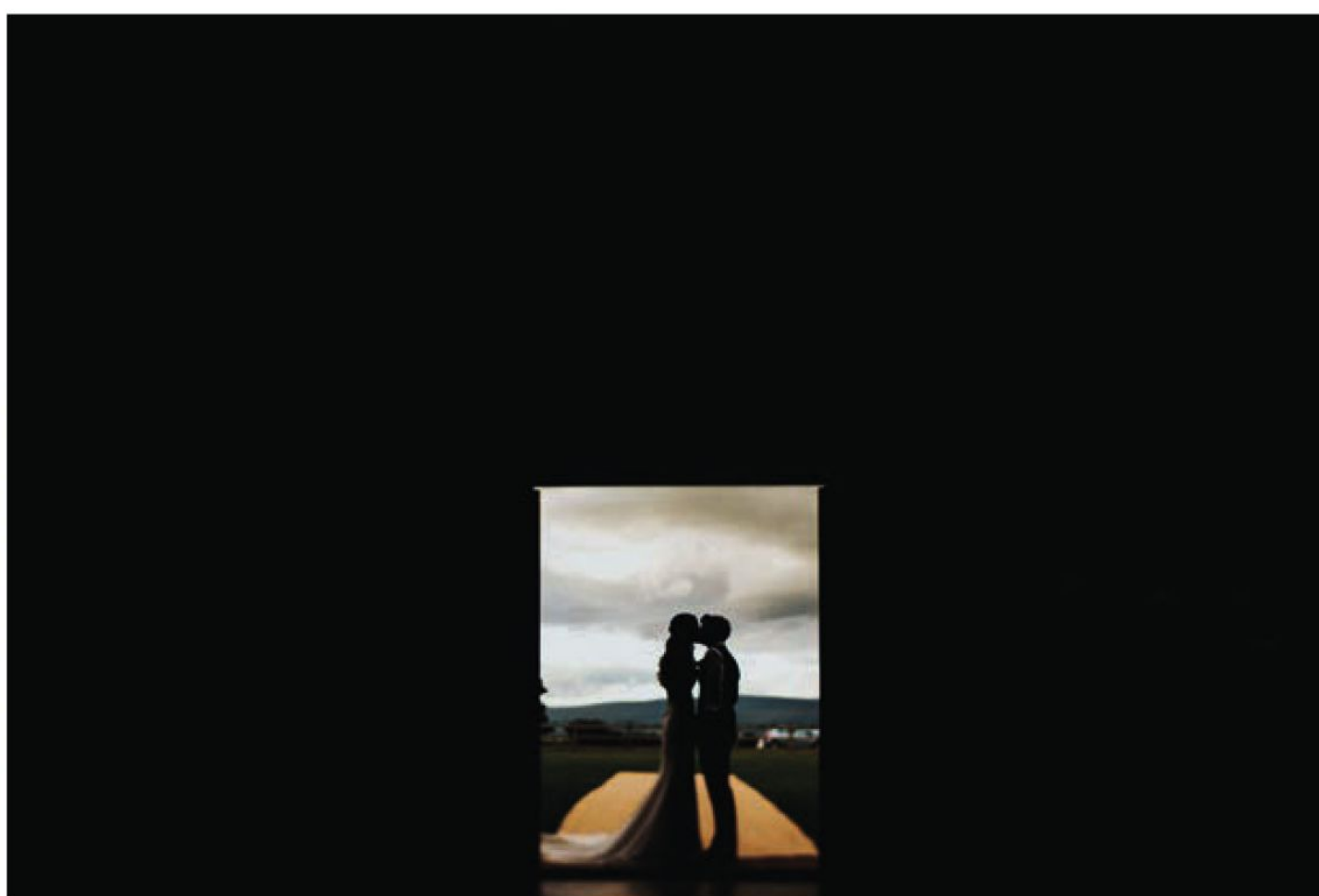


Elliott went shopping with the boys and chose navy blue suits from Next. We wanted things to feel laid back, so the groomsmen and bridesman wore trousers, waistcoats, shirts and ties with matching brown brogues.



My dad's speech blew everyone away, and many people said it was one of the best they'd ever heard! I loved sneaking off with Elliott to get some photos in the woods and spending some time together. Once all of our guests had left, Elliott and I sat outside on a Chesterfield sofa under a blanket looking at the stars in awe of everything that had just happened. It was the best day ever.

We went on our honeymoon a couple of days after the wedding. We love travelling and experiencing new cultures, so we decided to travel around Indonesia for three weeks. It was the perfect ending to our wedding and the best start to married life.



EMMA AND ELLIOTT'S CONTACTS

Venue, Edenhall Estate, edenhallestate.com | **Photographer**, Bloom Weddings, bloomweddings.co.uk | **Tipi**, Special Event Tipis, specialeventtipis.co.uk | **Dress**, The Harrogate Wedding Lounge, theharrogateweddinglounge.com | **Bride's earrings**, Liberty in Love, libertyinlove.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Lauren Amy Makeup, laurenamymakeup.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, Natalie Shafii, natalieshafii.format.com | **Stationery**, Blush & Blossom, blushandblossom.com | **Cheese tower**, J&J Graham Penrith, jjgraham.co.uk | **Props**, Wilde & Romantic, wildeandromantic.co.uk | **Bouquets and buttonholes**, Greenwheat Flowers & Fika, greenwheat.co.uk | **Tipi chandelier flowers**, Roseberry Floral Design, 01228 711 641 | **Table flowers**, Cumberland Flower Farm, cumberlandflowerfarm.co.uk | **Chalkboard lettering**, Jill Liley Lettering, jillliley.com | **Bar**, Craftbar, craftbaruk.com | **Catering**, Bears Pantry, bearsantry.com



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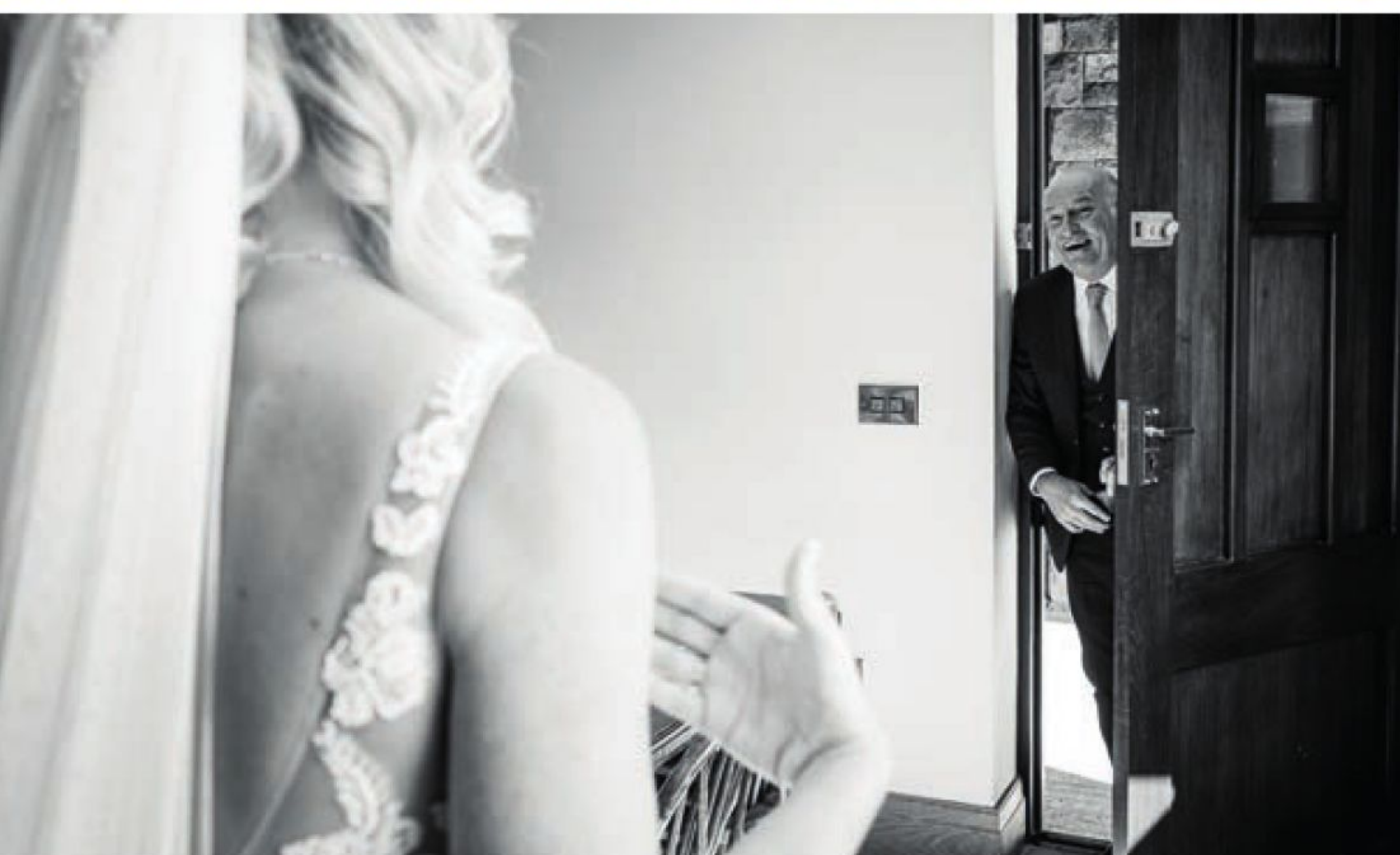
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Rustic Romance

Rachel and Richard had a
beautiful wedding at The Wellbeing Farm
Images courtesy of Creative Camera Photography





Rachel and Richard met at work in 2013. “Rich was assigned as my mentor, so we ended up spending lots of time together,” says Rachel. “As cheesy as it sounds, we couldn’t stay away from each other from the minute we met, and that hasn’t changed since!”

Richard popped the question in Kynance Cove in Cornwall. “I had no idea and was wondering why Rich wouldn’t let me tuck into the picnic,” shares the bride. “When there was no one else in the cove, he got down on one knee and popped the question. It was a massive surprise, and we couldn’t have been happier.”

SETTING THE SCENE

“We fell in love with The Wellbeing Farm from the second we walked in,” explains Rachel. “It had so much personality and the laid-back vibe we wanted. We chose Lancashire as that’s where I’m originally from, and we ended up moving just around the corner. The animals were a lovely touch, and we were so happy with our choice.”

The couple chose an R&R theme for their big day. “We have lots of memorabilia that everyone laughs at in our home,” shares the bride. “We know how much our friends and family love a party, so sloe gin with rustic labels seemed the obvious choice for our favours.”

The lovebirds incorporated flowers into their décor from L&C Floral Design Manchester. “We chose natural, rustic and wild-looking blooms to continue our theme,” Rachel adds. “The venue was so well decorated that we wanted to keep things simple yet effective.”

Rachel and Richard decided to have a savoury cake provided by The Wellbeing Farm. “We chose a cheese and pork pie filling,”

says the bride. "It was well decorated and even had llamas on it!"

The catering was supplied by the venue. "The main focus of our wedding was for all our loved ones to be together, so we decided to have sharing platters," shares Rachel. "It kept the party vibe going and received rave reviews from our guests."

The couple are big fans of hiking and decided to name their tables after mountains that they had climbed together. "Our place names were designed by a very good friend of ours," explains the bride. "We kept them understated to match our rustic theme with a simple string tie and a sprig of thyme."

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Rachel chose a backless Maggie Sottero dress from Blush Boutique. "I surprised everyone as they thought I'd turn up in something completely plain," laughs Rachel. "I accessorised with Links of London diamond jewellery and shoes from Rainbow Club."

Richard opted for a three-piece grey herringbone tailored suit from Owen Scott. "He wore a knitted tie and personalised cufflinks," Rachel adds. "The groomsmen wore the same but in a slightly darker shade to make Rich stand out."

The bridesmaids chose sage green gowns from Victoria Lou Bridal. "They were multiway, so they could wear them how they wanted," explains the bride. "The girls looked great, and the dresses matched our theme perfectly."

TIME TO CELEBRATE

"To keep our guests entertained, we had a singer called Rachael Green live perform," says Rachel. "She got the party going, delaying the meal but it was completely worth it, she was amazing! In the evening, we had Hyde Family Jam play. We loved watching them busking in the streets of York. We wanted York to be a big part of our wedding to represent where we met. Their folk style music had everyone foot-stomping and bouncing. Once they finished, Andy K DJ came on stage and played a fantastic set leaving the dancefloor rammed from start to finish."

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

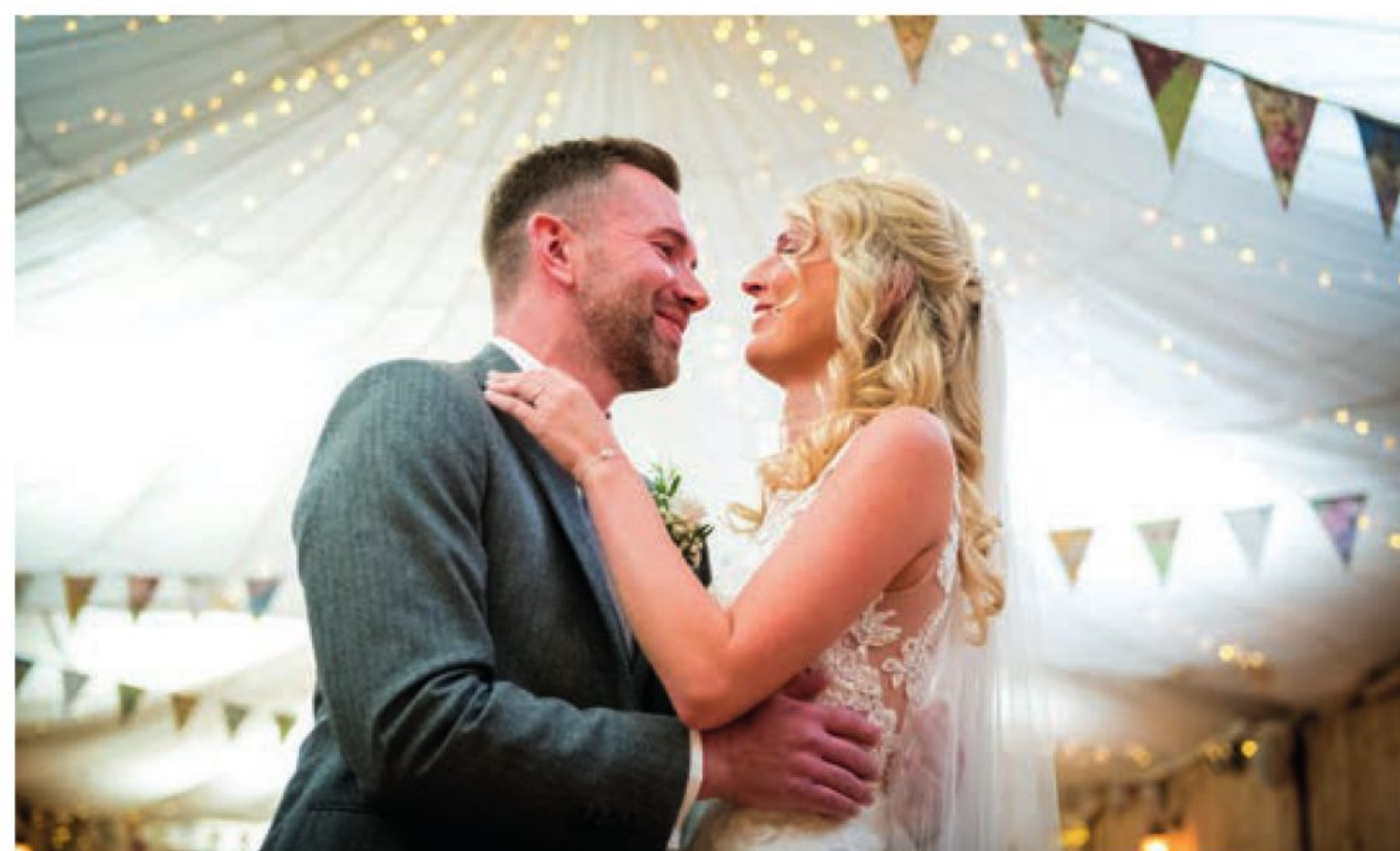
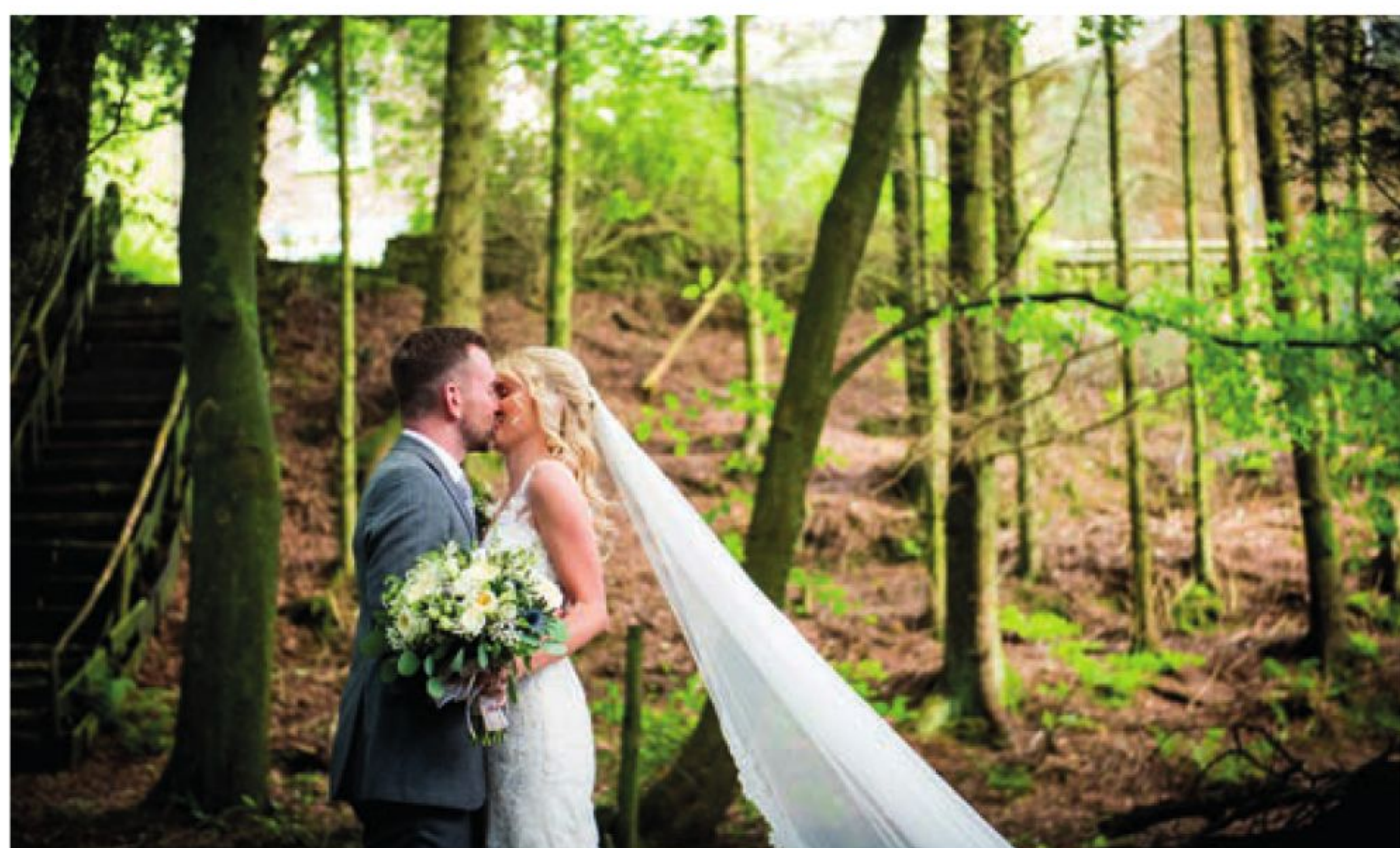
"We felt overwhelmed, loved and very lucky on the morning of the wedding," shares the bride. "We couldn't have asked for more. It's cliché but it truly was the best day of our lives, and we want to do it all over again."

The happy couple's loved ones made the day even more special. "One bridesmaid fell off a gate during the pictures resulting in her dress turning from green to brown," laughs Rachel. "We also loved seeing everyone's reactions to the llamas, Lorie and Ezra, wearing bow ties during the drinks reception."

HONEYMOON

"We went to South Africa for two weeks," explains the bride. "We had an amazing time. It's a beautiful country with a lot of wildlife and a ridiculous amount of food and wine! We'd return in a heartbeat."





RACHEL AND RICHARD'S CONTACTS

Venue and cake, The Wellbeing Farm, thewellbeingfarm.co.uk | **Photographer,** Creative Camera Photography, creative-camera.org
Bride's dress, Blush Boutique, blushboutique-weddings.co.uk | **Bride's jewellery,** Links of London, linksoflondon.com | **Bride's shoes,** Rainbow Club, rainbowclub.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses,** Victoria Lou Bridal, victorialou.co.uk | **Hair stylist,** Jessica Rothwell Hairdressing, facebook.com/jessicarothwellhairdressing | **Make-up artists,** Hannah Rogers Makeup, facebook.com/hanrogersmakeup; Charlotte Kate Hair & Makeup, instagram.com/charlottekatehairandmakeup | **Groom's suit,** Owen Scott, owenscott.co.uk | **Favours,** Miniature Glass Bottles Limited, miniatureglassbottles.co.uk | **Flowers,** L&C Floral Design Manchester, l-cfloraldesignmanchester.com
Stationery printing, Galloways, galloways.co.uk | **Transport,** Absolute Bliss, absoluteblisswhire.co.uk | **Band,** Hyde Family Jam, hydefamilyjam.com | **Guitarist,** Rachael Green Live, facebook.com/rachaelgreenlive | **DJ,** Andy K DJ, andykdj.com

TIMELESS *elegance*

Hollie and Jack tied the knot
at Ashfield House

Images courtesy of Cathy Brown Photography

Hollie and Jack met seven years ago during a night out in Wigan. "He was really friendly, and I instantly felt comfortable around him," says Hollie. "In 2018, he took me on a surprise weekend away to York and proposed in our hotel room. We decided we wanted to get married right away and started looking at venues as soon as we got home."

