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Issue Number 49. Spring Edition.

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SAVE THE DATE

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HELLO & WELCOME!

Well spring has definitely sprung and we couldn't be happier about it! As restrictions across the UK begin to ease and the sun is peeking out from behind those clouds, there is a wave of positivity in the air (even a sniff of normality!). To celebrate, we have curated a joyful mix of wonderful wedding-ness which we hope will evoke inspiration and delight in equal measures. In honour of all the ballsy couples who stuck two fingers up to the pandemic and went ahead with their special, albeit small, celebrations, we have compiled some covid-era stunners on page 36 which are bringing us all the feels.

Styled shoots have been a lifeline for local suppliers to flex their creativity whilst weddings have been on the down-low and, quite frankly, much to our benefit! In this issue we bring you THREE blooming beautiful, editorial shoots that offer inspiration by the bucket load! Which will be your favourite?

If you're still sourcing your wedding suppliers, then you are in luck; we catch up with some super industry friends to get all the BTS gossip, starting with Rather Lovely Films on page 32.

This issue really is perfect reading for relaxing in that dreamy spring-sunshine with a cuppa (or something stronger); so pour one for yourself, get comfy and enjoy...

Wishing you a wonderful spring of wedding planning, see you in the summer!

Alice x

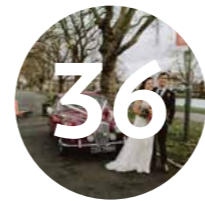
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Cover Image: Natalie Lauren Photography



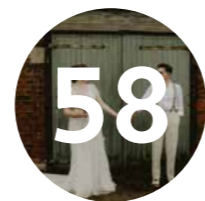
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NATASHA & JOHN'S PRETTY AND PAIRED BACK WEDDING DAY AT THE PUMPING HOUSE

MORE INSPO OVER ON [OUR BLOG](#)

Well isn't this just a treat for the eyes? We just love it when a wedding is bang on trend: Pampas grasses – tick! Bridal headband – tick! Effortlessly simple-but-effective styling – tick, tick, tick! With its sleek take on industrial, The Pumping House at Ollerton was the perfect backdrop for the natural tones of Natasha and John's modern and minimalist day and hints of burgundy scattered through the styling and groom's suit really elevate the look!

The bride wore a simple contemporary gown from Solace London and finished off this super chic look with an en-vogue headband by Saint Beth.

Taking place in August 2020, in the midst of a pandemic, it was really important to the couple that their guests were treated to an amazing party so an open bar was definitely called for. Natasha says "It really meant a lot to us that they got to spend time together during such a wild and woolly time. Some of the things you focus on before the day are not the things you focus on the day itself. When it comes down to it, it's your family and friends that count." and we couldn't agree more, congratulations!





SHOP THE SUPPLIERS

Caroline Goosey Photography - Photographer — [Visit Website](#)

The Pumping House - Venue — [Visit Website](#)

Wild Calligraphy - Stationery — [Visit Website](#)

Peonies and Plumes - Florals — [Visit Website](#)

Solace London - Bridal gown — [Visit Website](#)

Atrium Bar and Kitchen - Catering — [Visit Website](#)

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LOVE ROCKS

AT ODDHOUSE FARM



MORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

Oddhouse Farm is a newly renovated wedding venue set amidst the soft rolling hills of the Nottinghamshire countryside. Set in the grounds is the The Dutch Barn, a triple height barn conversion filled with natural light and stunning views from every window. With freshly painted walls and new high-quality fixtures and furniture, it is a blank canvas to put your stamp on and that is exactly what this shoot did.

Curated by Ruby at Love Birds Weddings and Events, the styling screams modern boho with its neutral colour palette and beautiful mix of fresh and dried blooms. Ruby tell us "With dried flowers and muted colours being a big 'on-trend' style for 2021, it was the obvious choice. I adore collaborating with other like-minded creatives and when I came across Oddhouse Farm I knew instantly it was the perfect setting and gathered together the team for a styled shoot."

The styling oozes rustic luxe throughout the two different zones; “My aim was to showcase 2 options using the same contemporary bohemian vibe so, whether a couple are planning for a traditional wedding with formal dining or an intimate elopement with an outdoor picnic, inspiration can be found for all”.

Of course, we HAVE to talk about the bridal outfit of a Caroline Chamberlain lace gown, fringed suede jacket, hat and white ankle boots cranking the cowgirl bride vibes to the max, absolutely to die for! Yee haw!



SHOP THE SUPPLIERS

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The Cake Story - Wedding Cake [Visit Website](#)

Natalie Lauren Photography - Photography [Visit Website](#)

Andrew J Musson- Men's Suit hire [Visit Website](#)

Oddhouse Farm - Venue [Visit Website](#)

Sophia Wormald - Invites, Name Tags, Menu [Visit Website](#)

Handmade Tiara [Visit Website](#)

Melton Macrame - bouquet wrap, name tag tassles [Visit Website](#)

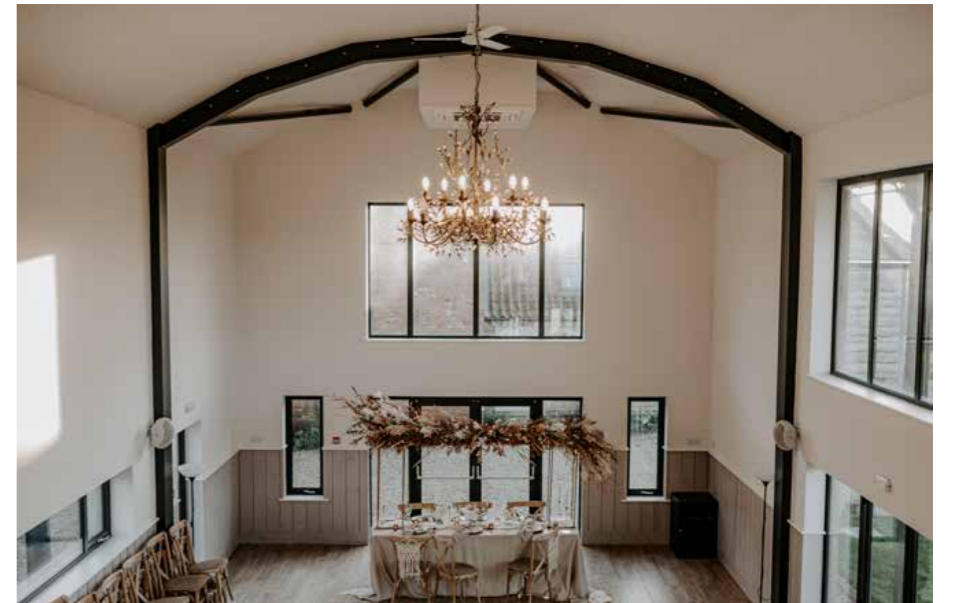
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Jessica's Makeup - Bride Model, Bride Makeup [Visit Website](#)

Hayley Elizabeth Cosmetics - Brides Nails [Visit Website](#)

Love Birds, Weddings & Events - Styling, flowers, prop hire, custom painted jacket. [Visit Website](#)





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AMY & JAMIE'S

SPRING SOIREE



[MORE INSPO OVER ON OUR BLOG](#)

We always think that being a wedding photographer must be a pretty special profession; spending your working day with couples celebrating their love for each other and being surrounded by joy and romance! They are also in a unique position where they experience every aspect of the entire day. From the excitement and nerves of a bride getting ready to first dances and bouquet throws, the photographer is there, snapping away, throughout the lot. And it is because of this, that we always love to get the low-down on a wedding from their point of view.

So for Amy & Jamie's wedding, we just had to ask Hannah and Ben, the dream-team behind the lens of HBA Photography, to give us their account of this perfectly pretty Spring soiree.

Hannah says "WHAT A DAY! We loved this wedding so much.



SAVE THE DATE

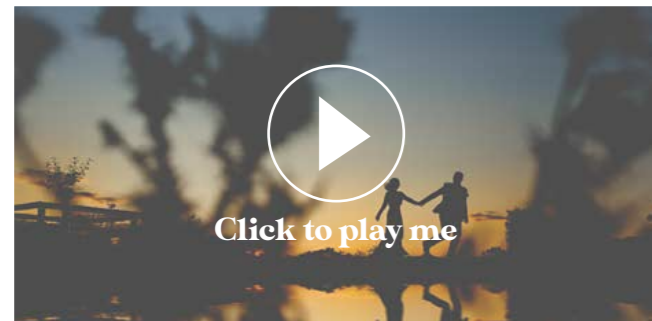
It's always amazing when we arrive at the bride's house and everyone knows your name and is incredibly friendly & welcoming. That is when we knew we were in for a great day (and even better when we saw that Josephine Way was also there doing the make-up as she's always hilarious).

The venue, Calke Abbey, quite literally is a photographer's dream. It's actually where Ben & I had our first kiss, and now 13 years later we're still happily married, so to be able to bring our cameras and photograph weddings there is a real privilege and Amy and Jamie only added to that. Whilst walking around with them, hanging out while we did some photos, it became very clear that they were perfect for each other. They laughed, cried, had fun and were a total pleasure to be around for the day and hopefully, we've captured some of that in the photos. Photographically, there are lots of interesting bits of light around the venue as the sun moves overhead and sets beautifully over the field. This creates the most amazing golden hour sun light to photograph in and really create some dreamier sun flared photos.