Here she shares some of her favourite moments from their big day...





We fell in love with Ashfield House as soon as we walked in. It felt grand, traditional and very homely. I loved the décor and thought it would look beautiful with lots of roses and candles. The staff were great, especially Josh, who made us feel really calm and ensured everything ran smoothly.



For Jack's suit, we visited Ted Baker and decided on a tuxedo with a velvet bow tie.



For our flowers, we chose roses, peonies and foliage from The Rose Boutique. I also had a single yellow rose in my bouquet as it was my granddad's favourite. Sarah Crookston was amazing, and the blooms were more than we could have asked for.



Jack loves James Bond, so we decided to have themed table names. We bought gold picture frames and my sister hand-painted the film names on them. These complemented the candles and rose gold centrepieces perfectly.



Our cake was four tiers and made up from chocolate sponge, vanilla and lime buttercream, gin and tonic sponge and lemon. We purchased it from Jo's Cakery and decorated it with buttercream, fruit and flowers. We also added a light dusting of gold glitter and a wooden cake-topper.



My dress was a Pronovias design called Davinia from Eternity Bridalwear. I was initially unsure of the style I wanted, but once I'd tried it on, I knew it was the one. I loved the mixture of silk and lace, the shoulders, and how pretty it looked. Ann the seamstress was amazing, she was so patient and fit the dress perfectly to my shape.



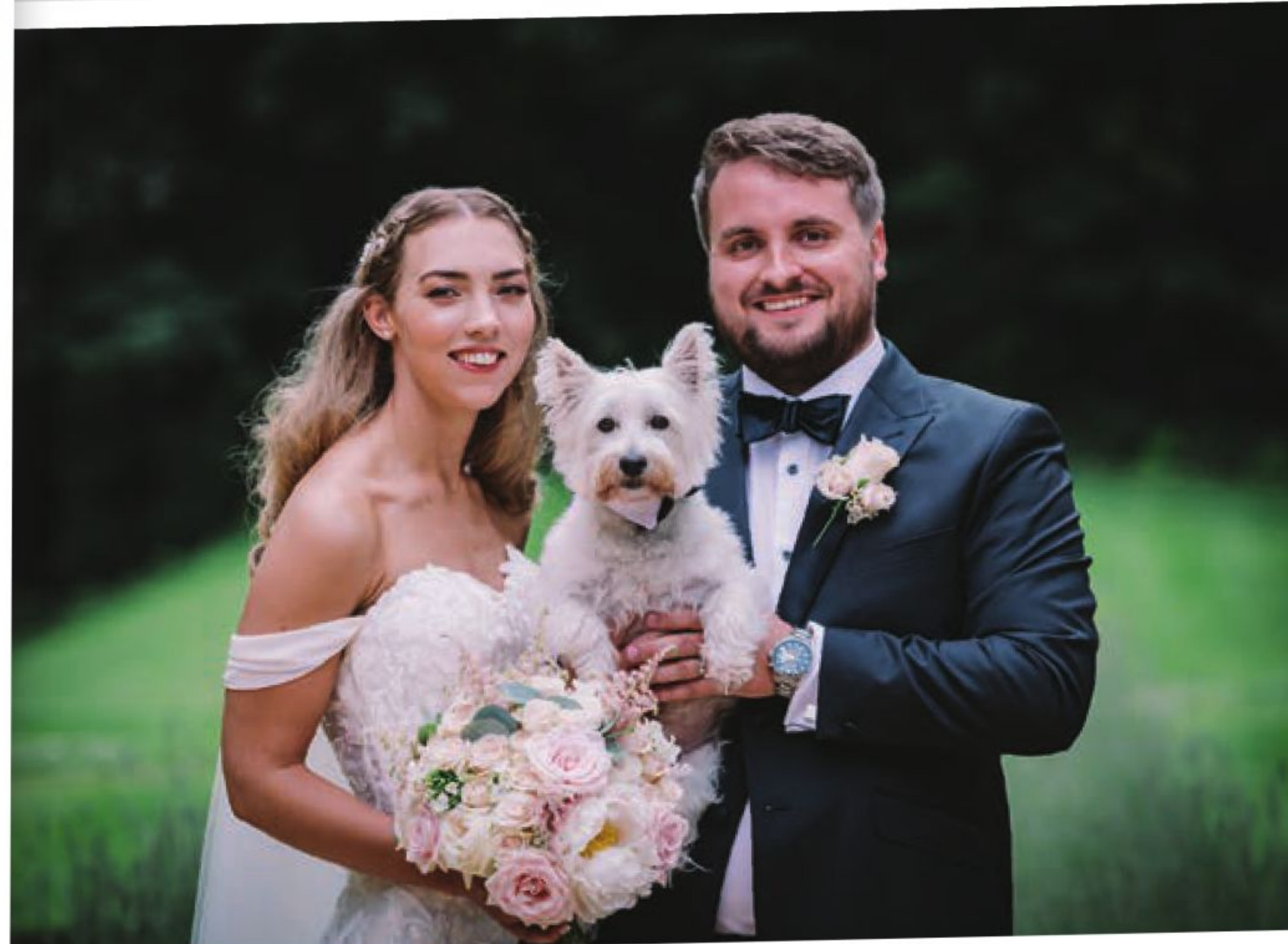
My bridesmaids wore fitted green dresses which were slightly off-the-shoulder to match my gown.



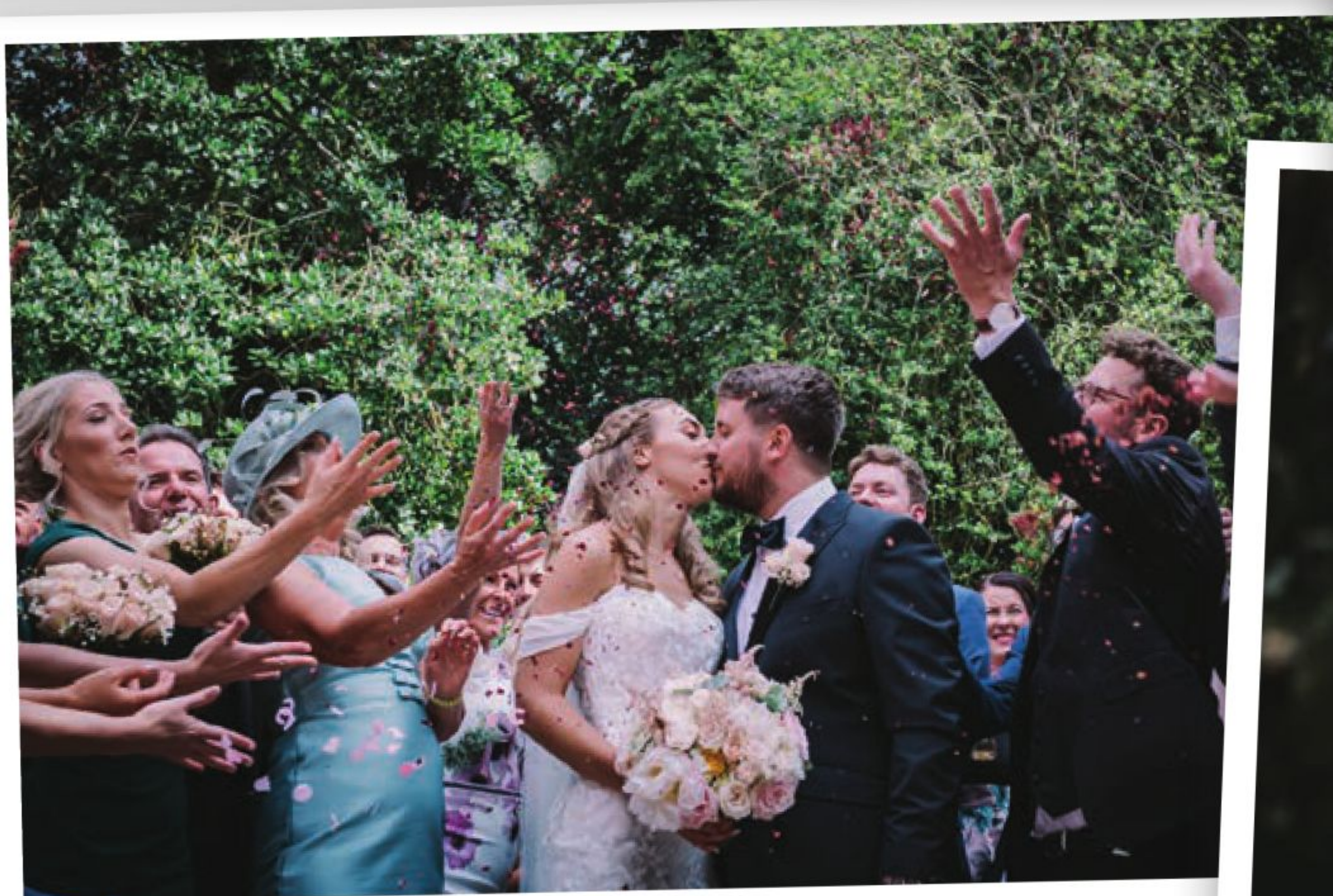
My dad's speech was really beautiful and emotional. We want to thank everyone involved with our day, especially our parents. I couldn't have done it without them and my twin sister, Jess.



Before and during the ceremony we had a fabulous harpist play. After the wedding breakfast, we had a casino provided by Pier Fun Casinos. I surprised Jack by asking for the chips to have our faces on.



Cathy Brown, our photographer, was amazing on the day. She made us feel relaxed and took control of the group shots leaving us with no worries. We loved all of our pictures.



We felt relaxed during the ceremony. I think it was because we could feel the love from all of our friends and family. The whole day ran smoothly, and the weather was beautiful.



For our honeymoon, we went to Mexico for 10 nights. The hotel was amazing, and we even had a romantic meal on the beach. We went on trips and had the holiday of a lifetime.



HOLLIE AND JACK'S CONTACTS

Venue and catering, Ashfield House, ashfieldhousehotel.co.uk | **Photographer,** Cathy Brown Photography, cathybrownphotography.co.uk | **Bride's dress and veil,** Eternity Bridalwear, eternitybridalwear.co.uk | **Bridesmaids' dresses,** SilkFred, silkfred.com | **Hair and make-up artist,** Evka Allen Hair and Make-up, evka-allen.com | **Groom's suit,** Ted Baker, tedbaker.com | **Cake,** Jo's Cakery, joscakery.co.uk | **Flowers,** The Rose Boutique, theroseboutique.co.uk | **Stationery,** Bespoke North West, facebook.com/jessbespokenorthwest | **Entertainment,** Pier Fun Casinos, pierfuncasinos.co.uk



CATHY BROWN
PHOTOGRAPHY

www.cathybrownphotography.co.uk

cathybrownphotography@gmail.com

[Facebook.com/CathyBrownPhotography](https://www.facebook.com/CathyBrownPhotography)

[Instagram.com/CathyBrownPhotography](https://www.instagram.com/CathyBrownPhotography)



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THE GREAT

outdoors

Katie and Oliver had a fun celebration in a quirky tipi

Images courtesy of Maddie Farris Photography

Katie and Oliver met at infants school. "We were in the same school until we were around seven years old," says Katie. "I had a massive crush on him, but seeing as I barely spoke, I never said a word to him! I did, however, treasure the tea towel that we both drew our faces on as part of a school activity. Ollie and his family then moved 163 miles away to Tiverton, and I assumed I'd never see him again. Then one day, 16 years later, he popped up as one of my suggested friends on Facebook. I added him and sent him a message to see if he remembered me. Much to my surprise, he replied within seconds and said 'Yes! I still have a tea towel with your face on it!' We messaged back and forth for weeks, bonding over our love of

music and comedy. Then I moved to Manchester, and he went travelling. We chatted online for about a year before planning Ollie's first trip to Manchester, where I took him on a surprise Legends Tour of Old Trafford for our first date."

Oliver asked Katie to become his wife after five wonderful years together. "Every year Ollie and I have a barbecue at our house to celebrate our birthdays," shares the bride. "On the 23rd June, 2017 we'd invited friends and family from all over the UK to celebrate Ollie's birthday. Everyone arrived, and the party was in full swing when it started raining. Ollie insisted that everyone go into the dining room and I couldn't understand why he was making such a big deal about the tiniest bit of

rain. When we got into the dining room, he got everyone around in a circle and started to make a speech. He thanked everyone for being there and reached into his pocket and pulled out a ring box, got down on one knee and asked me to marry him! I saw straight away that he'd had a ring designed and made for me based on one I'd seen years ago. Rather than saying 'yes' I just kept saying 'you had it made!' and he had to remind me that I needed to answer. As soon as he stood up, he hugged me and kissed me, and we had the biggest group hug. The party continued late into the night, and we were over the moon."

Here she shares some of her favourite moments from their big day...





The first time we laid eyes on Towneley Hall, we fell in love. It felt like something out of a fancy magazine. The stunning rooms had high ceilings, ornate décor and expansive grounds. We wanted a jewel-tone theme, and the deep red walls of the Red Regency Room were just perfect. We decided that if there was one day to pretend we were posh, it's our wedding day! We met with the manager, Ken, and he was just so lovely, we knew we could trust him with our day.



For our favours, I grew succulents and placed them in small glass jars with pom-poms around the trim. As a nice cost-cutting exercise, these then doubled as our table decorations.



On the flip side, we wanted the reception to be fun and laid back. Sweetwell Farm is a family friend's farm, and they kindly offered for us to use the space for our reception. As soon we arrived, the panoramic views took our breath away, and we knew it was the perfect place for our wedding.



The centrepieces were large candlesticks surrounded by handmade pom-poms. We made so many pom-poms that I said during my speech 'I think if me, mum or Laura ever see another pom-pom, it will be too soon!' They did look fabulous though.



Our table plan was displayed in a fruit crate bought from a second-hand shop. We then put small pewter milk urns in it and filled it with faux flowers. I designed the names on Photoshop and had them printed. We then stuck those onto kebab skewers and popped them in with the flowers.



Our flowers were provided by Hedgehogg Florist. We found them by chance, but Julie was absolutely brilliant. We had very particular ideas about what we wanted, and she nailed it. She's so creative and enthusiastic, and the flowers took our breath away.



Ollie's favourite colour is green, and he was adamant he wanted a green suit for the wedding with a mustard-coloured tie and socks. I doubted how it would look but once he tried it on it looked great. The groomsmen wore light grey suits. I made their cufflinks from scrabble tiles, and they each wore their initials on the day.



REAL WEDDINGS

Instead of a traditional cake, we decided to have a cheese tower from Godminster. Ollie's mum lovingly set it up for us, she decorated it with spare flowers provided by Hedgehogg Florist and paired it with every type of cracker and chutney you could imagine. It went down an absolute storm, and people were drunkenly tucking in late into the night. I made the topper from wooden peg dolls painted to look like us and our staffies.



My step-mother, Diane, arranged in secret for a vintage Volkswagen Camper Van called Beau to take me to the ceremony. It was a total surprise, and after the service, the camper took us to go see my step-nan, Joyce, who wasn't well enough to come to the wedding. She still got dressed up and her hair and nails done for us to pop in quickly between the ceremony and reception. This was such a lovely part of our day, and we're so glad we got to see her.



I had very particular ideas about the type of gown I wanted. The Christmas after we got engaged my mum decided it would be nice to go look at some dresses. I tried on one and strangers in the shop were coming over and telling me that they thought I should buy it. It was an A-line macrame dress with Chantilly lace on the front with a huge train. It was almost perfect, but I knew I wanted it to be short in the front. The lady in the shop assured me that she knew a seamstress that would be able to do that for me. I spoke to friends about seamstresses, and they also recommended S.E Alterations – Bridal Specialist. She did the most fabulous job and is honestly an artist at what she does.



Stomping Grounds provided the most incredible food for us. We found them at Knutsford Makers Market, and after trying their food, we were so keen to have them at our wedding that we booked them almost two years in advance! We were meant to choose two options, but as we couldn't narrow it down, they let us have three. On the day, not only did they nail the food and make everyone happy, but they also made sure to tell us to sit down and eat too.



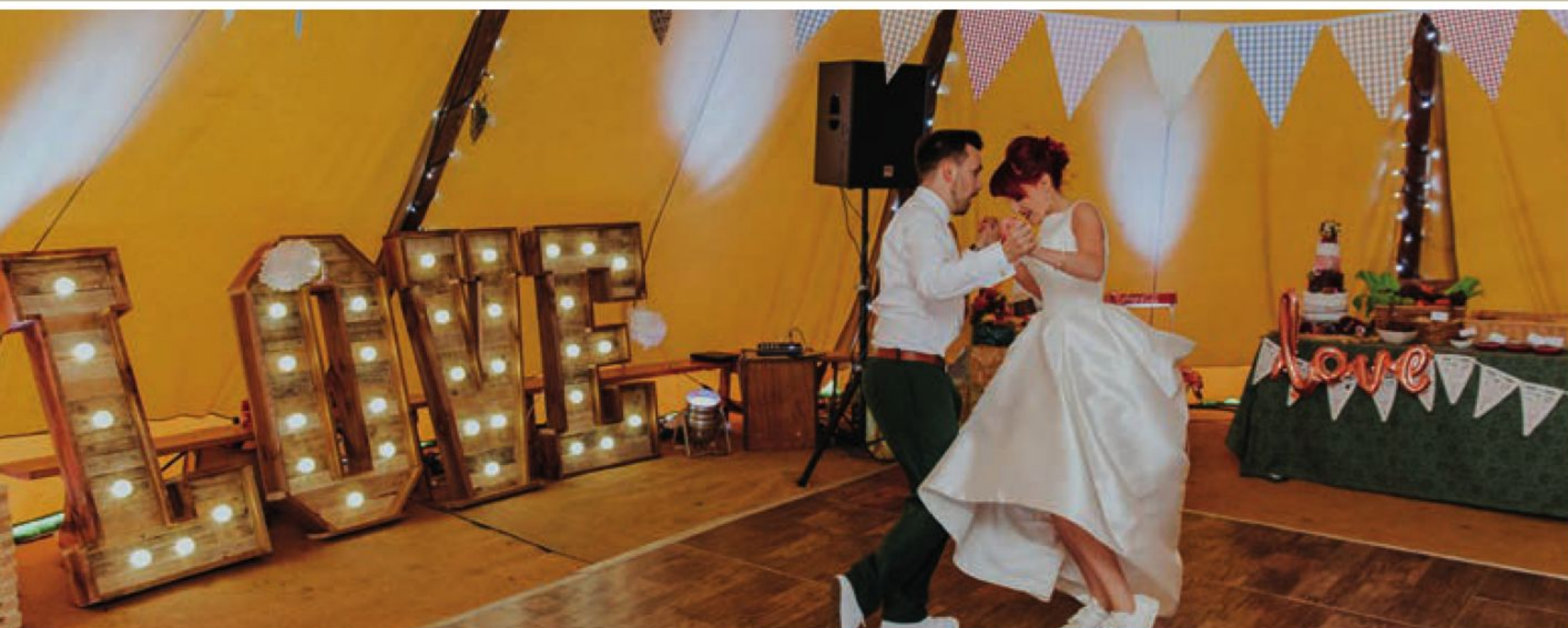
The bridesmaids opted for ash grey dresses. I made their earrings and gave them as gifts. The girls' shoes and earrings were matched with one of the groomsmen's ties and socks at random, which made for a cool group shot.



The absolute star of the show was Mike Driver Magician. We met him at a wedding show at Towneley Hall and were really impressed so we decided to enter a competition he was running and we won! This gave us a great discount. All of our guests had a brilliant few hours with him and we're convinced he's a wizard! He mingled with everyone brilliantly and looked like he was enjoying himself.



We knew we wanted to build our own playlist of bangers and classics so we created a list of songs on Spotify and our friend lent us his PA system to play them.



Despite the speeches being a huge part of the day, I'd have to say what stood out the most was when we were both hiding behind the tipis nervously rehearsing our first dance routine. We'd both agreed when planning the wedding that we wanted to create an upbeat routine. We'd had 12 lessons, and the last few were pretty gruelling in the end, but we smashed it! Despite having to adjust to a couple of lifts for the first time in my heavy wedding dress, not only did it go down a storm with our guests but we really enjoyed it.



Having everyone you love around you to celebrate one of the most memorable days of your life is truly the best. It's an incredible experience and amazing feeling getting to share it with all of those that care about you.

We're both in full agreement that the people that really helped make the day flow smoothly and allowed us to sit back and enjoy ourselves, were our incredibly mobile bar company, The Bar Stewards. From the moment we arrived they were already waiting for us with drinks. They also helped our caterers set up in the field earlier in the day. Later in the evening, we had a spot of rain so they moved as much of the bar as possible inside the tipi. It worked brilliantly and they ended up staying there as it became increasingly well used and somewhat abused. They bonded with everyone there and were constantly attentive throughout the night. We've stayed in touch and have met up since the wedding.