The day featured an old vintage Routemaster bus to take everyone from the church to Calke Abbey, Tosh's Troughs filled with bottles of beer for the reception, picnic boxes for starters, fish 'n' chips for main and pretty little jars filled with a delicious Eton Mess for pud. If that isn't a recipe for a good time, we don't know what is...

As if the day couldn't get any better...then a Glitter Bar turned up. Everyone was covered in glitter by the end of the night – even Ben had a beard full!

Wow, it sounds like they all had an absolute blast at the beautiful Calke Abbey – thanks so much Ben and Hannah for sharing.



SHOP THE SUPPLIERS

Photography - HBA Photography	Visit Website
Venue - Calke Abbey	Visit Website
Planning - Honeysuckle & Castle	Visit Website
Dress Designer - Rembo Styling	Visit Website
Dress shop - Alexandra Anne	Visit Website
Bride's shoes - Jimmy Choo	Visit Website
Bridesmaids dresses - Rewritten	Visit Website
Makeup - Josephine Way	Visit Website
Hair - Rock n Roller Hair	Visit Website
Suits - Jon Paul Menswear	Visit Website
The bus - Midland Classic	Visit Website
Flowers - Avant Garden	Visit Website
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Catering- Black Pepper Mint	Visit Website
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Meet the Maker

MORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

RATHER LOVELY
FILMS



Popcorn at the ready, the film is about to start! There is just something so special about reliving your wedding day in cinematic style; romance just oozing off the screen and transporting you right back to that moment. Here we catch up with lovely Lou from Rather Lovely Films and, believe us, if you're wondering whether to book a videographer for your wedding, then this is a must-read for you!

We absolutely love your videography; how would you describe your style?

Thank you so much – and for the record, I absolutely LOVE 'Save The Date' too! I am literally beyond chuffed you love what I do because the magazine was my favourite resource when planning my wedding.

These days, a lot of photographers and videographers take a natural, relaxed approach and whilst that is a crucial part of creating gorgeous memories of your wedding day, I focus on capturing your celebrations as if it's through the eyes of one of your guests. Most couples book a videographer so they can see the parts of the day they missed, but from my own experience as a bride, you'll want to re-live the whole thing a thousand times over and the best way to do that is to be put into your

guests' shoes. I consider myself to be a guest at every wedding I'm lucky enough to be invited to film so it's that principle that helps me capture every moment in the most authentic way possible.

What do you enjoy most about capturing weddings?

I mean the obvious answer is EVERYTHING because I just love weddings so much it's a bit weird! However, the atmosphere that's always in the air during the bridal preparations is a feeling I can never quite put my finger on, but I'd bottle it up and sell it if I could – it's a perfect recipe of excitement, anticipation, relief and joy that only seems to ever happen on a wedding morning. I think it's because we're all leading up to when the bride walks down the aisle and that is always THE MOMENT for me. The rest of the world just falls away...but I'm always keeping a close eye on whoever is waiting for the bride at the altar in case they shed a cheeky tear!

Tell us a bit about yourself and how you got into the wedding industry?

I started out in broadcast journalism a little over ten years ago so my roots are in telling people's stories through film and love stories have

always been my favourite ones to tell (I mean, I grew up on Disney so it was going to happen!). It was around the same time that I first discovered the magic of wedding films through a friend when wedding videography really wasn't a thing. I decided then and there that when I got married, a wedding video was a non-negotiable for me whether Adam (my now husband!) liked it or not! When we married at The West Mill in 2016, we both agreed that our videographers were the best investment of the day – if you come round to our house, I guarantee Adam will crack out the wedding films within the hour!

It was after our wedding that I learnt from other newlywed friends that they regretted not having their day filmed due to cost, being self-conscious or worrying about it being intrusive...and I started Rather Lovely Films a year later hoping to make wedding videography appealing yet affordable.

Some couples worry that videography may feel intrusive on-the-day so how do you work to ensure everyone is comfortable whilst capturing those important moments?

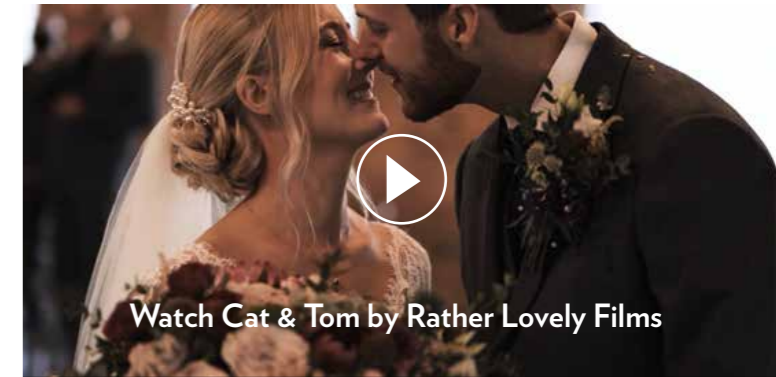
This is definitely a valid concern and one that I encounter with almost every couple I work with. Firstly, I shoot handheld on really discreet cameras with no lighting or additional equipment which means I'm a proper ninja when it comes to filming all those important moments in an unobtrusive way. Most importantly, to create a beautiful film that shows your wedding day exactly how it happened, I never boss people around. It's so cringe and instantly makes everything look unnatural. I'm there to create YOUR wedding film, not the other way round!

Do you have any advice for couples who might feel self-conscious about being on film?

One of the biggest misconceptions about videographers is that we love being on camera ourselves. Truthfully, we are just as awkward because the very concept of having a camera in your face is unnatural to all of us – so if anyone gets it, it's me!

I understand that the initial thought of watching yourself back on film is something that may make you recoil in horror! However, on your wedding day, you'll be looking your best and, ultimately, I am there to make you look good too – that's what you're paying me for, right?!

Seriously though, my couples feeling comfortable with me is my number one priority and we'll start to build up that confidence from the moment you book. I'm always a message away if you ever want to chat,



Watch Cat & Tom by Rather Lovely Films

but I like to arrange a proper catch up with you about six weeks before the big day where you'll take me through your plans and we can chat through any questions, worries you might have and any must-haves or no-goes!

Not booking a videographer is one of the most common regrets of newlyweds, and whilst I fully appreciate that is the worst guilt-trip in the world, I would hate for it to be someone else's because they worried about how they would look on film. If this is one of the reasons stopping you from committing to a wedding video, then please do get in touch and I'd be more than happy to discuss your concerns to help you decide if it's right for you.

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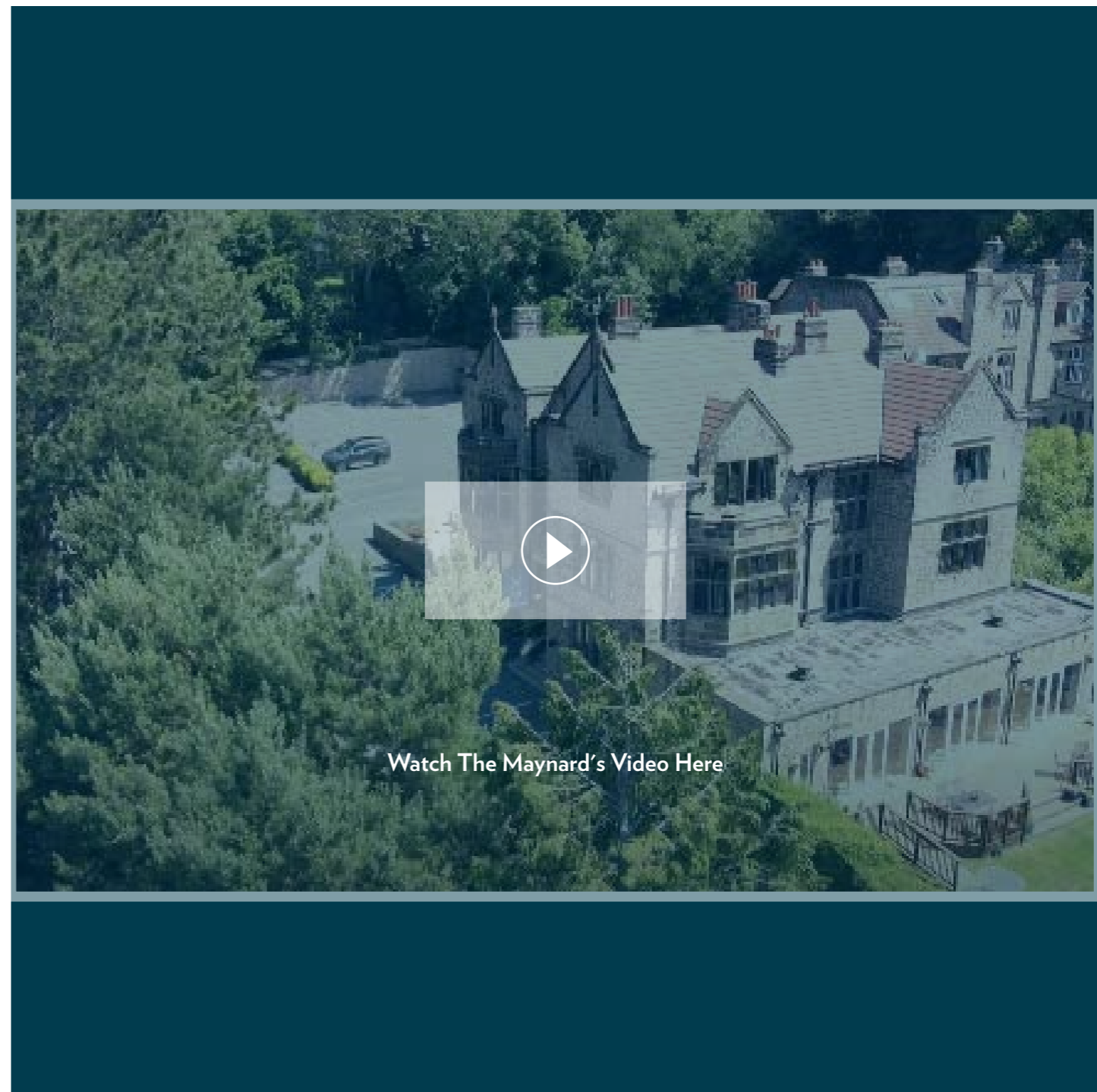
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Matthew & Olivia