For our honeymoon, we went to Kenya for 10 days followed by six days on the beach in Zanzibar. It's something that we've wanted to do since we were kids and we found a great deal that covered everything we wanted to do including safaris, national parks and boat trips.

KATIE AND OLIVER'S CONTACTS

Ceremony venue, Towneley Hall, towneley.org | **Reception venue**, Sweetwell Farm | **Photographer**, Maddie Farris Photography, maddiefarrisphotography.co.uk | **Alterations**, S.E Alterations – Bridal Specialist, se-alterations-bridal-specialist.business.site | **Hair stylist**, Michelle Yates Hair & Make-up Artist, facebook.com/michelleyatesmuha | **Make-up artist**, Rachel Owens, rachelowensmua.com | **Cheese tower**, Godminster, godminster.com | **Flowers**, Hedgehogg Florist, hedgehoggflorist.co.uk | **Transport**, I Do Campers, idocampers.co.uk | **Entertainment**, Suited Entertainment, facebook.com/suitedlive | **Magician**, Mike Driver Magician, magicalmysteryman.com | **Mobile bar hire**, The Bar Stewards, thebarstewards.co.uk | **Catering**, Stomping Grounds, stompinggrounds.co.uk



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HOT TOPIC:

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CLASSIC ELEGANCE

We're looking for elegant music for our ceremony. Do you have any ideas?

I often get asked this question and I always ask have you thought about the harp? Playing relaxing music for your guests while they wait for the slightly late bride is a great idea, but save the more elegant song for the bride's entrance.

There's a superb range of classics that would work. For example, Pachelbel's *Canon in D* works wonderfully on the harp. It's dramatic and stylish while also setting a good pace for the bride to savour the moment as she walks down the aisle. You could add a more modern twist, with a pop arrangement on the harp – *A Thousand Years* is a favourite of mine.

The signing of the register is a good time to entertain your guests. You could opt for pop music, classical or even Celtic melodies to help emphasise the ambience of the moment.

An absolute must is the exiting of the newlyweds. Here is where dramatic harmonies work best, such as *A Sky Full of Stars* or *All of Me*.

Whatever you decide, you should discuss it with your musician beforehand. This way, you can choose what will enhance your day in the most elegant way.

Sarah Davies
Harpist
sarahdaviesharpist.com



OH CRUMBS!

My wife-to-be and I love strong flavours and want something unusual for our cake. Do you have any suggestions?

For something unexpected, woody herbs such as rosemary, thyme and lavender work well when teamed with more familiar citrus flavours. If you're having a tiered wedding cake, you have the opportunity to mix and match. You could opt for a one or two-tier design in a classic flavour and team it with something unusual.

The season in which you're getting married may inspire you; think pears, pomegranates, maple syrup, figs and ginger for an autumn-inspired bake or strawberries, basil, rhubarb and lemon thyme for spring creations.

One of our favourite combinations is an orange sponge cake with spiced cinnamon and cloves with a creamy and nutty tahini buttercream – yum!

Suzanne Thorp
Cake specialist
thefrostery.co.uk



READY, SET, FIRE!

My hubby-to-be is looking for a fun activity for his stag do. What packages should we look for and how many people can they cater for?

There are a range of fun activities that your partner could book. Here at Michael Coates, we run clay shoots and archery at the Wild Boar Inn at Crook. Your partner can choose to do one activity or combine them to fill a whole day. We spend a lot of time going through everything so we can teach you the correct position and technique. We're so confident that if anybody completes the clay shoot package and can't hit a clay, we will give them their shoot for free!

In the archery package, you'll learn about stance and technique before moving into the field to hit a moving target. Just in case the weather isn't perfect, don't worry, we have a covered area to coach under. The cost is £49 per person, which includes private tuition for your group and axe throwing can be added at £15 per person.

Michael Coates
Entertainment specialist
michael-coates.co.uk



REST AND RELAXATION

I'm feeling stressed and overwhelmed by the planning process. What are your top tips for planning a stress-free wedding?

Your wedding day is one of the most important days of your life. While the process is magical, there are often hugely stressful bits. Here are my top tips for planning a stress-free day.

- ♥ **Buy a journal.** There are so many gorgeous wedding planners out there and trust us yours will become your bible. Good ones will prompt you with questions and tasks you need to complete before the big day. List all your suppliers and their contact details in there, so everything is in one place and keep all the ideas you collect at wedding fairs in it too.
- ♥ **Getting wedding insurance.** Before you do anything else, look into wedding insurance. It usually costs around £100, and although that seems like a lot of money, it's worth it to give you peace of mind and protect you if anything goes wrong.
- ♥ **Make sure you have contracts in place.** Before you hand over any money, it's wise to ensure you have a written contract from your chosen supplier. It's tempting to do things verbally, but it's important to get everything in writing.
- ♥ **Don't try to please everyone.** You'll find as soon as you get engaged people will start sharing their opinions. Pick the things that you're happy to compromise on so family and friends still feel valued and included.
- ♥ **Look after your wellbeing.** Meditation, breathing exercises, yoga and gratitude journaling are all ways you can improve your mindfulness. Listen to music, look at wedding imagery and spend time in nature to help relax and de-stress.
- ♥ **Stay healthy.** Many brides chose to undertake a new beauty or skincare regime to look their big-day best, but it's important you do it in a way that will improve your health rather than making you feel more anxious.
- ♥ **Ensure your venue has a dedicated wedding planner.** Before you book a venue, consider how much the staff will help you plan your day.

Celia Gaze
Founder of The Wellbeing Farm
thewellbeingfarm.co.uk

ACCESSORISE AND SHINE

I love the look of flower crowns, but I'm worried it may look overwhelming next to my heavily-beaded dress. Do you have any ideas of how I could wear one without overdoing it?

A flower crown makes a beautiful hair accessory. It should enhance your look by accentuating your gown rather than overwhelming it.

Everyone is different, but as a general rule, I would suggest you look for a half-crown rather

than a full crown. These work well with a couple of statement blooms or a row of delicate flowers.

For a more subtle look and depending on what style suits you and your chosen hairstyle, I would suggest wearing this to the side or back of your head rather than across the front of your forehead.

Work with your hairstylist and use your trial to test out different looks. Visiting bridal boutiques will allow you to try out different looks to help you make your decision.

Julie Berry
Flower crown specialist
flowercrownmagic.com



nessworthyphotography.com



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The look *of love*

Local photographers reveal some of their favourite heartfelt images

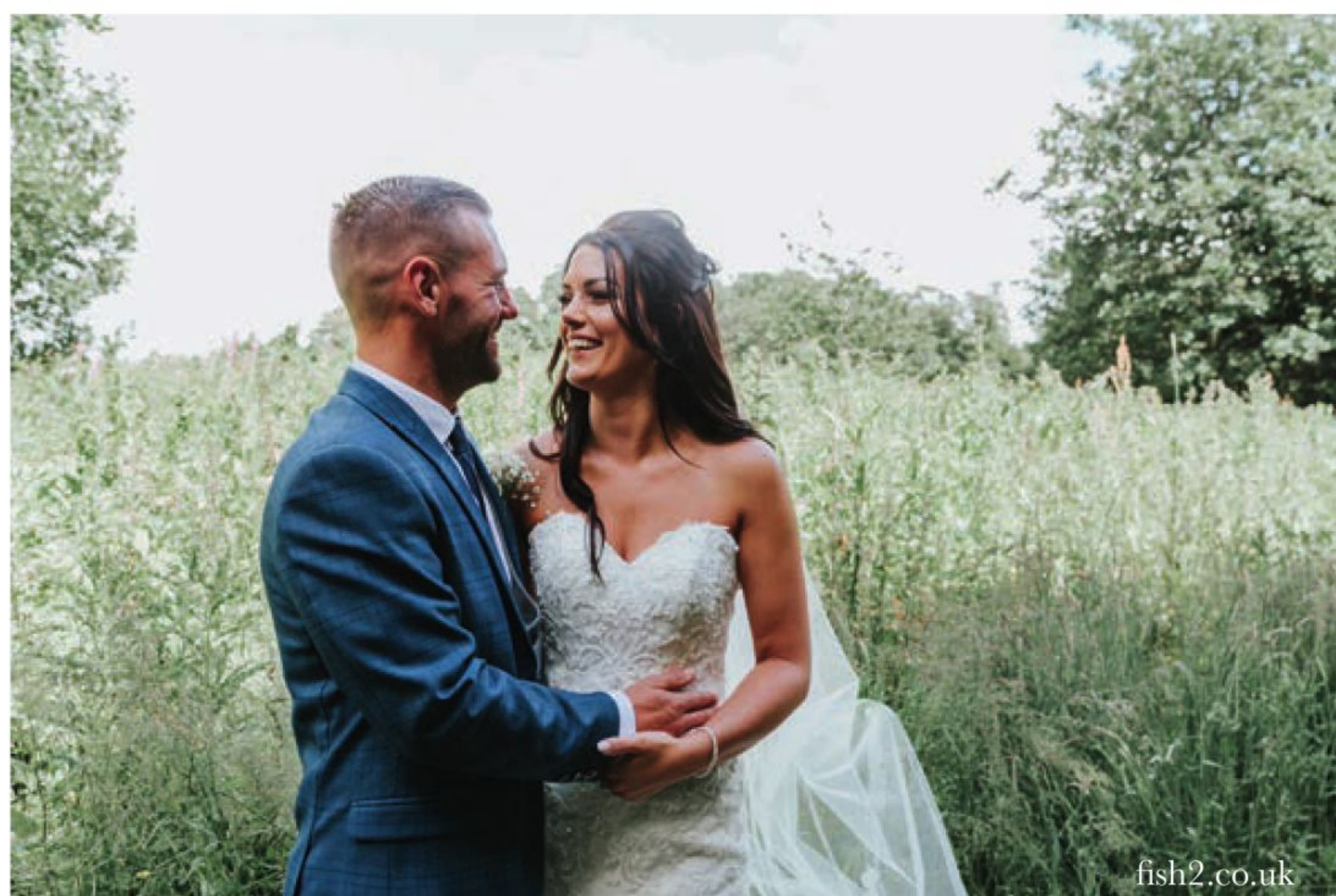
Love is a powerful emotion that's almost impossible to describe but is something that we all can relate to. Photographs are a great way of capturing it in all its natural glory. To help give you some inspiration we've asked some of the region's finest photographers to showcase an image they feel captures the look of love.



▲ "Abbeygale and her father in a moment full of love. He's so proud of his daughter." – **Simon Kearsley from Creative Camera Photography.**



▲ "This image says to me, look what our love created." – **Cathy Brown from Cathy Brown Photography.**



▲ "I adore capturing those stolen moments when couples don't realise you're taking their photo. They're looking at each other with pure joy and love." – **Christina Davies from Fish 2 Photography.**



▲ "This is a lovely image to treasure. Our fathers aren't around forever, and this brings lovely memories of a special father and daughter bond." – **Rachel Winter from Rachel Winter Photography.**

"In this image, you can see just how much Hannah and George love each other. They never took their eyes off each other all day. I think the sun setting just behind them really adds to the emotion of how happy and in love they are." – **Laura Duggleby from Laura Duggleby Photography.**





▲ "If a couple were ever completely natural together, then that would be Rebecca and Justin. They were at ease and natural together throughout every moment of their day."
– **Simon from Creative Camera Photography.**



▲ "A moment of joy as a grandma cuddles her precious grandson while the chaos of getting ready goes on around them, what could be more special?" – **Christina from Fish 2 Photography.**

"I love how powerful this image is. ► The proud father-of-the-bride walking his daughter down the aisle while she looks at him with so much love just melts my heart." – **Laura from Laura Duggleby Photography.**



▲ "This image shows true love like there is nobody else around." – **Cathy from Cathy Brown Photography.**



▲ "This little girl watching her mum and dad get married and the love she has for them is so touching." – **Rachel from Rachel Winter Photography.**





▲ “Lucy’s father isn’t an emotional person, but during the father and daughter dance, emotion swept over him, and the love for his daughter overflowed.” – **Simon from Creative Camera Photography.**



▲ “I love this proud dad bursting with pride.” – **Cathy from Cathy Brown Photography.**



▲ “This picture of Tori and Hannes was taken just after she’d walked down the aisle. The room was filled with so much love and joy, and it felt like there was no else in the room but them.” – **Christina from Fish 2 Photography.**

“I know how much this beautiful dog, Lucky, means to bride, Michelle. He was in the couple portraits, group shots and getting ready pictures. They share such an important love, and this image conveys it perfectly.” – **Laura from Laura Duggleby Photography.**



▲ “The love between this bride and groom is so heartfelt as if no one else was there.” – **Rachel from Rachel Winter Photography.**



CONTACT THE EXPERTS

Cathy Brown Photography | cathybrownphotography.co.uk

Creative Camera Photography | creative-camera.org

Fish 2 Photography | fish2.co.uk

Rachel Winter Photography | rachelwinterphotography.com

Laura Duggleby Photography | lauradugglebyphotography.co.uk



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L&L PHOTOGRAPHY

Daley Wilson

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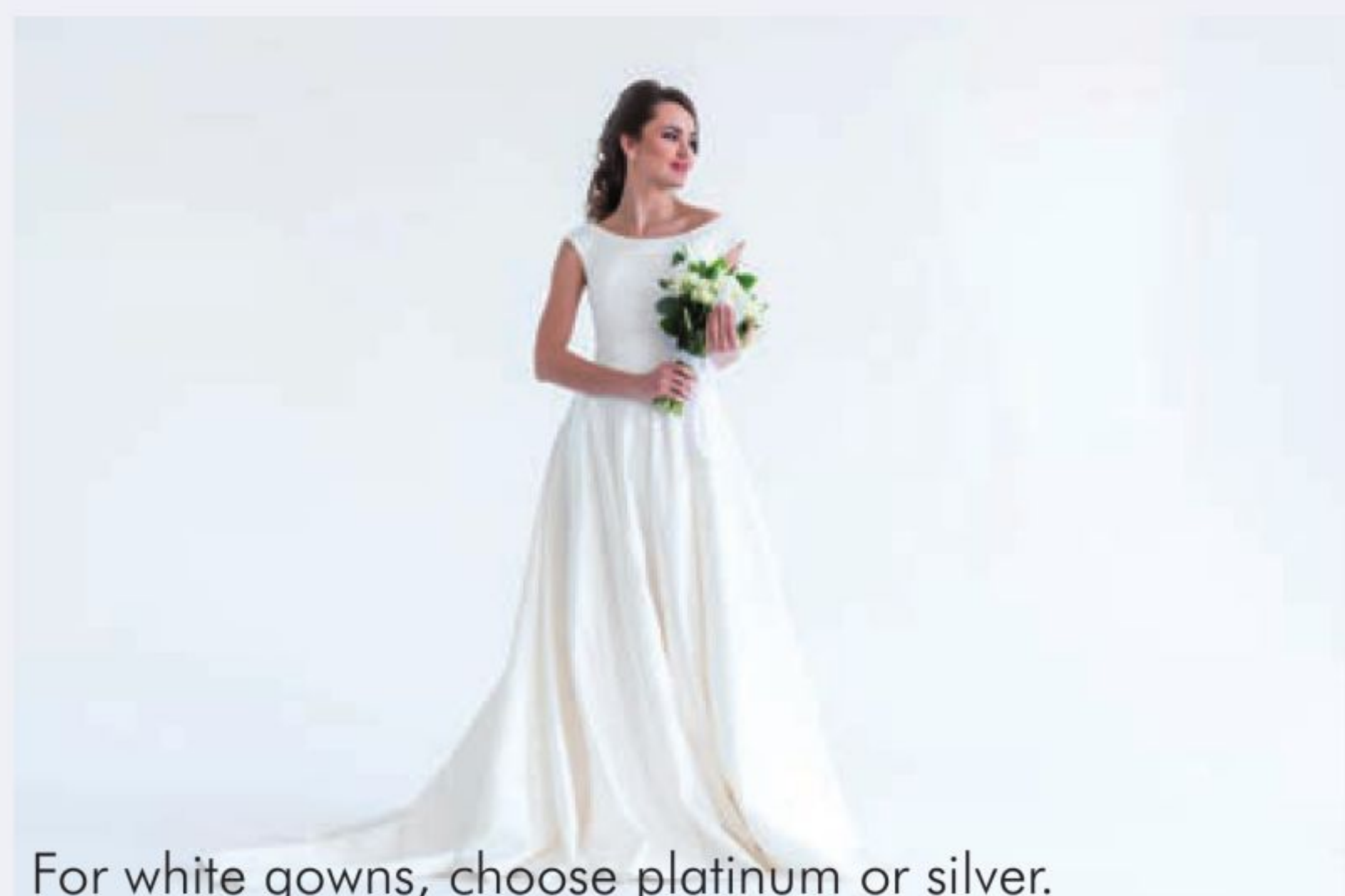
RING-A-DING-BLING

Fabulous jewellery and accessories

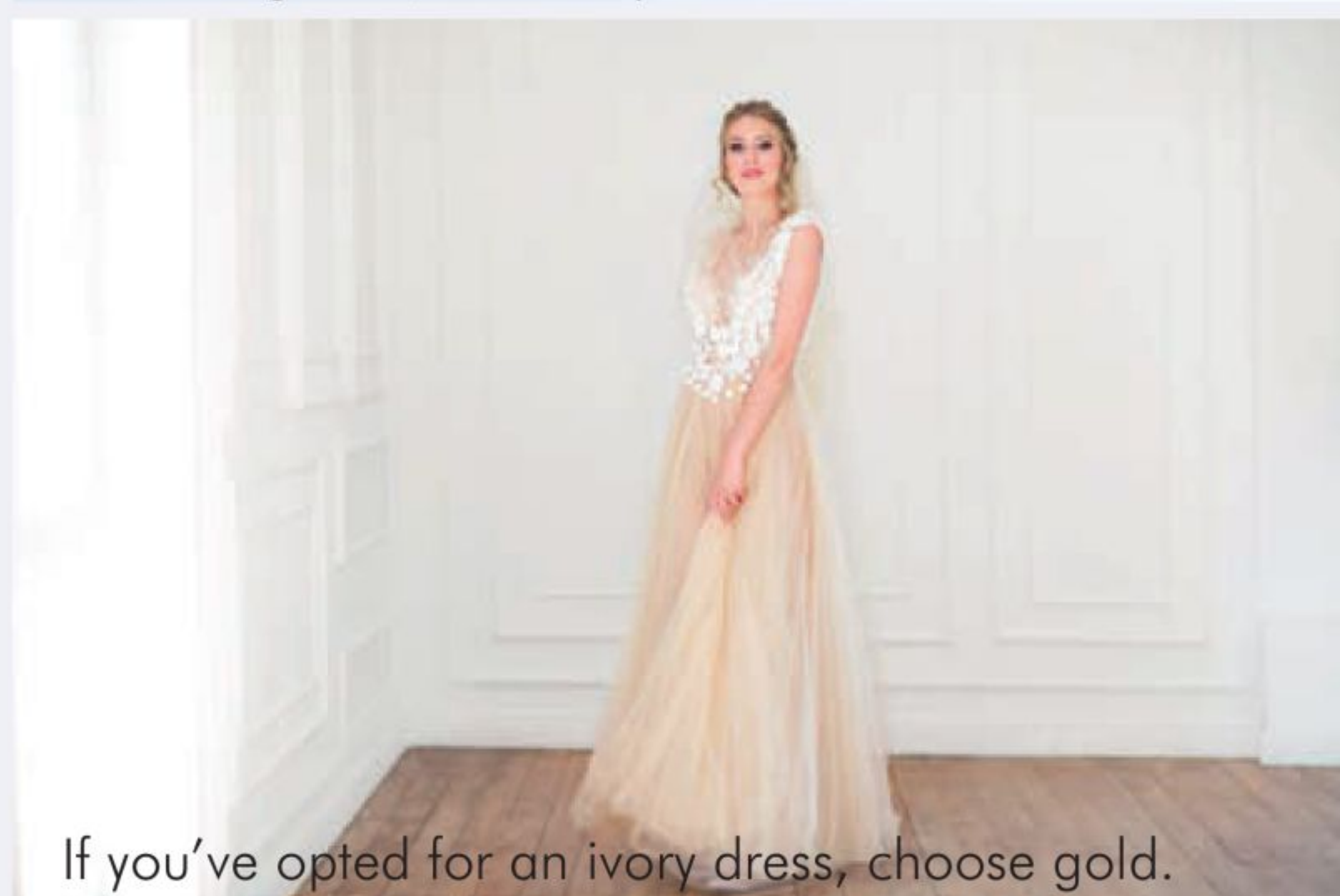
It's important that you look fabulous on your wedding day and jewellery can play a key part in helping you achieve your overall bridal look. Choosing pieces that complement your dress without upstaging it can be tricky, to help we've revealed our top tips and favourite selections.

MATCH, DON'T MIX

Select your precious metals based on the hue of your dress to make sure you wear your jewellery, and that it doesn't wear you!



For white gowns, choose platinum or silver.



If you've opted for an ivory dress, choose gold.



Blush gowns should be paired with rose gold.