THE LOCKDOWN LOVE STORIES

WE DID IT!

While 2020 was a year of heartbreak for weddings with postponements, number limits and last minute changes in policies there were many special moments which shone brightly out of the gloom and doom. Some couples threw caution to the wind and went ahead with their wedding day regardless. Here we have pulled together a few of our favourite pandemic parties which prove that micro definitely still is magical and romance certainly isn't dead!



Matthew says "We felt in the run up to the day, that everything was going against us. Countless wedding plan iterations, slimmed down guest lists and the reception cancelled 2 days before (due to COVID). Even the night before with forecast 40mph gusts and constant downpours predicted - I really didn't know how we were going to pull it off. However, as the day and service went on, the skies cleared and none of that seemed to matter anymore.

After the ceremony, we briefly re-convened, where our guests collected their 'pack up' three course meal, to enjoy a remote reception in the comfort of their own homes!

Later that evening, we had a video call with our wedding guests, to catch up and to conduct the speeches. We were presented with a video, with pre-recorded video messages from our guests - wishing us well. Many who had dressed up, got the fizz/confetti and baby photos out! The two of us spent the rest of the evening reading all of the messages from our guests, looking at the photos they sent of them watching the livestream, and we re-watched the live-stream with the running text commentary on the Facebook live.

Strangely - we felt like we got to spend more time with our guests than we would have usually been able to, at a 'normal' wedding day. We deeply missed having all of our guests there in person, but with all the videos, pictures, messages, calls, letters.....the day was more than we could have ever hoped for."



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Jo & Dale



Photographer on the day Esther Louise Triffitt says "After clinging onto their original wedding date for dear life, Jo and Dale's blind faith was finally repaid with the most beautifully intimate and incredibly special wedding day last summer. Together we managed to navigate the five painfully turbulent months leading up to their wedding through lockdown 1.0, and it was such an honour to finally spend the day with this gorgeous pair and their wonderful families to witness them saying those little words they'd longed for at the completely beautiful The Old Vicarage Boutique Hotel. Despite the turbulent lead up to their date, Jo and Dale's wedding day unfolded with excitement, calm and love."

With the most blissful weather, my lovely couple said their vows in the beautiful Bandstand in the midst of the perfectly manicured gardens, and carried the sunshine inside with them to their wedding breakfast in the brand new Orangery. Jo and Dale showed just how mighty micro can be - celebrating as a party of 30, it meant that there was more time for sharing conversations, connecting with their guests and having time for themselves. Finally being able to spend time with their loved ones, there was something so incredibly special about their wedding day - and I felt very honoured to be able to capture such wonderful memories."



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 Mark Elliott Music - www.melliottmusic.com
 Esther Louise Triffitt Photography - www.estherlouistriffittphotography.com

Adam & Siobhan



Siobhan says “We’d been planning our April 2020 wedding for a year and a half when we had to make the decision to postpone with only 3 weeks to go due to the global pandemic. We were devastated but optimistic for October. We followed the news carefully and celebrated the small wins for weddings over the summer months. With 2 weeks to go till our wedding day, new government restrictions were announced and our guest list was cut in half. However, we were determined to get married and our family and friends were so supportive of our decision.