CONSIDER THE NECKLINE

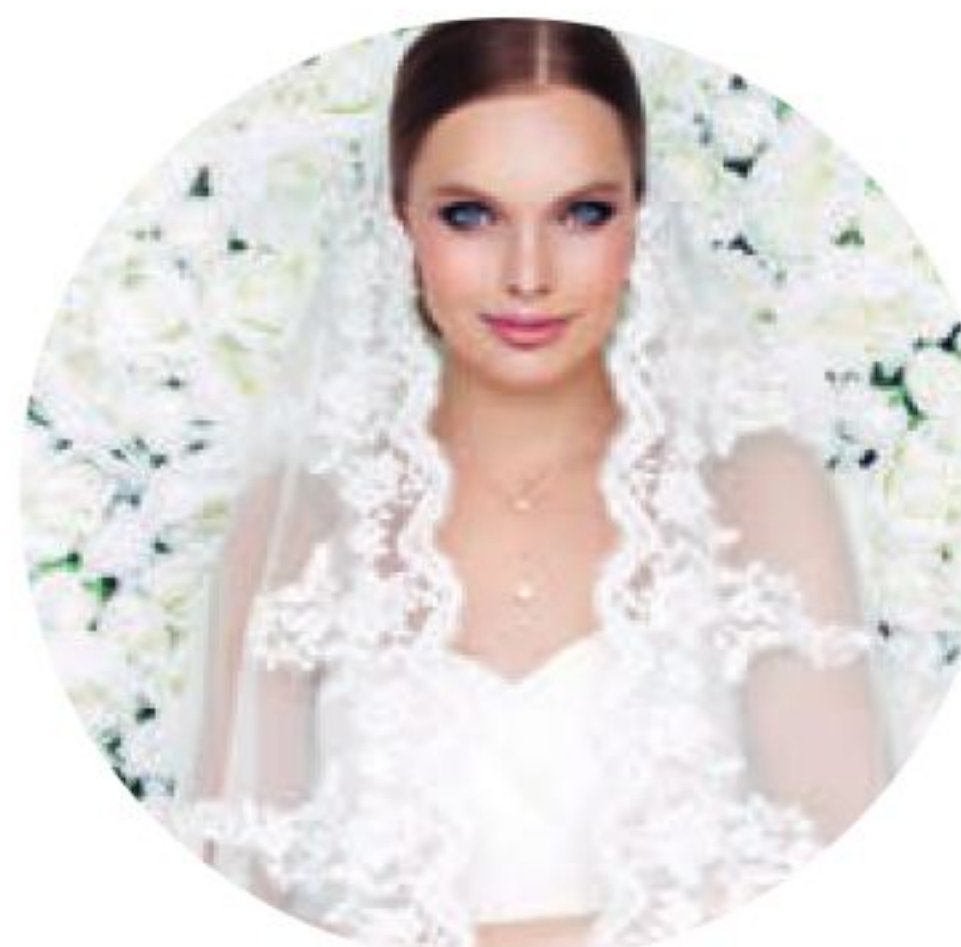


SWEETHEART

Show off this soft curvaceous neckline with a delicate, short necklace and studs or drops.

V-NECK

The focus is on the shape this neckline creates, so avoid detracting from that with a necklace and instead pair it with some pretty drop earrings and a bracelet.



PLUNGE

Lariat necklaces are gorgeous and bring a boho vibe to this dramatic line.

LOW BACK

We suggest a back necklace to highlight the feature.

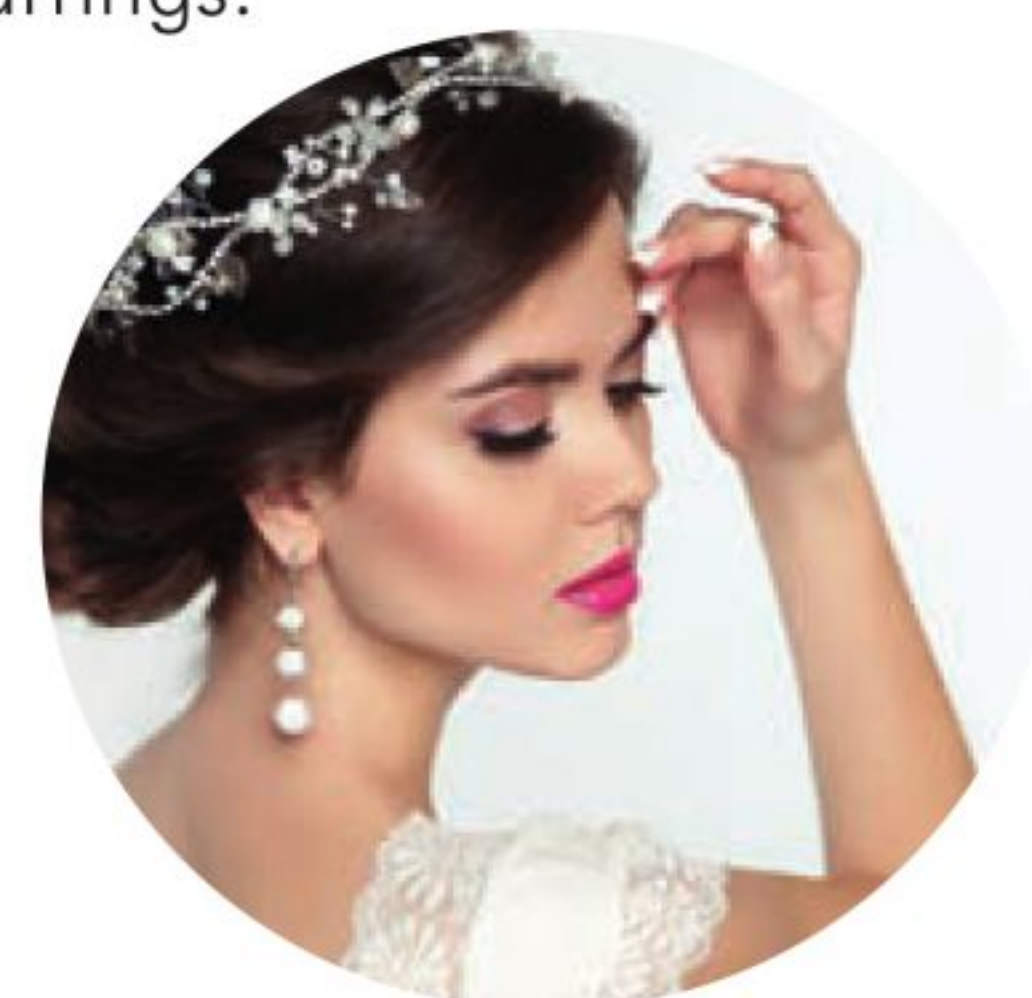


ILUSION NECKLINE

Avoid a necklace that could snag the delicate fabric. Instead, opt for a pair of long earrings.

HIGH OR HALTER NECK

A necklace will be off the table, so flatter with a pair of dazzling statement earrings or a hair accessory.



STRAPLESS

Wearing a strapless dress can leave you feeling a little exposed. Try a statement necklace to adorn your décolleté with style making you feel more covered.

Be inspired by real brides



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE SHOPPING FOR YOUR BIG-DAY BLING



Cushion



Emerald



Heart



Marquise



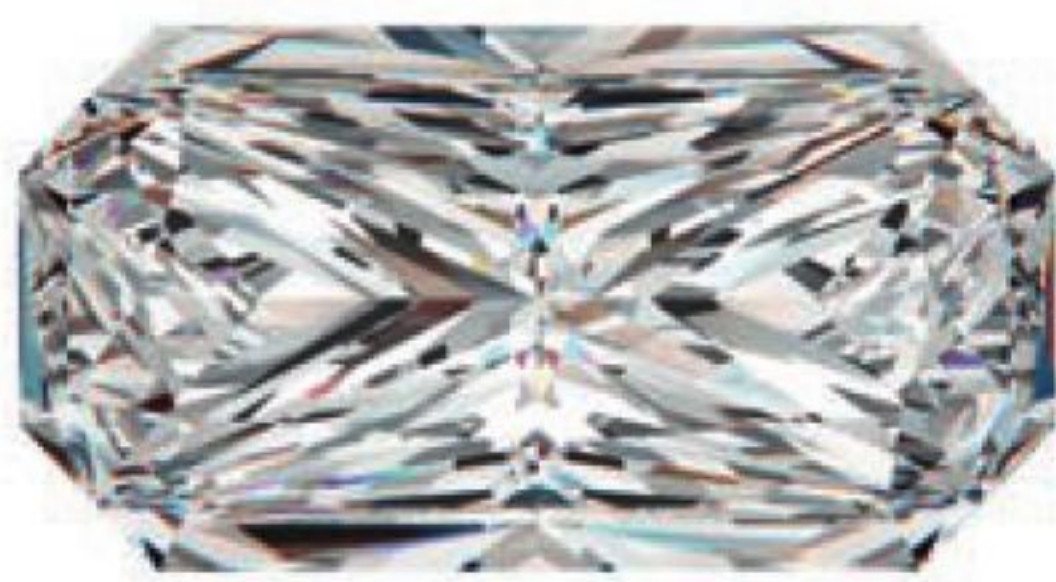
Oval



Pear



Princess



Radiant



Round

Cut

Cushion – this cut has rounded edges and large facets to increase the brilliance of the gem.

Emerald – this stone is a rectangle shape with cropped corners.

Heart – this is a popular stone that's used in everyday jewellery.

Marquise – an elongated shape with pointed edges.

Oval – a symmetrical design.

Pear – also known as a teardrop cut, this shape has a single point and a rounded edge.

Princess – the top is square with pointed edges and is pyramid-shaped sideways on.

Radiant – distinguished by its cropped corners, this cut is most commonly a rectangle but it can also be a square.

Round – the traditional shape of an engagement ring, it's round-faced to maximise the light that passes through.

Anniversary stones

1st – Gold is used to celebrate your first wedding anniversary. It's said that wearing it every day can increase personal power, promote courage and preserve health.

2nd – A garnet is an exquisite stone that can help bring constancy to friendships and make a person more popular.

3rd – Pearls are one of the oldest gems and are used to celebrate the 3rd, 12th and 30th anniversaries.

4th – Blue topaz is said to make a person suppress greed and become more humble.

5th – Sapphires symbolise success in love.



Jan



Feb



Mar



Apr



May



Jun



Jul



Aug



Sep



Oct



Nov



Dec

Birthstones

January/Garnet – is a popular choice for vintage jewellery and symbolises faith, eternity and truth.

February/Amethyst – is a type of quartz that embodies luck, wittiness and health.

March/Aquamarine – comes in a pale blue or turquoise green and represents happiness and understanding.

April/Diamond – is the most commonly used stone and signify eternity, courage and health.

May/Emerald – is a gorgeous green and stands for fidelity, goodness and love.

June/Alexandrite – was originally discovered in Russia's Ural Mountains in 1830 and symbolises peace, nobility and beauty.

July/Ruby – this deep red stone was mined in Asia and signifies love, strength and enthusiasm.

August/Peridot – is one of the few gemstones that occurs in only one colour – a beautiful olive-green. It represents success, peace and love.

September/Sapphire – is a blue gem discovered in India in 1880 that embodies serenity and truth.

October/Opal – is used to celebrate 14 years of marriage and stands for purity, hope and health.

November/Topaz – is used as a gift for both the 4th and 23rd wedding anniversaries and is said to show wisdom, courage and sincerity.

December/Tanzanite – is extremely rare and is only found in one place worldwide – it symbolises love, happiness and luck.

Clarity

FL – Flawless | **IF** – Internally flawless | **VVS** – Very, very slightly included | **VS** – Very slightly included

SI – Slightly included | **I** – Included



LET'S celebrate!

Jane Barbeary, Member of the Associations of Independent Celebrants, shares what's new in this increasingly popular service

You've named the date, booked the venue, and decided what to call your twitter hashtag for the big day... but the important bit, the actual promises you make to the love of your life, are pretty much the same words used by every other couple getting hitched.

There's not a lot of wriggle room for clergy or registrars to really personalise a ceremony to reflect you, as a couple. The laws that govern marriage date back to 1836, and the language used in ceremonies remain in line with those traditions.

There's something comforting about familiar wording and ceremony and, if that's what you prefer, then that's a great choice. But if the words don't feel personal and relevant to you, there is an alternative. Modern celebrants write and deliver bespoke ceremonies that tell your story as a couple. We can't legally marry you – yet – the Law Commission is currently looking into that – but what we can do is give you a truly unique and personal ceremony that you, and your family and friends, will remember and cherish for many years to come. We can also write and deliver civil partnership ceremonies, wedding vow renewals and baby naming ceremonies, to your specifications.

It's worth knowing that the Law Commission has decided that the

marriage laws are not keeping pace with modern Britain, and need to change. They're looking at making the system simpler, fairer and cheaper. As it stands you can only marry in a church, register office or approved venue. The commission says this can be restrictive and expensive, and it's looking to remove some of the red tape to give couples more choice, whilst still maintaining the dignity of marriage. If the changes go ahead, you could get married on water, in a field or in your own back garden!

They're also considering changing the rules to allow humanists and independent celebrants to conduct legally binding ceremonies in England and Wales. That's hopefully to come but right now, once you've done the legal bit which can be inexpensive at a register office midweek, you can go ahead with your ceremony your way! It's also not a requirement to exchange rings when you complete the legal formalities, so that can also be done with your celebrant.

Your ceremony can be as simple or as extravagant as you'd like it to be. If you're stuck for inspiration, celebrants have lots of it. You can have guests giving readings, live music or favourite songs played. You might want to include children, pets or join the latest

trend of hiring in alpacas as ring bearers!

We will write your entire ceremony, including your vows or promises to each other, once you've told us all about your story. Some couples prefer to write their own vows, but would like the celebrant to read them aloud. It's entirely up to you, there are no hard and fast rules. We can deliver a ceremony anywhere that's special to you both. It could be a forest glade, a stately home or the pub garden.

There are many 'symbolic actions' you can include in your ceremony, if that's what you'd like. These are becoming increasingly popular and are a great way of getting your guests involved too. Here are just a few examples you might want to ponder over...

JUMPING THE BROOM

This is an ancient tradition used in many cultures in past centuries, when couples literally jumped over a broomstick together to marry. The 'leap of faith' symbolises how much you love each other, as you jump into your future together. Two guests can hold the broom a few inches off the ground. The couple close their eyes, everyone counts to three, and the guests lower the broom to the ground as the couple jump over it.

SAND CEREMONY

This symbolises the coming together of two individuals to make one loving couple. Two glass vases of coloured sand are poured into a third vessel to symbolise the blending of your lives together. Just as the coloured grains can no longer now be separated, so your lives are now as one.

HANDBASTING

This is a traditional Celtic ritual and it's the origin of the expression to 'tie the knot'. You hold hands, usually at the pulse points, and the celebrant ties them together, loosely, with ribbons or braids. This signifies the binding

of your lives together. The type of braid used can be very personal, so for example if you met at school, you might want to use an old school tie, or particular colours that have significance to you. This can be a good point in the ceremony to make promises or vows to one another.

LOVE LETTERS

You put your feelings for each other on paper. You then read it aloud or give it to your partner or celebrant to read. Alternatively, you could put them in a memory box, seal it, and open it on your first anniversary. A lovely way to remember your special day.

RING WARMING

Before rings are exchanged they can be passed around your guests on a small cushion or in a box. Each guest holds them for a few seconds and makes a silent wish for the couple. When the rings are returned, they hold all the love and hopes for the future from family and friends.

STONE CEREMONY

In past centuries couples couldn't always afford wedding rings, so they cast a stone into a nearby river or ocean to symbolise staying together as the water ebbed and flowed throughout their lives.

In the absence of any handy water nearby, you can toss stones with your names etched on them into a bowl of water. They can be retrieved later and taken on honeymoon where hopefully you'll find some water!.

UNITY CANDLES

Candles represent light and hope, and lighting one together symbolises your union, and hopes for the future.

So it really is all up to you. Working together with a trained celebrant can make your day unique, personal, fun and best of all a memory to live with you, your family and friends forever. The Association of Independent Celebrants list celebrants across the UK. Most will be happy to talk through your ideas free of charge before you make your decision. Let's do it..... let's celebrate!

TOP 10

10 tips for planning your dream sustainable wedding

Celia Gaze is the founder of The Wellbeing Farm, and says, "As we're getting more conscious about our environment and how we can protect it, the idea is also flooding the wedding market, as brides are looking for a lush wedding day that doesn't cost the planet. As a venue that has always had a green centre, here are our 10 top tips if you're planning a sustainable wedding..."

1

DITCH THE PALM BEACH WEDDING IN FAVOUR OF SOMETHING LOCAL

This may be an obvious one, but it's a good starting point. As nice as those pictures of destination weddings look, think of all the air miles to fly everyone over, and then transport from the airport... that's a lot of CO2 emissions. With that in mind, if your venue is accessible by public transport, even better.

PLAN A VEGETARIAN OR VEGAN MENU

One of the biggest trends is cutting out a lot of meat and other animal products from your diet. Whilst your wedding has been considered the one day you can indulge, this now doesn't mean that you can't splurge on taste without cutting out the meat. Even as an omnivore, some of the nicest food I have had is vegetarian and vegan. If your menu is seasonal, organic, or uses fair trade ingredients, or a mixture of all three, even better!

2

SPEAKING OF SEASONAL, KEEP YOUR FLOWERS SEASONAL TOO

Seasonal flowers save the air miles, there's no need to import tulips from Holland in the middle of September. Also start thinking about what you are going to do with the flowers afterwards, and if your florist avoids using foam in their arrangements, that's a big fat green thumbs up. If they are also supplying confetti, look at a kind that is bio-degradable.

3

Think about transport

If your venue isn't easy to get to via public transport, instead of a million cars arriving at your venue, think about hiring a coach from a suitable meeting point e.g. the hotel your guests are staying at; this will hopefully cut down a lot of emissions even before your big day starts.

4

USE RECYCLABLE MATERIALS OR SECOND-HAND PROPS FOR YOUR DÉCOR

One of our biggest features for our brides is our Prop Shed, which holds every kind of decorative prop you can imagine: saving time, money and the planet as everything is reused from couple to couple. Some brides like to use bits they've picked up themselves – afterwards, think about donating to other brides for their day.

5

SUSTAINABLE WEDDINGS



6

ASK YOUR VENUE ABOUT ITS GREEN POLICY

A big note when looking around venues is looking at its bar – if they are still using plastic straws, that's a big no-no! Do they recycle everything on-site, use local suppliers, grow their own produce and have they cracked down on single-use plastic, among many other measures.



DRESS UPCYCLE

Why not donate your dress to a charity shop to make an impact long after the big day – this also applies to the bridesmaids' dresses too if you're looking for a green wedding! Also, keep away from silk and other materials that come from animals.

9

CONSIDER SUSTAINABLE FAVOURS

Think about not just what you want them to be, but also how they are packaged. Stay away from the plastic toys and trinkets, and cellophane wrapping that cannot be recycled. If there is an animal, environmental or sustainability charity that means something to you and your partner, a donation favour to that charity would be a good choice.

8



7

Find local suppliers

From your cake to your DJ, using suppliers who are local to you/your venue is key to making your wedding sustainable and keeping your wedding's carbon footprint down. Venues should have a list of recommended suppliers on their websites, who are all local to the property.



10



IS YOUR STATIONERY SUSTAINABLE?

As pretty as the save-the-date invitations and other stationery looks, think about using invites made from an ethically sourced or recycled material.

TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO: THEWELLBEINGFARM.CO.UK



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COLOUR pop

A team of local suppliers worked together to create this rainbow-themed shoot

Images courtesy of Fish 2 Photography



Here at Your North West Wedding, we love anything colourful, so when this rainbow-themed shoot landed in our inbox, we just had to feature it! We spoke Christina Davies from Fish 2 Photography and asked what her inspiration was: "I've always loved rainbows, and it was even the theme of my wedding back in 2012. I wanted to bring suppliers together to create the ultimate rainbow-themed shoot! We hope these images will inspire brides-to-be and give them some ideas of how they can personalise their big day."





THE DREAM TEAM

Venue, The Out Barn, cloughbottom.co.uk | **Photographer**, Fish 2 Photography, fish2.co.uk | **Dress**, Elisa Belle Bridal Boutique, elisabellebridal.com | **Denim jacket**, Turquoise Strawberry Designs, [instagram.com/turquoise_strawberry_designs](https://www.instagram.com/turquoise_strawberry_designs) | **Hair stylist**, Ribble Valley Bridal, [instagram.com/ribblevalleybridal](https://www.instagram.com/ribblevalleybridal) | **Make-up artist**, Laura Megan Makeup Artist & Hair Stylist, lauramegan.co.uk | **Flowers**, Ivy & Primrose, ivyandprimrose.co.uk | **Cake**, The Brinscall Baker, [facebook.com/brinscallbaker](https://www.facebook.com/brinscallbaker) | **Stationery**, Lucie Pritchard Design, [etsy.com/shop/luciepritchard](https://www.etsy.com/shop/luciepritchard) | **Signs**, Etch Etc, [facebook.com/etch.et.cetera](https://www.facebook.com/etch.et.cetera) | **Letter table**, Letter Table Hire, lettertables.co.uk | **Chair sashes and table décor**, Decoupage Dreams, decoupage dreams.co.uk | **Moongate and flower wall**, Walls in Bloom, [instagram.com/wallsinbloom.co.uk](https://www.instagram.com/wallsinbloom.co.uk) | **Volkswagen Campervan**, Warren's Vintage VW, warrensVintageVW.co.uk | **Model**, [instagram.com/anitacannon12](https://www.instagram.com/anitacannon12)

A dreamy DAY

Find out more about Ramsbottom in this wintry shoot

Images courtesy of Joe Hague Photography



To highlight the lovely town of Ramsbottom a group of local suppliers came together to create this shoot. Jennifer Holdway from Exquisite Ivory Events tells us: "Not many people are aware of the thriving wedding industry in Ramsbottom. Not only does it have lovely venues in the local vicinity, but it also has a selection of bridal boutiques, florists, make-up artists, photographers and other extremely talented wedding professionals. We chose an elegant winter feel with a modern twist for our theme to highlight how talented some of the local suppliers are."