We walked out of the church as husband and wife through a confetti tunnel of additional friends and family and made our way over to The Walled Garden at Beeston Fields. We were able to have photos in The Walled Garden, including our first dance outside (music played on a portable speaker!) under the pagola, which was just magical.

A micro wedding in Covid times is exactly what you make it. Ours was intimate, relaxed, magical and what we like to call ‘perfectly imperfect.’”



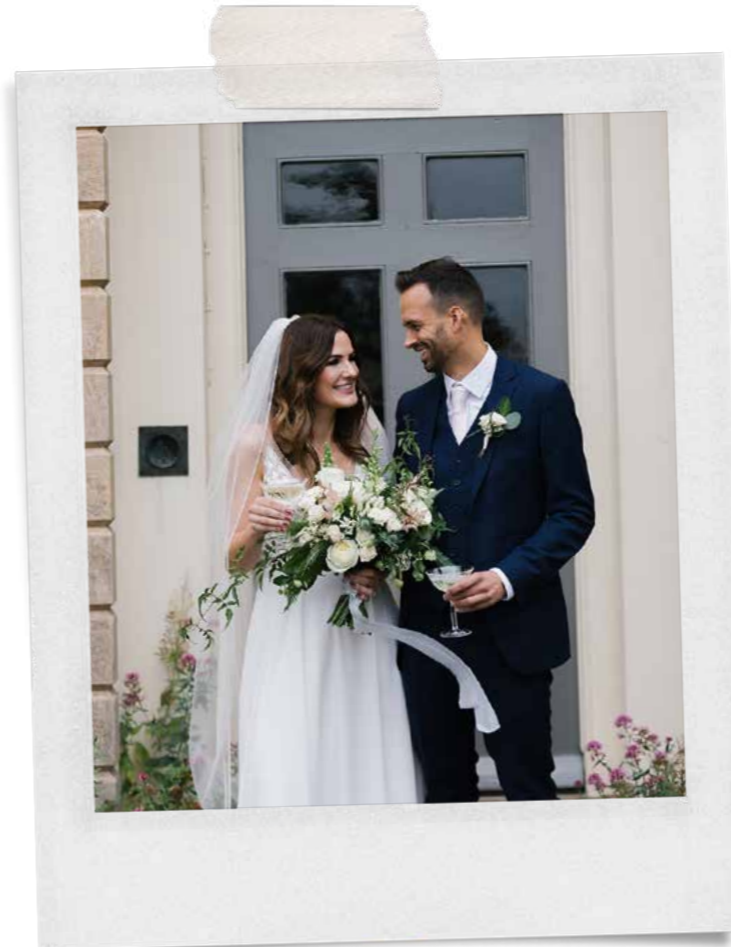
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Laura & Jonathan



Laura says "After having to postpone our initial plans from May 2020 we decided to crack on with a much smaller version of what we had intended for our wedding in September instead. We had always wanted our day to be relaxed and good fun for everyone and, given that it was the first day out many of our guests had pretty much all year, everyone had the best day. It was just perfect and everyone is smiling in all our photos. My advice would be don't sweat the small stuff! We had originally planned things down to the

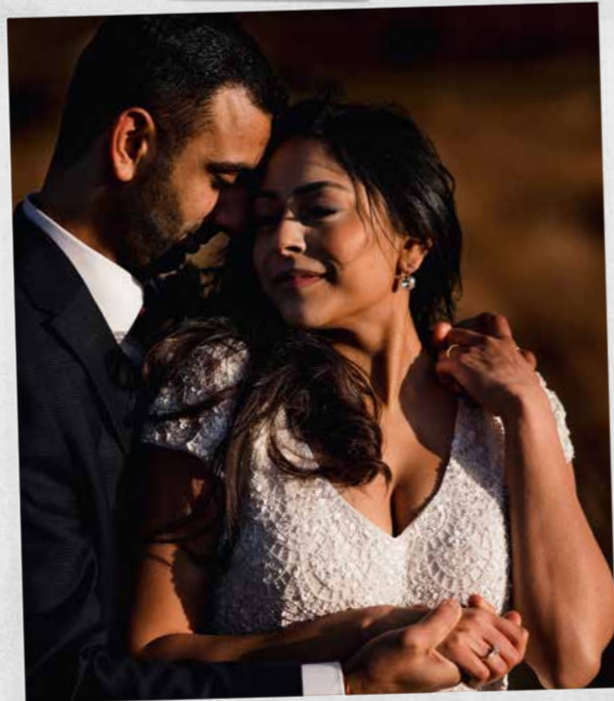
small detail and quite literally had to start from scratch again and have a quarter of our intended guests due to Covid but we still had the most perfect day. If you are wondering where is worth spending the money, I would say 100% the photographers. Our photographers were a huge part of making our day relaxed and great fun and the photos are amazing"



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Vishal & Primal

Supplier Special



Photographer Chris, from Artisan X Photography tells us about the day; "Vishal & Primal approached me after finding me online, and instantly I connected with them as they had a real Covid sob story. Unfortunately, they`d been forced to cancel their wedding day twice due to restrictions, and just really wanted to get married!