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SHOOT

Venues, St Paul's Church, ramsbottomedenfieldteamchurches.org/locations/st-pauls-church-ramsbottom; Nuttall Park, friendsofnuttallpark.co.uk | **Photographer**, Joe Hague Photography, joehaguephotography.com | **Organiser**, Exquisite Ivory Events, exquisiteivoryevents.com | **Dress**, Lacy Days of Ramsbottom, lacydaysoframsbottom.co.uk | **Hair stylist**, JILL Altered Images, facebook.com/jillatallteredimages | **Make-up artist**, Makeupbydaisie, instagram.com/makeupbydaisie | **Flowers**, Alternative Arrangements, alternative-arrangements.com | **Venue styling**, Sweetness & Lights NW, sweetnessandlightsnw.com | **Stationery**, Orbital, orbitaldesign.co.uk | **Painting**, The Wedding Painter, stuartbarkley.co.uk | **Model**, Amelia Young

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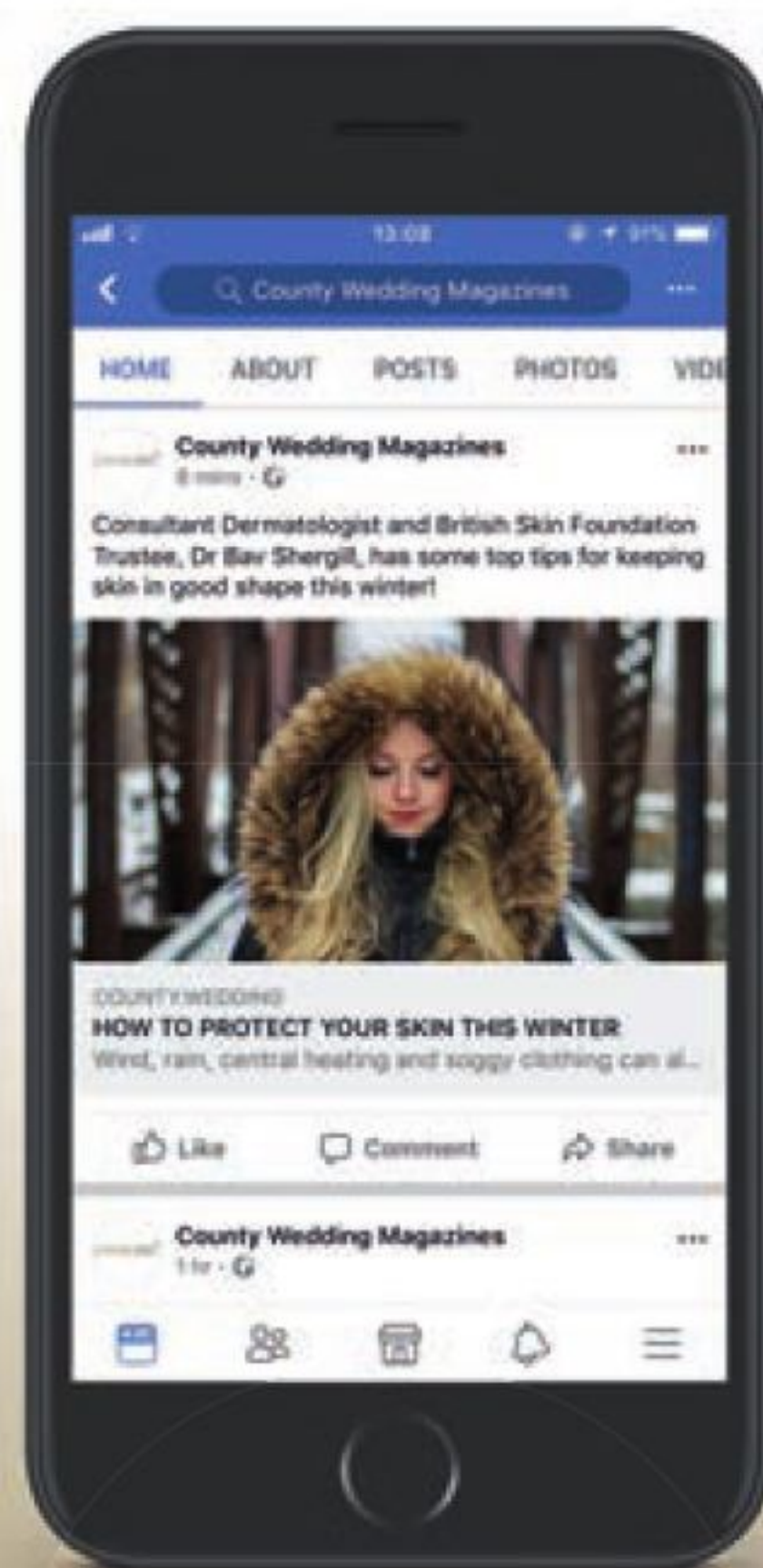
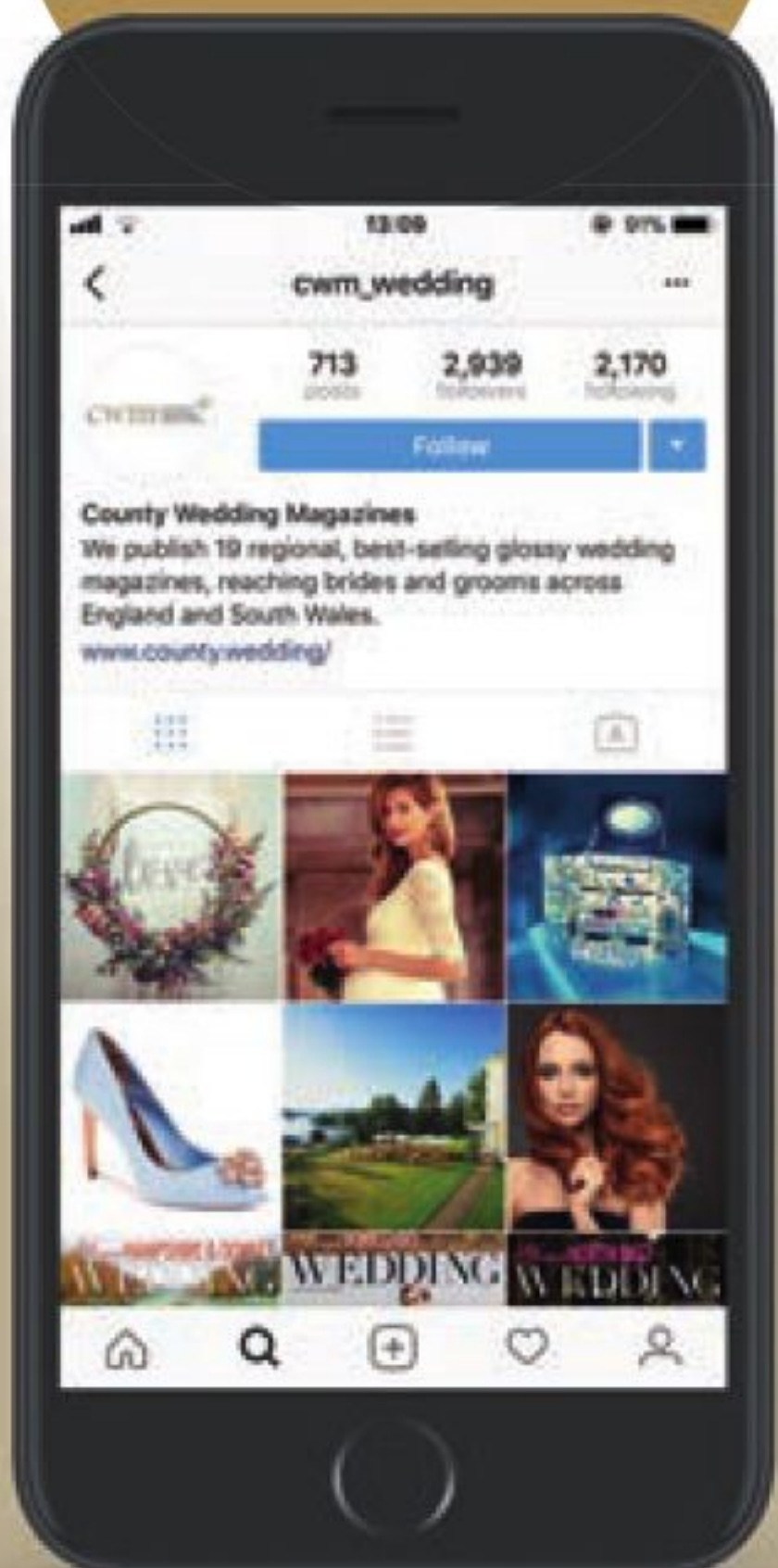
For further wed-spiration and to keep up to date with the latest news and trends check out our *County Wedding Magazines'* Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages



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County Wedding
Magazines



What's more, our editors are on hand to help brides-to-be with all their planning problems:

- Ask us anything, whether you're on the hunt for a local venue or simply looking for ideas and advice
- Find local suppliers
- Top planning tips from the pros
- Tell us about your big day for your chance to appear in the magazine
- Special subscription offers
- Win wedding essentials with our exclusive giveaways and competitions

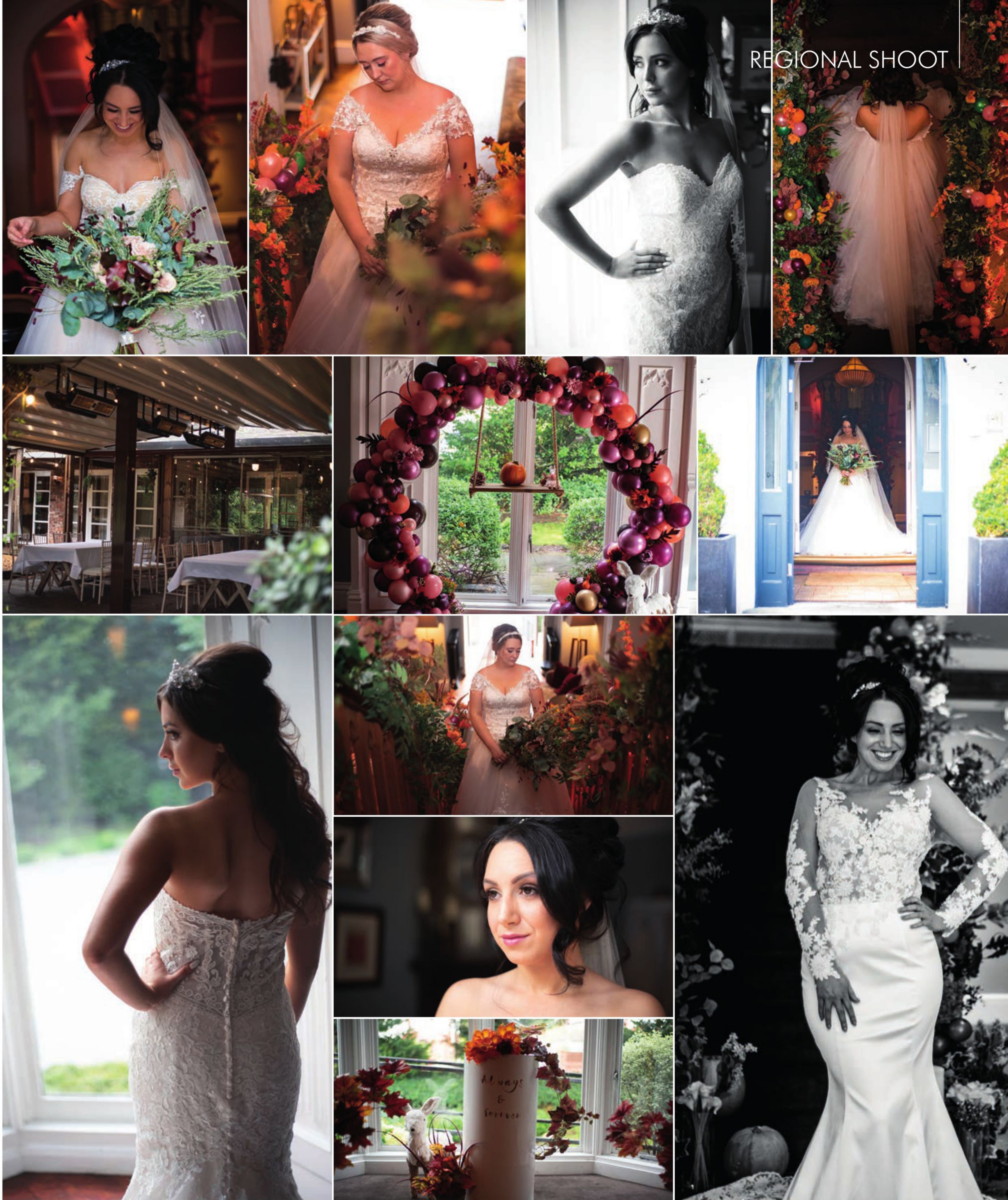
We love autumn here at *Your North West Wedding*, the weather is glorious, and the falling leaves look stunning in photographs. To find out more about this shoot, we spoke to Katie from K C Moore Foto: "The shoot was led by Claire from The Bridal Suite Cheshire. She called upon her favourite suppliers to make her dream a reality and what better place to start than the beautiful Didsbury House Hotel and Eleven Didsbury Park? The suppliers were amazing, and the stunning dresses were designed by Allure Bridals, LiRi Bridal and Claire's private label, Ophelia."

AUTUMN *leaves*

Be inspired by this stunning autumnal shoot

Images courtesy of K C Moore Foto





REGIONAL SHOOT

THE DREAM TEAM

Venues, Didsbury House Hotel, didsburyhouse.co.uk; Eleven Didsbury Park, elevendidsburypark.co.uk | **Photographer**, K C Moore Foto, kcmoorefoto.com | **Videographer**, Wildflower Wedding Films, wildflowerweddings.org.uk | **Organiser and dress**, The Bridal Suite Cheshire, facebook.com/thebridalsuitecheshire | **Make-up artist**, Kerry Ingham, facebook.com/makeupbykerryuk | **Hair stylist**, Hairby.chloex, facebook.com/hairbychloex-1635631339878534 | **Flowers**, H_Frances, instagram.com/h_frances | **Balloons and props**, Hearts & Carts Parties, facebook.com/hearts-carts-parties-103957543782505 | **Venue styling**, Woodyatt Warner, woodyattwarner.com



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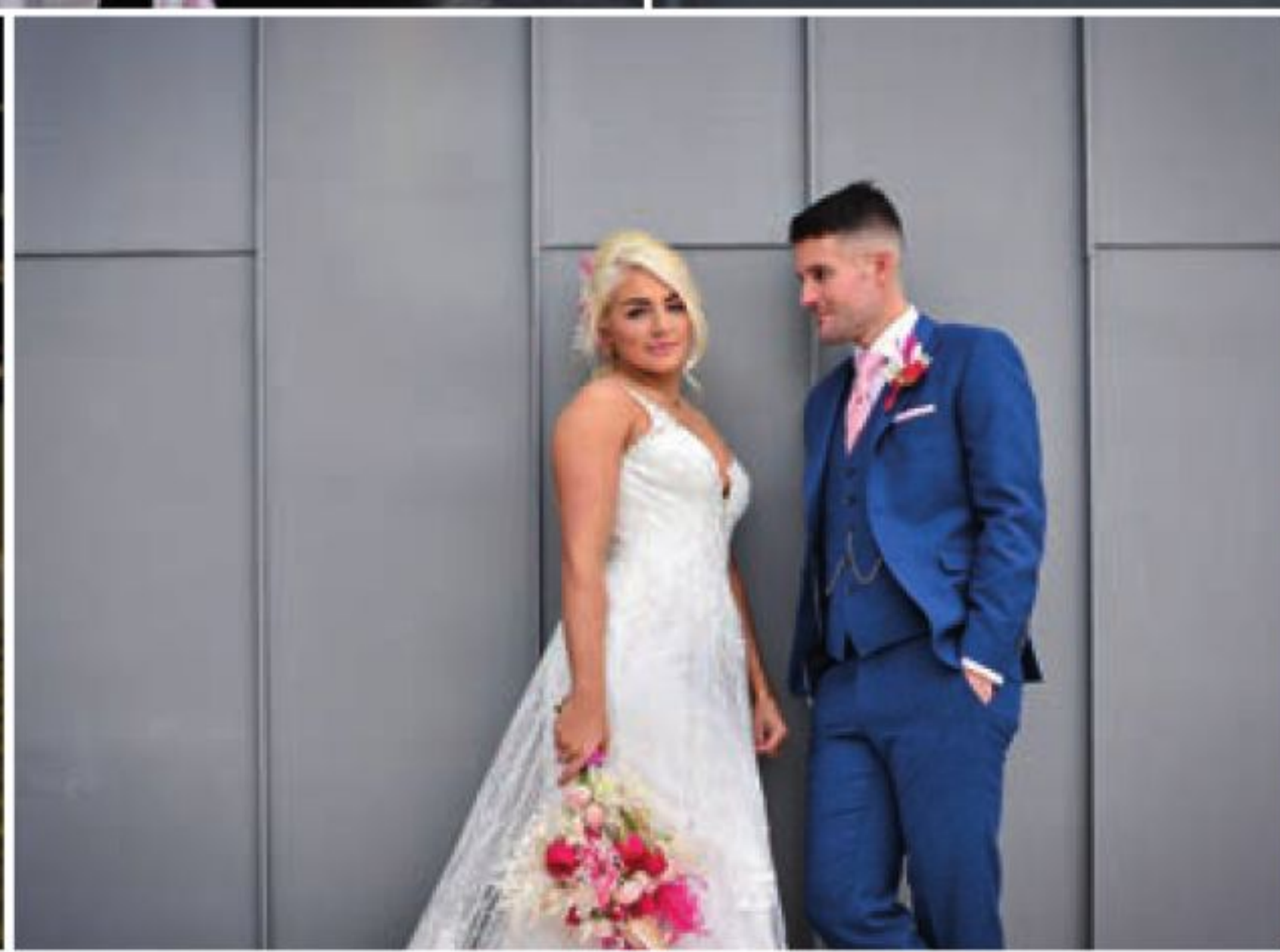
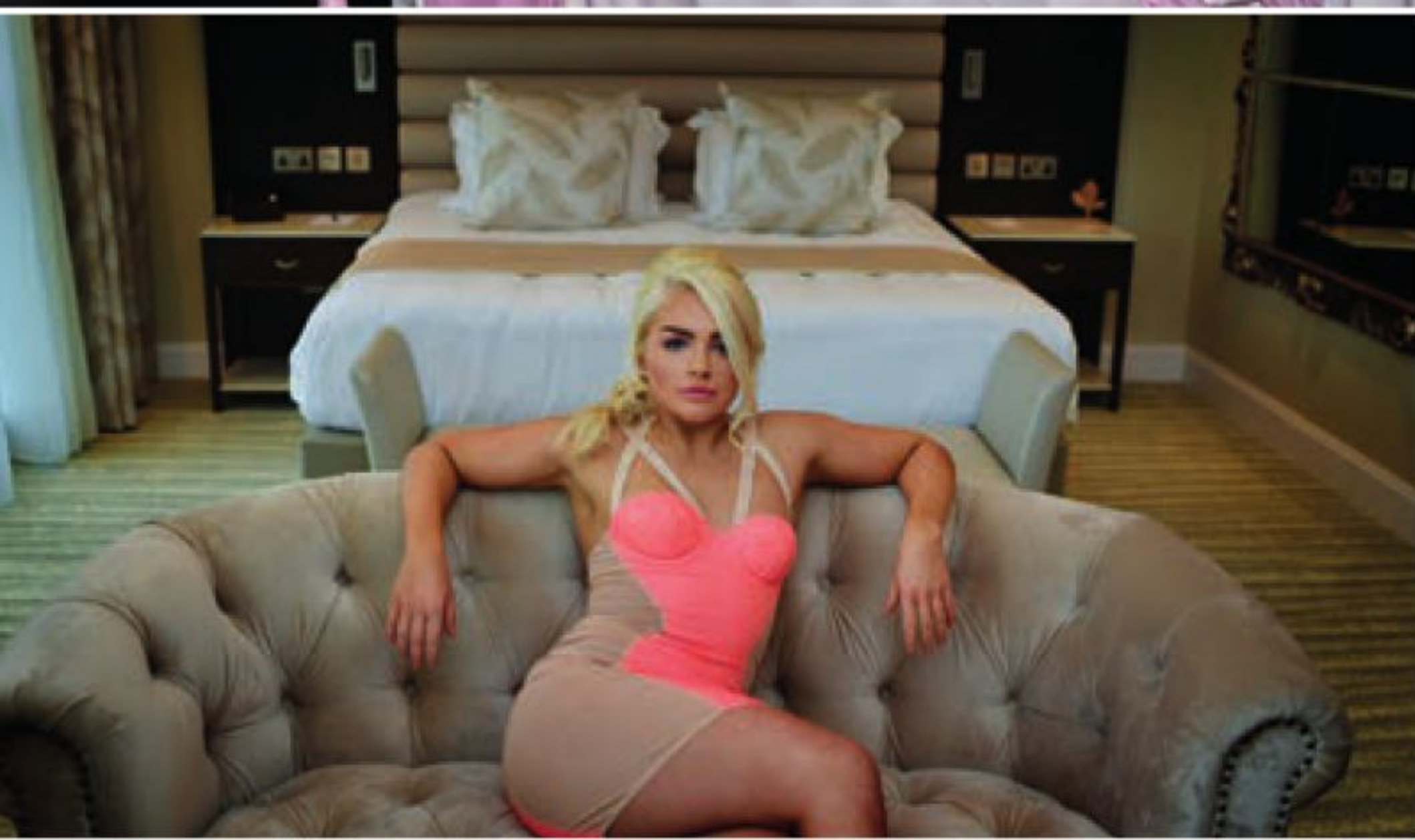
Pink ladies

Take inspiration from this
oh-so colourful shoot

*Images courtesy of Jules Fortune
Photography*



Pink is a popular colour, especially at weddings. We spoke to Laura from The Flower Girls, Whalley and asked what inspired her to use this fabulous hue: "My two little girls wanted me to go for a pink theme. I put together an all-female team to really celebrate the colour. I often have brides saying that they'd love to add a pop of bright pink to their décor but don't want it to look tacky so I wanted to showcase how you can use the hue to make a stunning yet fun look."