They had booked the ceremony at Glenfield county hall in Leicester for Saturday 23rd December, and the thing that we really connected over was their love of the local beauty spot, Bradgate Park.

The couple had great memories there, so after the ceremony we shot over to the park to create some amazing portraits. On this December day, the sun just blazed down which felt really special as if there was any couple that deserved a break it was this couple.

I really enjoy creating beautiful portraits for my couples, as most people are understandably nervous about posing and hate traditional wedding photography. I believe that wedding portraits when created authentically can be timeless. And this shoot delivered a brilliant couple, beautiful backgrounds and some stunning weather."



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Photographer – Artisan X Photography – www.artisanxphotography.co.uk

EDGY LOVE

A MODERN TAKE
ON CLASSIC
ROMANCEMORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

Looking for an edgy vibe for your wedding day? This shoot shouts all things cool and modern. With its bold colours and structured florals, it totally compliments the industrial vibes of venue, Shack Revolution, to a tee. We've been told the inspiration for this shoot was to create something edgy and modern and this talented bunch of suppliers certainly pulled that out of the bag; it definitely stopped us in our tracks when we spied it on Instagram.

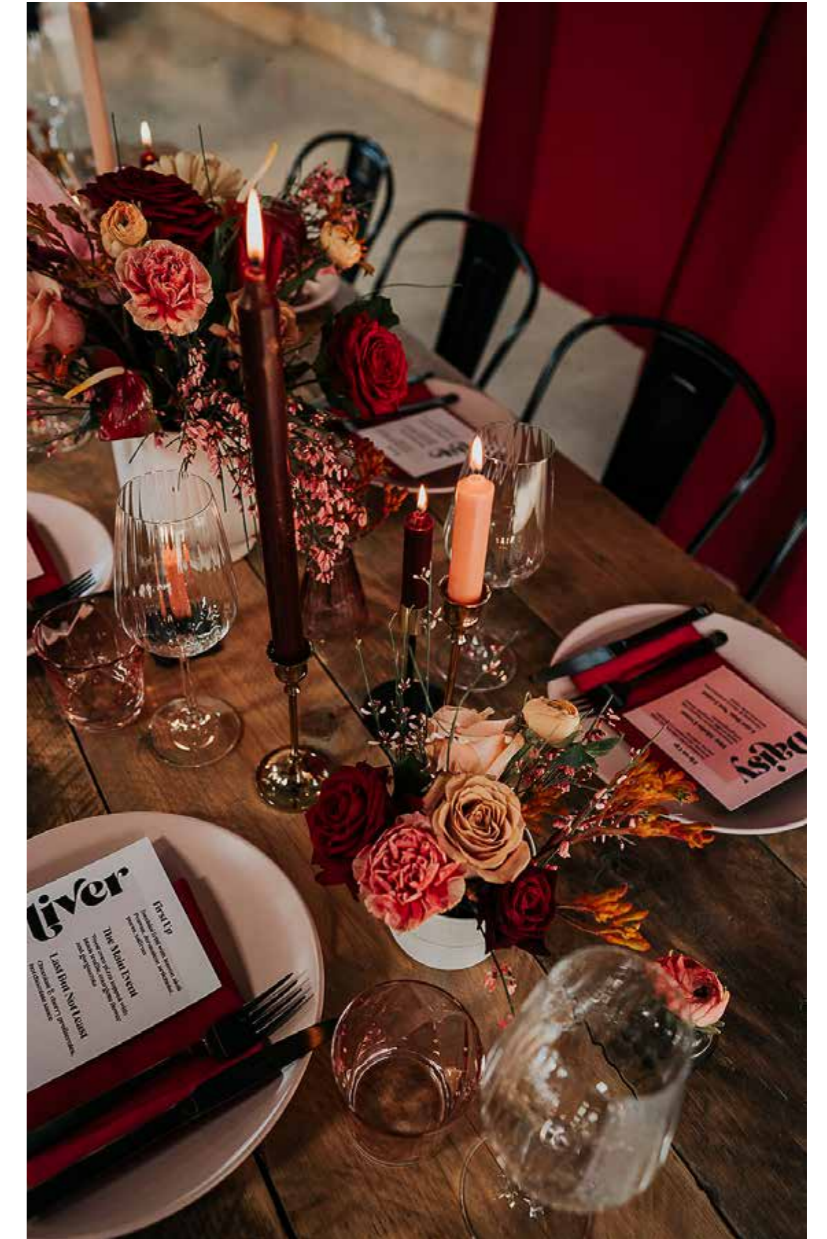
Shack Revolution, a super cool wedding venue set in Hereford, offers the perfect backdrop with its brick walls and dark wooden features for the romantic colour palette of pinks, peaches and deep rouges; so dreamy!