REGIONAL SHOOT



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE SHOOT

Venue, Crow Wood Hotel & Spa, crowwoodhotel.com | **Photographer**, Jules Fortune Photography, julesfortunephoto.com
Flowers and organiser, The Flower Girls, Whalley, flowergirlswalley.co.uk | **Bridalwear**, Amelia's Bridal Boutique, ameliasbrides.com | **Bridesmaids' dresses**, Abbie Jade, abbie-jade.co.uk | **Make-up artist**, Nikki Webb Hair & Makeup Artist, nikkiwebbmua.com | **Hair stylist**, Gemma Brown's Hair Updo's, facebook.com/gemmabrownshairupdos | **Jewellery**, Sarah Layton, sarahlayton.co.uk | **Hair accessories**, Jaxie, facebook.com/itsjustjaxie | **Underwear**, Raine & Bea, raineandbea.com | **Cakes and meringues**, LouLou's, facebook.com/loulousmeringues | **Jackets and cake details**, Kate Illustrate, kate-illustrate.co.uk
Table stationery, Northern Made Co, instagram.com/northernmadeco | **Invitations**, The Wedding Workshop, facebook.com/theweddingworkshoplancashire | **Linen and neon**, Creative Cover Hire, creativecoverhire.co.uk | **Confetti**, Adamapple, adamapple.co.uk | **Balloons**, Bash, facebook.com/bashblackpool | **Flowerwall**, Oh La La Events, facebook.com/ohlalaevents Lancashire
Cookies, Reet Petite Cookie Co, facebook.com/reetpetitecookieco | **Jay the horse**, Crow Wood Equestrian, crowwoodequestrian.com
Models, instagram.com/xanthegill and instagram.com/kelseygilllll



Tread the boards as you tie the knot at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

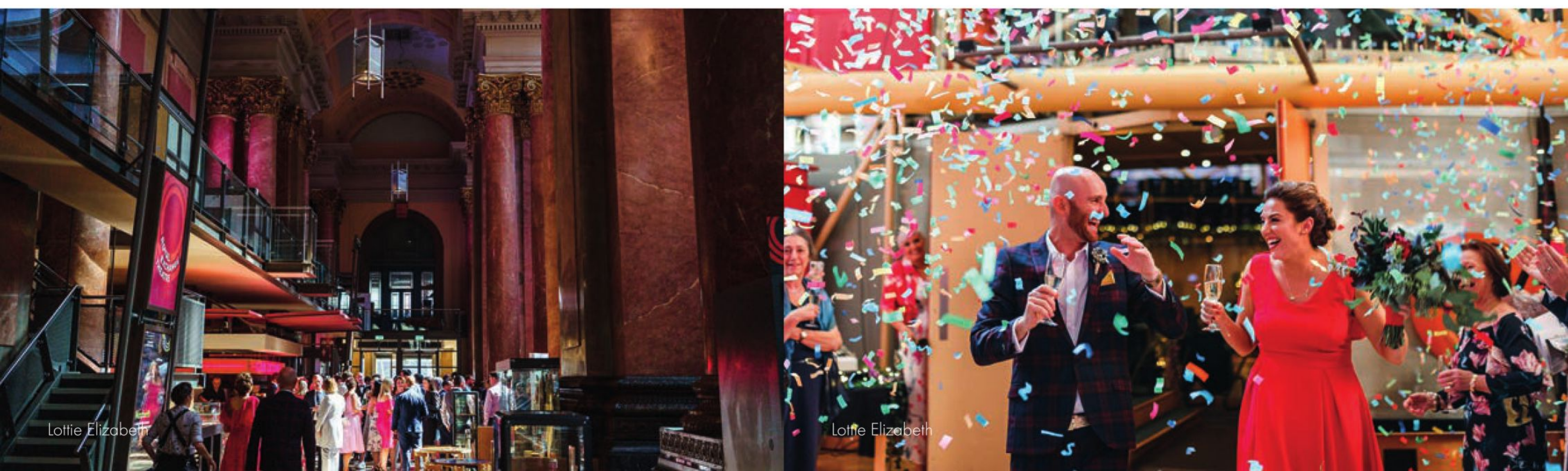
Get married centre-stage in our theatre-in-the-round in the heart of Manchester City Centre. Invite up to 150 guests, and your wedding ceremony will become a show-stopping performance that you and your audience won't forget.

We have three stunning rooms to choose from for your ceremony, after which you can eat, drink and dance the night away under our domed ceilings.

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Now taking bookings from Autumn 2020 to 2021.

To book a show round or for more information please email [hires@royalexchange.co.uk](mailto: hires@royalexchange.co.uk) or call 0161 615 6763
royalexchange.co.uk/venuehire



The one for me

This dream team worked together to create this stunning shoot at the Royal Exchange Theatre
 Images courtesy of Chris Currie Photography

When we first saw this wonderful shoot, we couldn't wait to share it with you all. We spoke to Stacey from To Be Revealed to find out more about the images: "The shoot came about after a conversation between myself and the events ladies at the Royal Exchange Theatre. They were keen to showcase their incredible venue as an amazing place to get married in the city centre. We wanted to create pictures that showed off all the features of the property, including its days as a stock exchange and of course the incredible theatre space itself. Making the images feel personal, and showing potential couples the spaces they could use for their wedding was our main goal."

The suppliers involved were all based in the North West. "We worked together to curate a series of styles to inspire couples who are looking for something unique," shares Stacey. "We combined bold colours with softer tones to highlight the natural shades in the venue. We also wanted to highlight the areas of beauty that are perfect for photographs."





REGIONAL SHOOT



THE DREAM TEAM

Venue, Royal Exchange Theatre, royalexchange.co.uk, hires@royalexchange.co.uk | **Photographer**, Chris Currie Photography, instagram.com/chriscurriephoto | **Styling and coordination**, To Be Revealed, toberevealed-style.co.uk | **Bridal boutique**, Serendipity Bridal, serendipitybridal.co.uk | **Designer**, Stelfox, stelfoxbride.com | **Veils**, Peacock + Pearl, peacockandpearl.co.uk | **Headpieces**, Rachel Chaprunne, rachelchaprunne.co.uk | **Hair and make-up artist**, Jules Daniels Makeup Artist, julesdanielsmua.co.uk | **Floral design**, The Flower Decorative, instagram.com/theflowerdecorative | **Stationery**, Orenä Bespoke Stationery, orenastationery.com | **Lanterns, vases and props**, The Event Edit, theeventedit.com | **Shoot assistant**, instagram.com/monicamrusso | **Models**, instagram.com/mimbo21 and instagram.com/paige_jones__

Shoes by Dune London, pink dress by Phase Eight and ivory dress by Warehouse.



HIGH STREET HOT LIST

Fashion favourites Warehouse has announced the launch of an exclusive bridal edit for the new season. The 19-piece collection offers a range of silhouettes in soft chiffon and satin fabrics using a muted colour palette of baby pink, navy, and ivory. They feature simple yet chic details, with vintage-inspired dresses, floral prints, fluted sleeves and back details. Prices range from £79 to £89. To shop, visit warehouse.co.uk

[warehouseuk](https://www.instagram.com/warehouseuk)

Phase Eight has revealed a new capsule bridal collection consisting of luxury designs with affordable price tags all under £500. There's a nod to the glamorous era of the 1920s with an ivory fringed dress, and this pretty blush tulle style, plus coordinating hats and fascinators. To shop, visit phase-eight.com

[phaseeight](https://www.instagram.com/phaseeight)

Shoe experts Dune London unveil the new 20-piece footwear collection alongside an exclusive range of matching clutch bags. Brides will love the jewel trims, ribbon ankle ties and sparkling details. Prices start from £130 for shoes and from £60 for bags. To shop, visit dunelondon.com

[dune_london](https://www.instagram.com/dune_london)

SAY 'YES' TO THE DRESS

Contemporary fashion brand KITRI has launched its debut bridal collection, a nine-piece selection of fun, feminine dresses and jumpsuits. Prices start from £195 for this *Fontana* style, and range up to £245. The pieces feature draped hems, exaggerated sleeves and cascading ruffles. There's choices for an engagement party or pre-wedding dinner too, and bridesmaids will also love the fashionable styles. Designer, founder and creative director of the brand Haeni Kim says, "We received requests for playful, wearable and affordable bridalwear from our customers since the launch of the brand so I'm very excited about our capsule bridal collection. We have designed a selection of dresses and jumpsuits that will be perfect for many occasions surrounding a modern wedding. It's such an honour to be a part of someone's wedding and we can't wait to see how our customers will wear them."

To shop, visit kitristudio.com

[kitristudio](https://www.instagram.com/kitristudio)



FASHION

focus

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

EDITOR'S PICK

This dusky pink ribbon and lace bodysuit is from the new Muse by Coco de Mer collection and is the perfect pick for your wedding night and honeymoon. Prices range from £20 for a thong to £120 for a slip, and pieces are available in sizes 30D-F to 36B-F. To shop, visit coco-de-mer.com

[cocodemeruk](https://www.instagram.com/cocodemeruk)



Editor's choice

Dress your little ones in the latest styles from French designer childrenswear brand Marie-Chantal.

This blue floral printed dress called *Eve* is the perfect pick for a spring wedding, and others include pretty pastels in gingham and tweed.

To shop, visit mariechantal.co.uk

[mariechantalchildren](https://www.instagram.com/mariechantalchildren)



Sisterhood

Kate Halfpenny, the talented designer behind the luxury Halfpenny London bridal brand has launched Sister, a bridesmaid collection with prices ranging from £70 to £295. Multiple styles are available in soft fabrics and three colourways – pink, pewter and navy. Kate says, "The Sister collection has something for everyone – from my signature separates to dresses and even a jumpsuit. They've all been designed to wear again and again, styled in your own way." To shop, visit halfpennylondon.com

[halfpennylondon](https://www.instagram.com/halfpennylondon)

One-shoulder
suzanneneville.com



Fun and frivolous

These flirty styles are setting the trends for 2020

Long sleeves

adriannapapell.com



Halterneck

catherineparrybridal.com



Short and sassy

justinalalexander.com

Oversized bow

alanhannah.co.uk



*Embellished
back detail*

clairepettibone.com

*Vintage-inspired
sleeves*

kitrystudio.com

Short sleeves

elbethgillis.com

Bib-front

katyakatya.co.uk

Slip dress
warehouse.co.uk



Shirt-style jumpsuit
kitristudio.com



Plunge neckline
jesuspeiro.com



Feathers
demetrios.com

Chic jumpsuit
charlottebalbier.com



Fringing
phase-eight.com



Elegant cape
jennypackham.com



Tulle detail
kelseyrose.co.uk





Blue organza silk dress, from a selection, mariechantal.co.uk

Teal top and matching skirt, from a selection, isabelmanns.com

Blue jewelled headband, £30, chichiclothing.com



Something blue

With classic blue being named Pantone Colour of the Year for 2020, flowergirls and bridesmaids will love these navy, teal and powder-blue pieces



Navy pleated dress with crystal trim, £325, phase-eight.com



Navy off-the-shoulder dress, £85, warehouse.co.uk



Two-tone dress, prices from £70 to £295, halfpennylondon.com



Satin shoes, £99, rainbowclub.co.uk



Pale blue lace dress, £210, thandth.com

These elegant styles can be worn as they are, or teamed with pretty shrugs or statement chokers for maximum impact

Madelyn dress with collar by elbethgillis.com

CHIC AND *strapless*

Aerial by charlottebalbier.com



Anais by clairepettibone.com



Style no 014 by demetrios.com



Margot by Kelly Faetanini at elliesanderson.co.uk

Bianca by jennypackham.com



Fern by alanhannah.co.uk



Style no 058 by jesuspeiro.com



Rose by whistles.com



IN PURSUIT OF WELLNESS

STILL London, the non-toxic, cruelty-free, vegan and environmentally friendly nail studio, has now launched a regenerating and protecting hand balm. With marine algae extract, lupine peptides, olive oil derived squalane, shea butter, cocoa butter and soya wax this potent formula regenerates, protects, moisturises and firms the skin.

There's also a new cuticle oil available where grape seed and evening primrose oil work seamlessly with a Norwegian algae extract, vitamin E and tea tree to absorb quickly and heal the skin naturally.

The hand balm is priced at £23 and the cuticle oil at £18. Both are available from still-london.com



Glow-givers

Blending natural extracts and cutting-edge science, Scientia Skincare utilises no less than 23 oils sourced from all around the world, including morning seed oil from Uganda, and wild carrot oil from France, which deliver maximum skin health while boosting wellbeing. The first exciting products to launch from this brand are the Dawn and Dusk Elixirs, formulated to give you your daily and nightly dose of radiance.

Priced at £32 each from scientiabeauty.com

WELL LIT

This highly-pigmented, three-in-one highlighter creates a perfectly radiant glow that will take you from ceremony to celebrations. This super-versatile micro-fine powder is easy to apply to cheeks, brow bones and décolletage for a quick all-over radiance. You can play it safe with a natural shimmer or make a statement by creating a multi-dimensional strobing effect.

This convenient make-up bag hero in Sahara is actually an ombre of Kevyn Aucoin's three best-selling highlighters, Candlelight, Starlight, and Sunlight. In this case, three is most definitely not a crowd!

Available from spacenk.com, priced at £30.



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

Beauty BUZZ

Crystal clear

If hours of traipsing around wedding shows and agonising over budgets has left you in need of a bit of R&R, this will come as music to your ears. LLIO's Crystoil helps with those little moments in life where you can finally enjoy some you-time, aiding sleep, boosting energy and enhancing the mood. You can invoke Crystoil's power in two ways: shake the bottle and add a few droplets to a bath, or massage all over before stepping into a warm bath or shower. The lush passionflower, apricot and rosehip oils make for deliciously soft nourished skin.

LLIO will be donating £1 of every sale to Winston's Wish, a charity giving hope to grieving children. Priced at £45, check out llo.love



A ROSY GLOW

Looking to achieve that natural dewy flush of colour for your wedding day? The folk at Beautaniq Beauty have just the thing. Introducing the Butter Cheek & Lip Balm. This cream blusher blends seamlessly into cheeks using nothing more than the warmth of your fingertips, and doubles up as an effortless lip colour. Crafted with 90% natural plant-based oils to nourish, condition and hydrate the skin, it simultaneously bestows a gorgeous, creamy radiance.

Available at beautaniqbeauty.com it's priced at £12.50.



Sustainability, solved

Disposable face wipes are a thing of the past with the sustainable, vegan-friendly and cruelty-free Face Halo. These microfibre pads remove your make-up and lightly exfoliate the skin in just seconds. Face Halo works with water helping the clever HaloTech fibres, which are 100 times finer than human hair, to get to work on removing even the most stubborn make-up. Reusable, the Face Halo can be machine washed up to 200 times, meaning it's a cost-effective way of looking after your skin and it helps the environment. Around these parts we call that a win-win!

The Face Halo Original is priced at £17.99 and is available from Beauty Bay, Boots, Selfridges and Harrods. Check out facehalo.com



COLOUR WITH CARE

Founded by French sisters, and beauty experts, Hamida and Yasmine Smatti, L'Atelier Green is a breathable and bio-sourced polish that cares for your nails. After helping countless beauty fans to repair nails damaged by acrylics, gel manicures and toxin-filled varnishes, they saw first-hand the need for a product that not only gave the desired colour, shine and long-lasting effect, but that also nurtured nails and cuticles.

The debut Naked Nails collection boasts breathable properties, which help to bring your nails back to full health. Enriched with high-performance, organic and active ingredients, the lacquers stimulate nail growth and repair damage without sacrificing glossiness and longevity.

Priced from £15.99, see the website lateliergreen.com



FAREWELL SPLIT ENDS!

Let's be honest, a dry and damaged barnet is not the look for your wedding day, so, now's the time to banish split ends for good. Check out BondiBoost's Rapid Repair range. Start your haircare routine with Rapid Repair Shampoo (£22.50). Formulated to repair split ends, reduce breakage and seal cuticles, it delivers a boost of essential oils rich in antioxidants, vitamins and amino acids. Follow with Rapid Repair Conditioner (£22.50), which improves signs of damage. Then, finish by applying 1-2 pumps of the Rapid Repair Serum (£22.50) for softness and shine. Hey presto – damaged hair is a thing of the past. Easy. Available at boots.com

Step it up

If you simply don't have time for a complicated multi-step skincare regime, help is at hand. Designed to streamline your routine in a fast-moving world, Frances Prescott's multitasking natural skincare will have your complexion big-day ready in no time. With the Tri-Balm (£46) and Tri-Spritz (£45) all you need are two simple three-in-one steps.

The luxurious facial balm cleanses, exfoliates and moisturises in one solid stick bursting with botanical oils. Meanwhile, the spritz works to aid cellular repair, protect against pollution and set make-up.

For further information see francesprescott.com



BEAUTY SLEEP

The must-have beauty accessory for flawless skin and hair is a pillowcase, but not just any. The Gingerlily Beauty Box contains a 100% silk pillowcase for the ultimate in luxury that allows you to reap beauty benefits while you sleep. Soft and seamless, the A-grade mulberry silk adjusts to the temperature of your body and is naturally hypoallergenic, ideal if you suffer with allergies or have sensitive skin. Thanks to its high protein content, this fabric doesn't absorb moisture, so it helps to prevent wrinkles, while keeping skin hydrated and hair glossy.

Available in silver grey, nude, ivory and white, they're priced at £59 each and available from gingerlily.co.uk



BEAUTY NEWS

STRESSED SKIN SOLUTION

Cannabooster Detox from French holistic skincare brand Ho Karan (meaning "I love you" in Breton) is a clarifying, brightening and energising serum – a real skin saviour. Rich in potent terpenes, it helps to detoxify, clarify and create a formidable shield against the harmful effects of pollution. It's gentle on stressed skin, hydrating, nourishing and protecting.

As its name implies it contains the trending plant extract CBD, which has calming, anti-inflammatory and sebum balancing effects. So unsurprisingly this wonder-ingredient is being championed as the latest wellness hero.

Find out more at hokaran.com



Sanda Aromatherapy Eye Pillow, £22, sandafeelgood.com

"I'm in love! The eye pillow is simple, yet so versatile, and great to have on hand for times when you feel like you need to stop and take a few moments. I put it through its paces and tried it warm first of all. Just 30 seconds in the microwave is plenty. The heat releases the amazing aroma (mine is rose and cardamom), which enhances the whole experience. I popped on a five-minute mindfulness meditation and shut out the world."

"The next night I tested the cold experience – 20 minutes or so in the freezer does the trick. After a tense day it calmed my head and soothed my tired, contact lense-wearing eyes. I can't wait to try it in the summer when itchy hayfever eyes kick in."

– **Kelly Andrews**

A CALMING *influence*

We put these soothing saviours to the test, perfect for beating wedmin stress



Amphora Aromatics Relaxing Bath Oil 100ml, £6, amphora-aromatics.com

"I love a bath. Any excuse to get me in the tub, I'm there, and I have to say, I've tried a lot of bath oils. So, I was eager to dive right in with this Relaxing Bath Oil from Amphora Aromatics."

"I truly believe this is the best bath oil I've ever tried. It has exactly the right combination of a heavenly aroma that's not too overpowering, and nourishment, without being greasy. My skin felt instantly balmy and fragrant, which lasted throughout the following day to boot."

– **Danielle Harvey**

Sanatio Naturalis Frankincense Essential Oil 10ml, £26, sanationaturalis.com

"I had to dig deep at the back of the cupboard to find my essential oil diffuser to test out Sanatio Naturalis' Frankincense Essential Oil, but I'm glad I did! Distilled from wild-growing tree resin in Somalia, it has an exotic, spicy scent. Without being overbearing, it filled my room with a deliciously heady fragrance that was the perfect backdrop to some me-time. The strong smell is brilliant for focusing the mind and it's been shown that inhaling frankincense reduces your heart rate and blood pressure – so if you're feeling the stress of wedmin, it's definitely worth a whirl." – **Hannah Faulder**



Kyushi Jasmine, Lavender & Cedarwood Face Oil 30ml, £39, kyushi.co.uk

"The first thing I noticed about this face oil was the earthy smell that filled the room. Kyushi recommend placing three drops into the palms of your hands, gently rubbing them together and cupping over your nose and mouth before taking some deep breaths, as the mindful application is as important as the product itself. I did find it had a calming effect, and it smelled divine. It also made my skin feel incredibly soft and hydrated. I recommend using it before you go to bed for a long, restful sleep." – **Melissa Barker**



Tisserand Aromatherapy Total De-Stress MoodFix Mist 100ml, £9.45, tisserand.com

"I can't promise this handy spray will work miracles when it comes to tackling a hectic lifestyle, but what it does do is allow you to stop, if only for a minute, and just breathe. A quick squirt provides a comforting mist of calm when the going gets tough and the blend of geranium, orange and nutmeg natural pure essential oils smells great too!" – **Sarah Reeve**

Beauty Q&A

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

A SMOOTH COMPLEXION

What tips can you suggest to get my make-up looking fabulous for my big day?

For me, looking fabulous starts with feeling fabulous. Here are a few of my top tips to ensure you look great on your big day.

- ♥ Drink more water. Hydration is the most important factor when it comes to feeling and looking great. It will improve your complexion, reduce puffiness, cause fewer lines and wrinkles and make your pores smaller. If you're dehydrated, it will leave your face looking tired, dull and often sallow. Make an effort to drink at least three glasses of water a day on top of what you already do. Your whole body will thank you for it.
- ♥ Looking after your skin is often a priority that gets lost in our busy lives. Introducing a good routine can make the world of difference and is a great idea in the run-up to your big day. Remember, even the best foundation in the world will not give you fresh, flawless skin if a good base isn't there to start with. Start making changes nice and early in the planning process in case products don't agree with you. If you can, book in for a facial and seek advice on what products are suitable for you.
- ♥ Some of you may not touch your brows, and others may have monthly maintenance. Don't write them off, it's amazing what a simple brow tint can do. Having a clear groomed eyebrow will make your look finished and precise.

When you're ready to start make-up planning, book a trial with your chosen artist. Take images and inspiration of how you would love to look. Don't be afraid! Pinterest and Instagram are great for this. The trial is your chance to play with different styles and products. If you want to up the ante but aren't used to wearing lots of make-up, try wearing it more often. The more you wear it, the more comfortable you'll feel on the day.

Daniella Ingle
Make-up artist
daniellamakeuphair.com

HAIR CARE HERO

I want to do something creative with my long, straight hair, but I'm not sure what style to go for. Do you have any suggestions?

Preparation is key. Heated rollers will add volume and bounce to your tresses. It will also make it easier to create a romantic up do, or if you'd prefer it down, you could add romantic waves.

If you want an up do, but your hair is thick and straight, I would purchase bobby pins that are stronghold. These are more expensive and can be bought from most wholesale hairdressing stores. They hold your locks like scaffolding rather than bending and slipping like shop-bought ones.

For a more boho style, opt for a simple plait with flowers. These look great in long hair or a more formal ponytail. I'd always recommend having a few trial attempts either with your stylist or just having a play around with ideas at home before the day.

Gemma Louise Smith
Hair stylist
hairforawedding.com

A SHOWSTOPPING LOOK

How can I care for my skin in the run-up to my wedding to ensure I look fabulous on the day?

Before you think about your make-up, you should focus on your skin. Start to think about your skincare routine at least six to nine months before the big day. If you have any major concerns, such as acne or scarring, you should schedule an appointment with a professional as early as possible.

Great skin requires commitment, not only from monthly facials but in your daily routine. This means ditching those face wipes and investing in products that contain hydrating ingredients like hyaluronic acid. At the very least you need to invest in a good cleanser, toner, exfoliator and moisturiser to use twice daily.

Dianna Speedy
Skin specialist
skintonicormskirk.com

ONLY TIME WILL TELL

BOSS Watches has launched three new products. The Vela Collection includes statement-making timepieces that were inspired by open skies, urban streets and broad horizons.

Each watch seamlessly combines aesthetics with performance and signature features such as water resistance, glow-in-the-dark markers and engraved backs. Designed to accompany grooms-to-be on the biggest day of their lives, each one has a stainless steel chronograph with a masculine bracelet.

To find out more, visit bosswatches.co.uk



Read all ABOUT IT!

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

DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Chester Barrie has launched a new range of men's formalwear. The AW19 Collection features old classics and new and improved accessories, including bow ties, evening suits, shirts and handkerchiefs. The semi-bespoke gentleman's tailor is located in London and offers both ready-to-wear and made-to-measure options.

To see more, visit chesterbarrie.co.uk



Grand plans

Award-winning suit company, Master Debonair has unveiled plans to open six new stores across the UK in 2020.

The fashion firm currently has boutiques in Bolton, London and Chesterfield and a separate showroom in Tyneside. It's become a favourite with grooms-to-be looking for stylish yet affordable suits and accessories.

Check out masterdebonair.com for more.

GOING GREEN

London-based company, Bluebuck has released a new collection of sports trunks and briefs manufactured using Seaqual – an eco-fabric made from recycled plastic waste.

The collection combines the brand's eco-sustainability mission with green fashion. The range has a sleek, sportive cut, and is designed for more adventurous men who want a durable undergarment without compromising on comfort.

Priced from £22–£29 from bluebuck.net



Oh-so handsome

We love Murdock London's latest range of gift sets. Ideal for grooms-to-be, each collection is made in England using the finest products. The range is designed to offer quality and effective daily essentials that encapsulates the heritage of Great British grooming, along with the sought-after style of the modern gentlemen.

Our favourite is the Bailey set, priced at £50, it comes with a beard shampoo, moisturiser, oil and luxurious comb.

To see more, visit murdocklondon.com

TIME'S TICKING

Add the finishing touch to your big-day attire



1. £59.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk
2. £89.99, tkmaxx.com
3. £30, riverisland.com
4. £250, newgateworld.com
5. £240, thewatchhut.co.uk
6. £449, hugoboss.com
7. £690, mauricelacroix.com
8. £224.99, timex.co.uk



STEP INTO *spring*

We've rounded
up our favourite
products to
help you create
the ultimate
seasonal look

£110, burton.co.uk



£35, foxandchave.com



£45, davidwatson.uk



£59.95, remusuomo.com



£100, joebrowns.co.uk



£99.99, tkmaxx.com



£199, newgateworld.com



£22, villageleathers.com



£24.99, gettingpersonal.co.uk



£110, dunelondon.com



PICTURE-PERFECT PARADISE

The private Maldivian-owned boutique island resort of Baros has won the title of World's Most Romantic Resort for the seventh consecutive time at the annual World Travel Awards. Voted for by industry professionals and travellers from across the globe, it certifies its places as one of the top honeymoon destinations. General manager Ibrahim Shijah says, "This award maintains Baros' status as a Maldivian legend and furthers the significant impact of the resort within the international luxury market around the world."

To highlight its romantic offerings, the resort has launched its Romantic Moments package. Including a private candlelit beach dinner, a couple's massage and a spectacular sunset cruise, it makes the ultimate honeymoon retreat. Visit baros.com



A WILD MINI-MOON

You can journey across South America, Asia and Africa at Kent's authentic safari park Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve. We love that guests can now enjoy some peace and tranquility under the stars in The Bubble, a 180-degree panoramic lodge with stunning views across the 600-acre reserve. Couples can also take their romance to new heights with a once-in-a-lifetime hot-air balloon ride over Port Lympne and the surrounding countryside. After a day exploring the reserve, why not enjoy a romantic dinner at its Moroccan Courtyard or Bear Lodge Restaurant before heading back to your quirky accommodation. For more information, head to aspinallfoundation.org

HONEYMOON

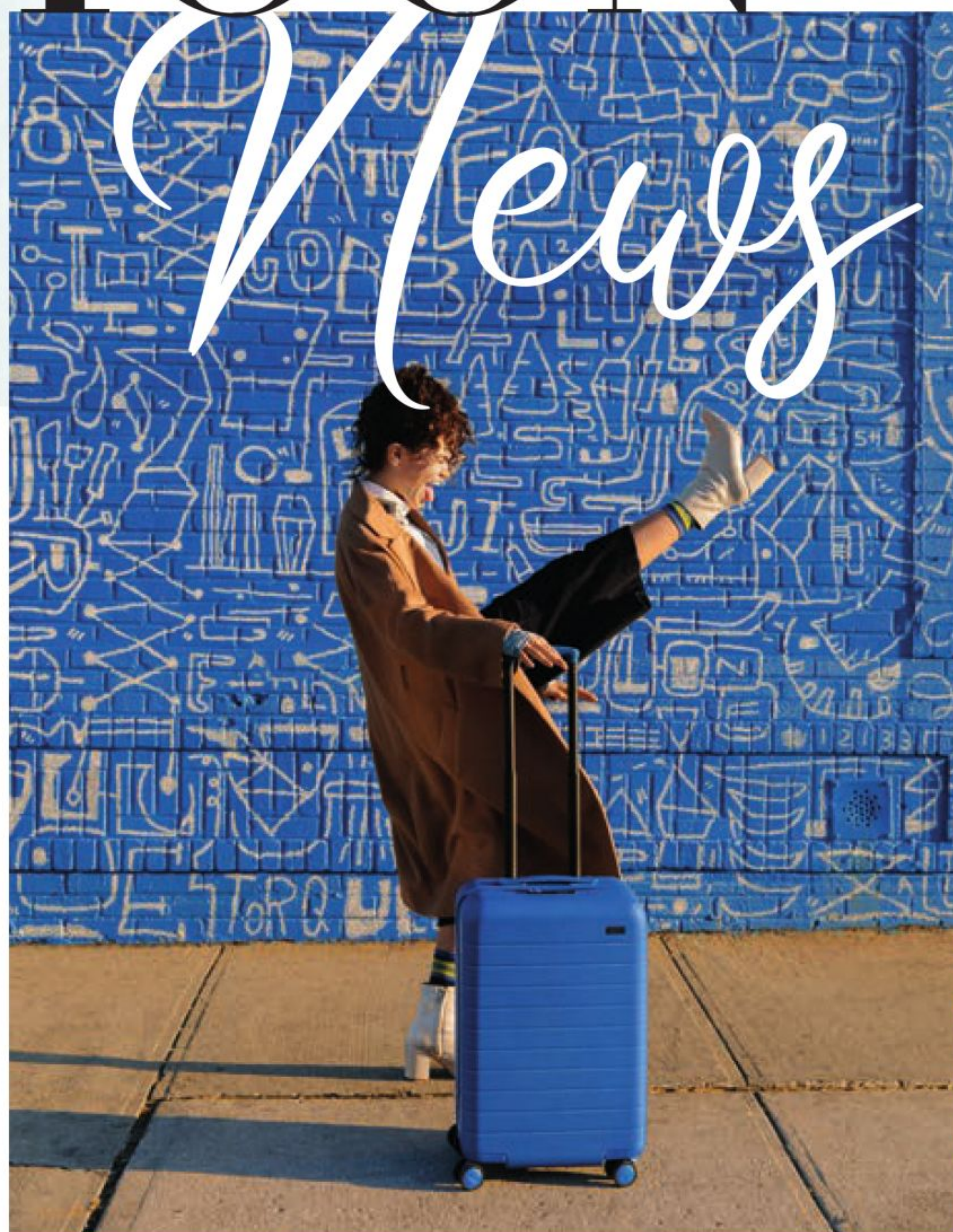


Travel editor Hannah Faulder reveals her top honeymoon destination picks and travel essentials

HOT HOTEL OPENING FOR 2020

I love a short-haul flight, so MarBella Collection's MarBella Elix on mainland Greece is a 2020 hotel opening I'm very excited about. The third hotel to join the portfolio and the first outside of Corfu, it will be perched above the beautiful Karavostasi Beach in the Parga region, looking west towards Corfu and Paxos. Couples arriving after the June 2020 launch will be able to marvel at the outstanding natural beauty, the inviting golden coastline and crystal-clear waters.

Within an hour's drive of Preveza Airport, the hotel can also arrange boat transfers from Corfu, which is ideal for those looking to twin with the MarBella Collection's two properties on the Ionian island. Book your honeymoon here, and you can expect luxurious accommodation, incredible scenery, exhilarating activities and delicious dining. Check out marbellacollection.gr



A classic case

Anyone else loving the 2020 Pantone Colour of the Year Classic Blue? It's evocative of vast skies and deep blue waters so it's ideal for travelling, and Away have hit the nail on the head with its limited edition Colour of the Year Collection. See the range at awaytravel.com

WINE TIME

Legacy wine estate Boschendal in South Africa's Cape Winelands introduced the country's first tented wine experience in March 2020. Wine-loving honeymooners can stay in one of seven luxury serviced tents in the heart of the 4,500-acre working estate and vineyard, offering a one-of-a-kind perspective on its staggering landscape.

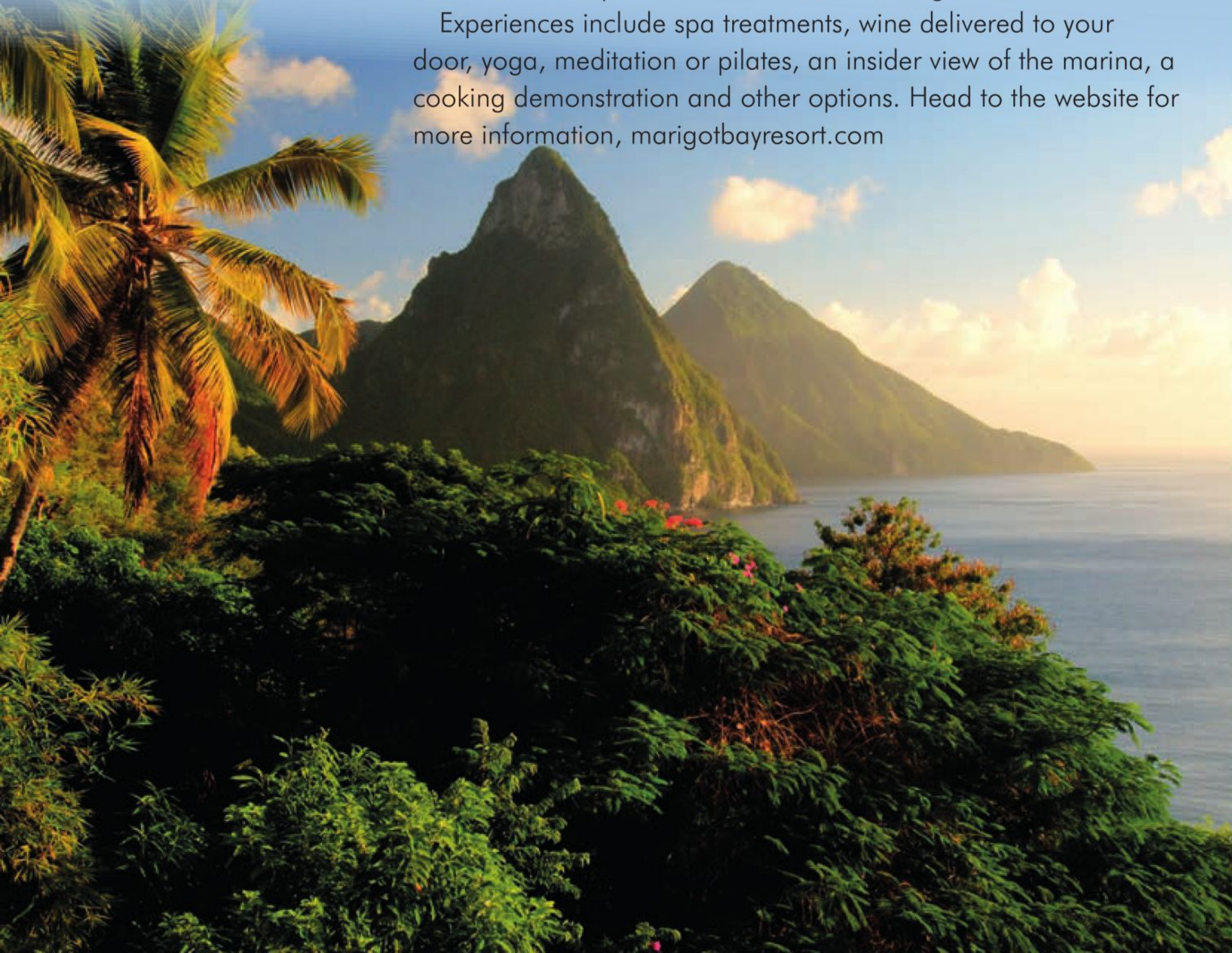
The property is dedicated to conserving its natural biodiversity and guests have the opportunity to become a part of the landscape that cultivates the exquisite produce found in its restaurants and wine cellar. To find out more, visit boschendal.com



MARRY, GO

St Lucia is one of my favourite holiday spots, and I'm not alone as it's consistently voted as one of the most romantic destinations in the world. The fabulous Marigot Bay Resort has come up with a dreamy new honeymoon package called Marigot Moments, which includes a full week of experiences and the seventh night free.

Experiences include spa treatments, wine delivered to your door, yoga, meditation or pilates, an insider view of the marina, a cooking demonstration and other options. Head to the website for more information, marigotbayresort.com



HONEYMOON NEWS

KEEP ON MOVING

With the Olympics just around the corner, you might be getting in the sporty mood. If you and your partner are more likely to be running on the beach than snoozing on it, then these active honeymoon picks are for you...

- ♥ Mountain biking in Mauritius. The Mauritius Tour Beachcomber 2020 is held 30th April to 2nd May and consists of four stages over a total distance of 195km. The challenging route allows cyclists to soak in their stunning surroundings. Book at beachcombertours.uk
- ♥ Running in Victoria Falls. The Victoria Falls Marathon in Zimbabwe is definitely a bucket-list event. Taking place in July, participants will be running alongside incredible scenery, amazing wildlife and one of the seven natural wonders of the world. Book at africaalbidatourism.com
- ♥ Diving in Fiji. Sign up for the THIRDHOME Adventure's Jean-Michel Cousteau's Fiji Island Hideaway Adventure in September to spend a week on a private island with guided diving and snorkelling alongside the world-famous oceanographic explorer and his expert marine biologist. Book at adventures.thirdhome.com
- ♥ Wild swimming in the Seychelles. Eager to try the wild swimming trend but the cold UK water's not for you? Dip your toes in at the five-star Hilton Seychelles Northolme Resort & Spa and swim or snorkel along the 650-metre coral trail. Book at seychelles.hilton.com
- ♥ Stay active at sea. The launch of Blue World Voyages in 2021 will see the world's first active lifestyle cruise take to the Mediterranean with two decks dedicated to fitness, sports and wellness. There will also be a seawater pool, which will be lowered into the ocean so guests can swim alongside the ship. Book at blueworldvoyages.com

A TASTE OF PARADISE

Editor Claire Ridley travelled to the island of Anguilla in the Caribbean to discover what this popular honeymoon destination has to offer

When the opportunity arose to experience what's new for 2020 on this luxurious island in the Eastern Caribbean, I packed my passport and bikini and was ready to fly! The lure of its 33 pristine beaches with powder-white sand and clear turquoise sea – regularly voted some of the best in the region – along with the promise of some winter sun had me jumping on board the Virgin Atlantic flight from London Gatwick bound for the British West Indies.

It's a good idea to break the journey with a one-night stopover in Antigua. Curtain Bluff is a spectacular all-inclusive resort set against the backdrop of not one but two palm-fringed beaches – Bay Beach and Surf Beach. I stayed in a stunning one-bedroom, split-level Bluff Suite boasting panoramic sea views from the terrace.

Honeymooners can while away the day in a hammock or snorkel around the reef to discover a rich variety of sea life. For active types, there's scuba diving, waterskiing and basketball, all included in the room rate, while those wanting something more relaxing will love the spa treatments available in the private couple's treatment room.

The Seagrape restaurant offers beachfront dining, while the plantation-style Tamarind Restaurant is located in a more secluded setting, both served by the most extensive wine cellar in the area – be sure to ask for a private tasting.

Wish you were here

Boarding the inter-island Trans Anguilla Airways flight (prepare for a very small plane!), I was excited to touch down on this small yet perfectly formed jewel of the Caribbean where I was greeted by Colwayne from the Anguilla Tourist Board and whisked off to visit the Valley Street Festival, a vibrant introduction to the local arts and crafts scene. A 20-minute massage here from Big Joe really helped me to recover from the flight and relax into island life where, as the locals say, you should 'make time to lime' (hang out!)

Next up was a scenic tour of this honeymoon hotspot pointing out areas of interest including The Valley (the capital city) and Crocus Hill (the highest point). Lunch at the Bayside Grill beach bar at

da'Vida Restaurant & Spa was my first introduction to Johnny cakes – a doughnut-like savoury snack – and the local mahi-mahi fish giving me some much-needed energy for a two-hour afternoon kayaking tour from Crocus Bay to Little Bay with Liquid Glow. Through the clear-bottom kayaks I spotted tropical fish and even a turtle as we paddled along the sapphire shores, stopping for a snorkel around the cliff edge at the secluded Little Bay. Honeymooners will love the romantic night kayaking tour they offer, where you get the chance to see turtles sleeping at the bottom of the ocean.

It was soon time to check into the redesigned, award-winning CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa located on Rendezvous Bay that was to be my home for the next three nights. It's a glamorous white building with azure blue touches and a Mediterranean feel mixed with Caribbean flair (think of the architecture in Santorini and you get the idea). KazBar, the lounge area in the lobby, is a Moroccan-inspired space furnished with pops of bright colour, ideal for relaxing with rum and tapas while enjoying the live music. All 91 suites (including the Beachfront Junior Suite where I stayed), seven villas and two penthouses have been recently renovated and boast a bright coastal feel.

This super-stylish resort promises a gourmet-dining scene where guests can enjoy tastes from around the globe, including authentic Anguillian food created by new executive chef Juan Bochenski. He uses local ingredients and sustainable practices, and dishes include sushi and sashimi at the award-winning Japanese restaurant Tokyo Bay.

After a dip in the pool and some much-needed sunbathing time in a private cabana, it was time to get ready for dinner at Maundays Club located at dreamy resort Belmond Cap Juluca. Here, I sampled the tasty Peruvian menu including the mouth-watering Caribbean fish ceviche.

This romantic hideaway nestled on Maundays Bay offers Insta-worthy snaps at every turn and by day, the resort's turquoise VW Campervans and vintage-style bicycles allow for easy viewing of the grounds. A horse ride along the beach at Meads Bay on Tosh, proudly led by owner Zambezi, was a highlight and is suitable for riders of all levels. Check out the sunset excursions; great for honeymooners.

Enjoying #qualitytime at Curtain Bluff #curtainpics

Drinking a #coconutcocktail at da'Vida Restaurant (left), and the #infinityedgepool and #cutecampervans at Belmond Cap Juluca (right) #anguilla #beyondextraordinary

#horseriding on the #beach #meadsbay #belmondcapjuluca




Admiring the #seaviews
and #infinitypool at Zemi
Beach House Hotel &
Spa and CuisinArt (left)

Beyond the beach




Breakfast at Mosaic at CuisinArt certainly didn't disappoint, with the banana bread, coconut muffins and reviving smoothies so delicious I just had to order seconds. The restaurant features an open kitchen and wrap-around bar and is also open for dinner. After a swim in the ocean and enjoying the soft sand between my toes, it was time to be transported to the jaw-droppingly beautiful Shoal Bay East. (The easiest way to travel around the island is with Premier Taxi and Tours). This stunning stretch of sand is home to the Zemi Beach House Hotel & Spa boasting infinity pools and picturesque vistas. To say I ate well here was an understatement, with mahi-mahi tacos and hand-crafted coconut mocktails on the menu at the Zemi Beach Club. This was followed by a therapeutic massage at the zen-like Zemi Thai House Spa before enjoying the spectacular sunset that this island is well known for.




#donotdisturb in
the #stylishrooms
and #spa at
CuisinArt (below)

That evening, I headed for dinner at Café Celeste inside the colonial-style Malliouhana resort simply oozing with glamour and Caribbean charm, perched on the stunning Meads Bay. Highlights on the menu include red snapper, conch curry served with coconut dumplings and yummy plantain fritters.

Another day in paradise



Fully immersed in island life, I enjoyed an early morning yoga and meditation session followed by a refreshing dip in the healing waters pool in the Spa by CuisinArt. This tranquil spot is home to 16 treatment rooms, including a couple's suite featuring an outdoor Jacuzzi, where a heated bamboo massage and aqua massage are on the menu. The Scrub Blend Bar experience isn't to be missed, giving guests the option to make their own spa product to take home with them, and other more adventurous activities include aquatic kickboxing, stand-up paddleboard yoga and tennis (with lessons available). There's also a fun cookery class to learn how to make Portuguese petiscos and a rum and cocktail-making lesson.



#grilledlobster at
the Sunshine Shack

Golf enthusiasts will love the 18-hole Greg

Book it



Tropic Breeze offer holidays to Antigua to stay at the Curtain Bluff resort, 01752 880 880, tropicbreeze.co.uk, @ tropicbreezeholidays curtainbluff.com @ curtainbluffresort




HONEYMOONS


#freshseafood
and a #romantic
ambience at Café
Celeste (above
and below)

Norman Signature Design Championship course, the only one on the island, situated close by on the resort's sister property, The Reef by CuisinArt. This oceanfront boutique hotel boasts 80 rooms and suites built across four beachfront buildings and an open-air lobby. Foodies will love The Yacht Club Restaurant, opening on to the feature pool, serving breakfast and dinner while Breezes Beachfront Restaurant & Bar offers a lounge-style atmosphere for lunch and dinner. Sundowners are a must-try at Santorini at the Clubhouse, also open for lunch.

There's a cool party vibe at this hotel with regular live DJ sets around the pool and poolside treatments available to book through Spa to You.



Next up was a visit to the colourful Arts & Crafts Center in the West End, a treasure trove of island trinkets including conch shells to take home. From here, I headed to the Sunshine Shack beach bar and grill perched on Rendezvous Bay, a short stroll along the beach from CuisinArt, where I tucked into the delicious grilled lobster accompanied by the local Carib lager. It's well worth the walk and you're encouraged to scribble a message with your name on the shack before you leave.



Coming to the end of my magical trip, as the sun went down, the wonderful team at CuisinArt arranged for me to experience some private dining at the water's edge at the Beach Bar & Grill where I enjoyed an amazing array of food and live music. I departed Clayton J. Lloyd International Airport with a smile on my face that lasted the entire way home – this tropical paradise, one of the best-kept secrets in the Caribbean, will always hold a special place in my heart ❤️

Virgin Holidays offer holidays to Anguilla to stay at CuisinArt Golf Resort & Spa, 0344 739 6909, virginholidays.co.uk

ivisitanguilla.com @ anguilla_tourism

f BigjoePradel

davidaanguilla.com

anguillakayak.com @ axaliquidglow

cuisinartresort.com @ visitcuisinart

belmond.com @ belmondcapjuluca

f AnguillaHorses

f premiertaxiandtours

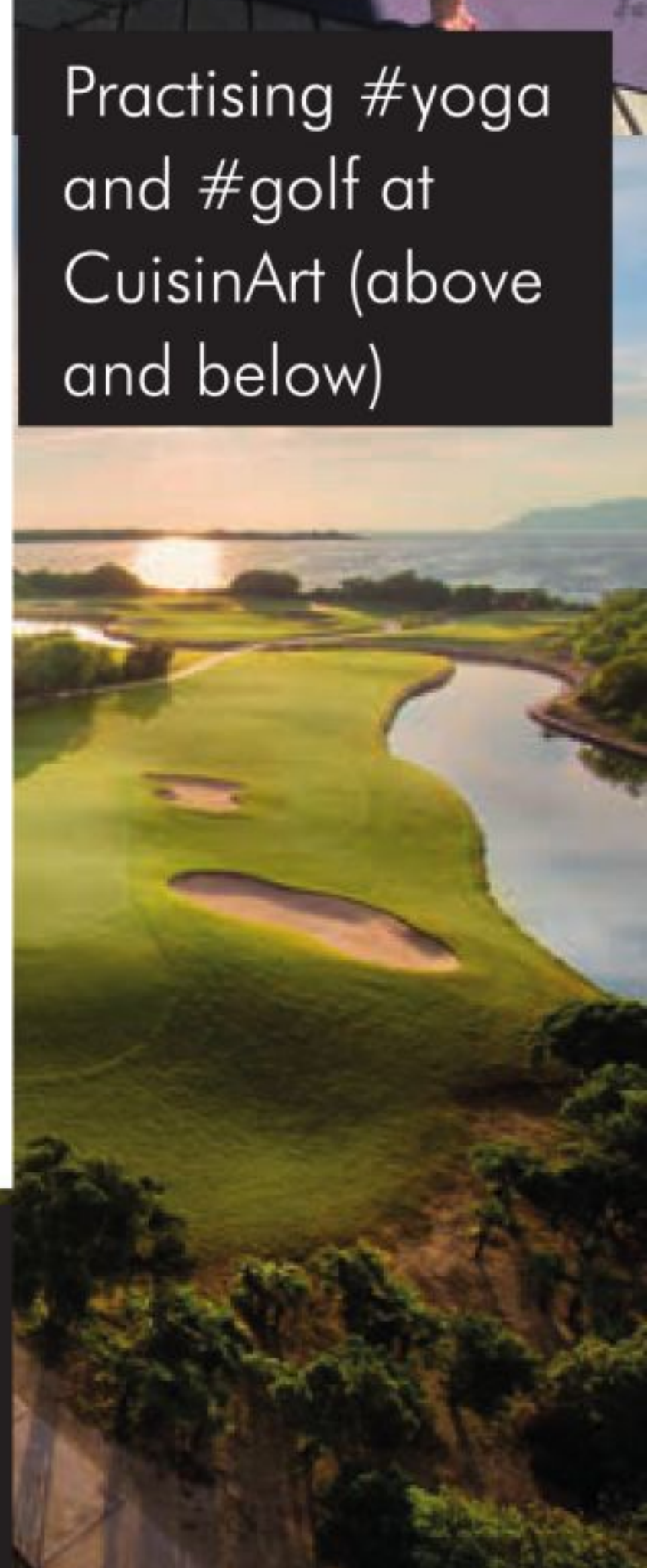
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Practising #yoga
and #golf at
CuisinArt (above
and below)

HEADLINERS

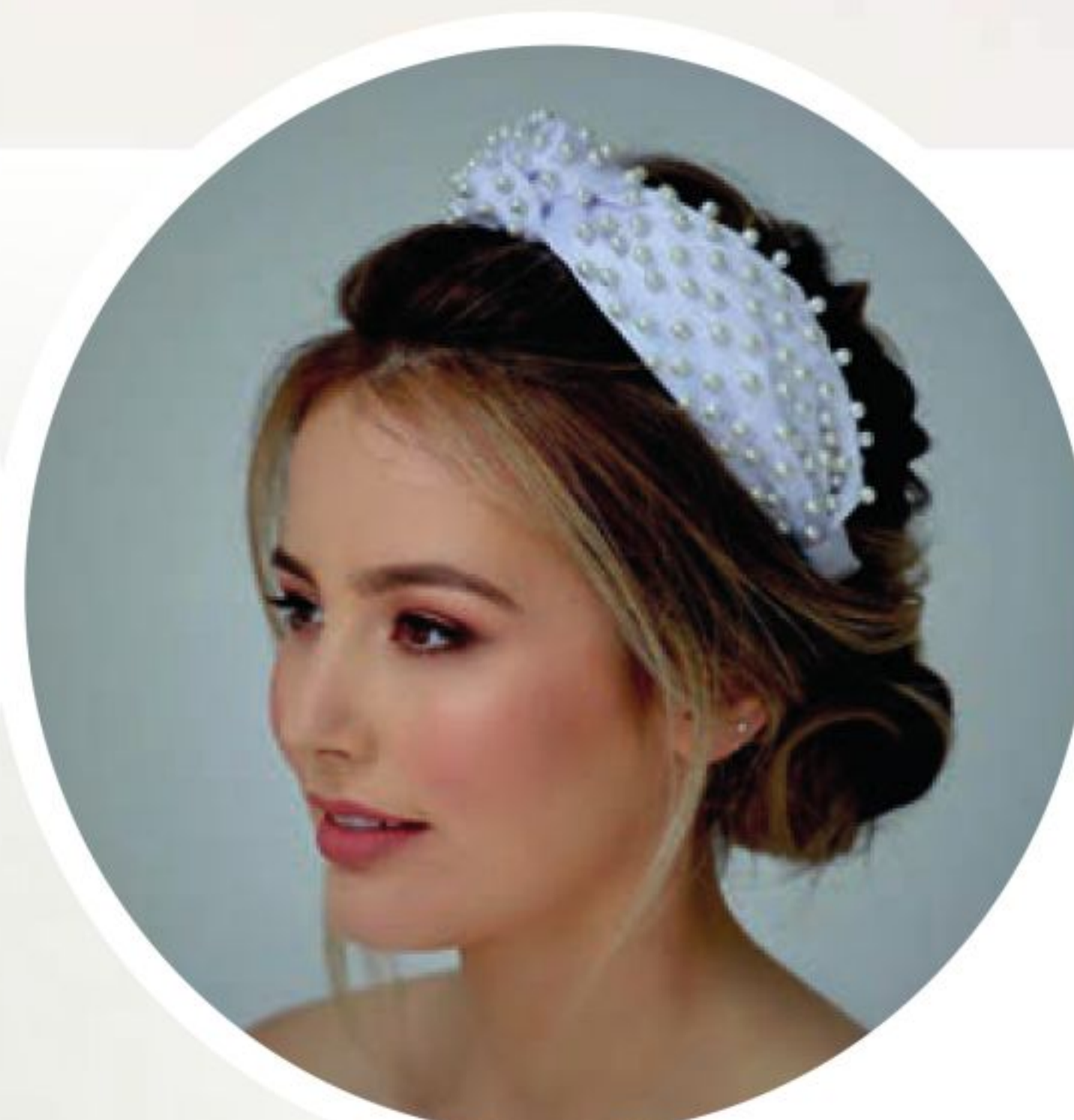
Hair clips, bands and accessories were spotted at the recent bridal catwalk shows. Get the look with our Insta-worthy selection



Headdress, from a selection, mervebayindir.com



Tiaras and veils spotted at demetrios.com. For similar, try richard-designs.com



White silk pearl headband, £59, alicandblair.co.uk



Veil, £175, rainbowclub.co.uk



Pearl-encrusted headband, £23, chichiclothing.com



Fascinator with ivory flowers, £35, phase-eight.com



Hair slides, from £19 for set of four, alicandblair.co.uk



Set of three hair slides, £15, oliverbonas.com



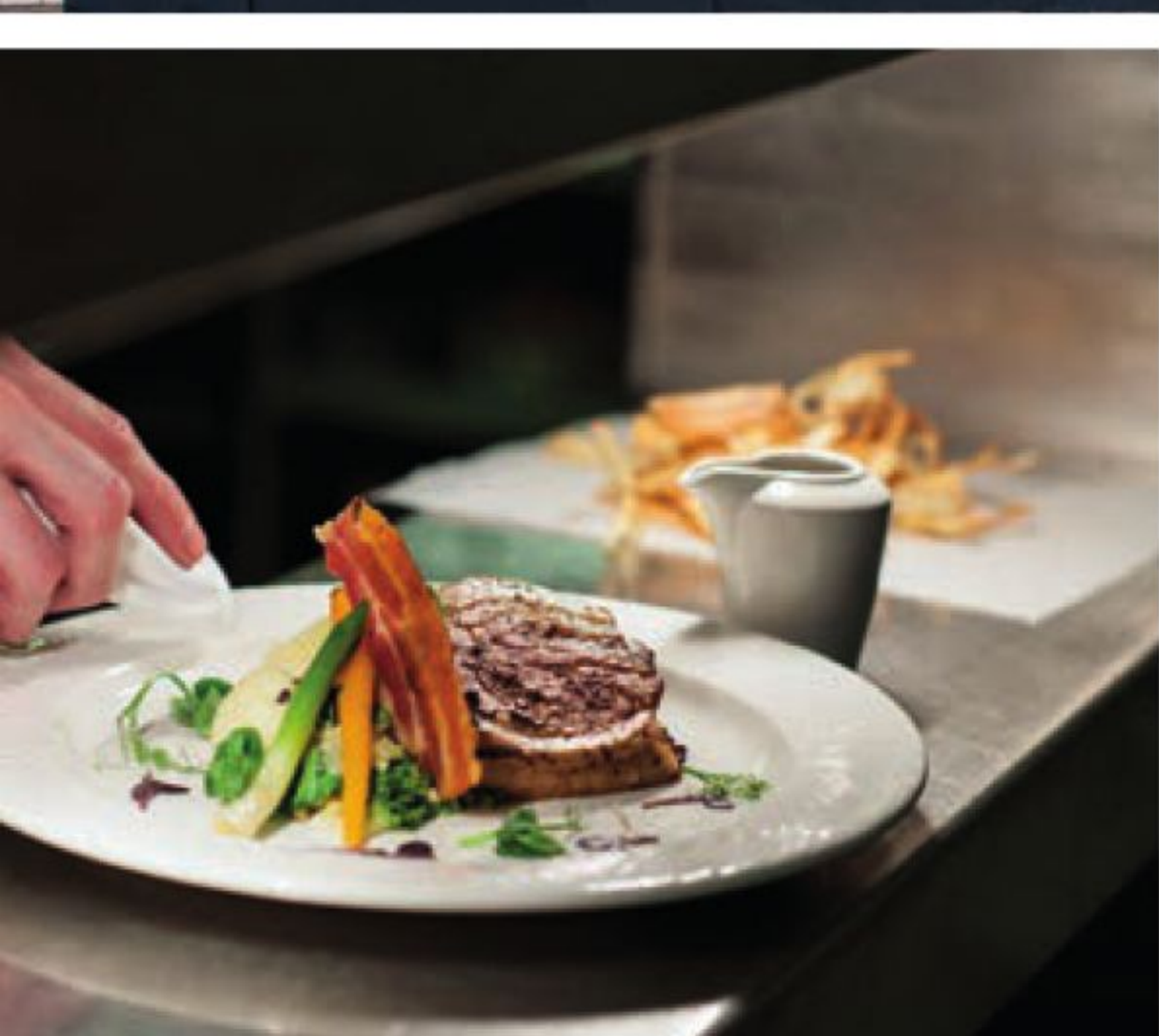
Cream knot headband, £4.99, newlook.com

Headband featuring large flower, from a selection, uk.accessorize.com



Pearl-effect beaded hair clips, £12 for set of two, crown-love.com





EXPLORE WINDSOR

Local attractions and nearby entertainment!

- ♥ Visit the world-famous Windsor Castle
- ♥ Have a fun day out at Legoland
- ♥ Book tickets to Edwardian Theatre Royal
- ♥ Discover Windsor Great Park on a horse and carriage tour
- ♥ See the Savill Garden – Britain's finest ornamental gardens

Olivia Gibson reviews the Castle Hotel Windsor

I didn't quite realise how incredible my stay would be at the Castle Hotel Windsor, throughout the trip my partner and I created amazing memories full of happiness, laughter and relaxation. Maybe it was the charming décor, impeccable service or the fact that Windsor Castle is nestled right opposite the hotel – creating the perfect backdrop.

When the chance to visit the establishment first arose, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. For a while, it's been on my bucket list to visit the UK town but something would always come up. But not this time, the stars aligned and next thing I know, my bags are packed and I'm on my way.

The hotel was first built in 1528 and was previously known as The Mermaid Inn serving as a bar for the town's 1,000 residents and is now one of the oldest buildings in the area. After being lovingly restored, the hotel still boasts elegance of its rich and fascinating history left behind.

Throughout the hotel, many features highlight the venue's story such as the Pennington Penny which was an in-house token issued by George Pennington back in 1656. I loved how the authentic essence of the venue has been kept and highlighted with some original features, when you look closely stories start to come alive.

PURE INDULGENCE

When stepping through the doors for the first time – and thinking how amazing everything looked – friendly staff quickly greeted us and took their time to explain the local area with the best places to see – they couldn't have been more helpful!

With 108 rooms available ranging from suites, superior and the classic rooms, there's something for everyone. Inside our room we found a 40-inch flat-screen TV, White Company toiletries, minibar and iron. After a long week, I was very excited to try out the queen size bed

which was covered with Egyptian cotton. It was so comfortable that I ended up having a nap! Once I had awoken from my slumber, we headed off for a romantic walk around the area and discovered plenty of independent boutiques, clothes shops and cafes – we walked around in comfortable silence just enjoying each others' company. As we visited in winter, the night drew in early leaving the dark streets beautifully lit.

TO DINE FOR

We couldn't fault our dining experience at The Marco Pierre White restaurant located in the hotel and I must say, it's one of the best meals I've ever had – and I'm not exaggerating! The service was faultless and I have told everyone about it. For starter I had Mr White's Scotch Egg which tasted divine, the egg inside was cooked to perfection. For main I opted for The Governor's Fried Haddock and Triple Cooked Chips, a simple dish which is my personal favourite and I wasn't disappointed.

After dinner we headed off to the bar where we enjoyed plenty of cocktails, my favourite was the classic daiquiri and spent our time relaxing on the comfortable chairs, it was so lovely to be able to spend time together without any distractions.

After having a lovely rest, we started our day with a great breakfast. It was a buffet-style set-up with choices of hot foods or continental. My partner says the blueberry muffin was his favourite, I would have loved to try some but I was so full-up!

While eating, guests could watch the changing of the guards right outside the window, it was impressive and there was an excited buzz all around – it was like a movie scene!

It was sadly time to leave; we both loved this hotel so much and will be booking our next trip back later this year!

Discover more about the venue here: castlehotelwindsor.com

NEXT ISSUE

JUNE/JULY 2020

ON SALE: 5th June, 2020



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These gorgeous Allied Square Studs, in sterling silver, gold and rose gold plate, use a special hand-finishing technique using different tools and hand-textured lines. These square studs are part of a tradition of the studio's pieces which are delicate enough to be layered up with other pieces from its collections, or will make an elegant statement piece by itself – perfect for your bridal look!

Matthew Calvin has become synonymous for contemporary jewellery design. Each piece is individually handmade to the highest standard with great attention to detail and finishing. All jewellery is complemented with clean and minimalist packaging that makes for the perfect gift for your bridal party!

Matthew Calvin also creates bespoke pieces, designed for his customers' most special life moments.

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BECAUSE SOME PEOPLE ARE WORTH MELTING FOR

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- Ceremony room hire
- Celebratory drinks after the ceremony
- Bridal Parlour
- 3 course Wedding Breakfast (based on chicken main)
- One large glass of House wine per person plus a top up
- One glass of Prosecco per person for the toasts
- Red carpet, Cake stand and knife
- Post Box, Chair covers and Place cards
- Top table flowers and Table plan
- Supper for 100 guests - Bacon and Sausage Barmes with Chips
- Resident DJ

PLUS

- FREE function room hire

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For more information contact:

The Villa Wrea Green: kathryn.dagger@thevilla.co.uk | 01772 80 40 40
The Villa Levens: keely.parsons@thevillalevens.co.uk | 01539 980 980

- Subject to availability

- New bookings only

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50 DAY GUESTS & 100 EVENING GUESTS
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