There is a HUGE trend for bridal hats in 2021 and, quite frankly, we are loving it so we were pleased to see a funky fedora making an appearance here (and it also works so well with the veil combo – best of



both worlds!). Will you consider adding a hat to your outfit choices? Go on, you know you want to!

Take a look at those florals, aren't they just perfect? Anthurium lilies are having quite the moment in the flower world right now due to their dramatic, heart shaped leaf and look just stunning next to those blousy roses. We all know that "the devil is in the detail" and we think that is exactly what makes this shoot extra special. From the stationery suite to the jewellery selection, every aspect has married together in perfect union to offer more insta-worthy inspiration than you could ever wish for.



SHOP THE SUPPLIERS

- Concept & Photo+Film: Jenny Appleton — [Visit Website](#)
- Photo & Film
- Venue: The Shack Revolution — [Visit Website](#)
- Venue Stylist: R and R Weddings & Events — [Visit Website](#)
- Hair & Makeup: Hair & Makeup by Saskia — [Visit Website](#)
- Female Model: Daisy Louve — [Visit Website](#)
- Male Model: Malcolm Modele — [Visit Website](#)
- Florist: Polka Dot — [Visit Website](#)
- Cake: Little Button Bakery — [Visit Website](#)
- Stationery: Sundown Paper — [Visit Website](#)
- Jewellery: Kate Dawson Jewellery — [Visit Website](#)
- Dress: Rock the Frock Bridal — [Visit Website](#)
- Crockery Hire: Event Crockery Hire.co.uk — [Visit Website](#)
- Hat and Veil: Rebecca Anne Designs — [Visit Website](#)
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THE GREAT OUTDOORS

ENTERTAINMENT FOR SPRING AND SUMMER WEDDINGS

Are you even British if you don't head outside in your flip flops as soon as the sun begins to peek out from behind the clouds? Whilst flip flops might not be on the dress-code, getting outdoors and enjoying the Spring and Summer weather is a wedding-must (especially in Covid-times where being outdoors has been proven to be significantly safer). If you're feeling alfresco but not sure how to keep your guests busy, we have created our top outdoor entertainment ideas. So fling open the doors and head outside...

Image Credit – Matt Horan Photography

SAVE THE DATE

SPORTS DAY

2, 4, 6, 8 Who do we appreciate! Transport your guests back to primary school and recreate the magic of Sports Day. Cheer on your mates and, of course, harvest a bit of healthy competition with Egg and Spoon racing, relay runs or even risk a sack race (WARNING: injury possible, in fact – expected!). Alternatively, if racing isn't on the cards, why not set up some lawn games such as rounders, croquet or tennis for a guaranteed good-old-laugh.



FUN AT THE FAIR

Roll up, roll up, the amusements are calling. Bring the funfair to your wedding day with quirky games; save up your baked bean containers, decorate to make pretty and created your very own game of Tin Can Alley or gather up some shells and line up a coconut shy. From hoopla to slap-a-rat, hook-a-duck to welly tossing; the options are endless and a perfect DIY project!





MIX IT, MIX IT REAL GOOD

Who doesn't love a cocktail? A DIY cocktail bar always goes down a storm with guests! Adorned with pretty decanters and colourful gin collections; not only can you offer your guests the chance to serve themselves their favourite tippie (great novelty value) but drinks stations can be dressed up beautifully making a super stylish addition to your day. Just watch out for those self-administered measures...

MUSIC TO YOUR EARS

Set the tone for your celebration with some tuneful talent. Country house wedding? A harpist or a string quartet on the lawn will scream class and romance. Tipi wed-fest? Opt for an upbeat brass band to gee your guests up to party in the field. Industrial vibes? Obviously, a cool hipster band covering Mr Brightside in the courtyard! Whatever the style of your day, melodies will get everyone in the mood!

GLITTER BAR

Bring some serious sparkle to your wedding day and channel strong Coachella vibes with a Glitter Bar. Diamante, sequins, glitter and a whole load of fun; believe us when we say, it is the first thing wedding-goers head towards!





The Casual Groom

'Whether you throw on your favourite fedora or go for braces and no blazer, keeping it casual makes just as much impact as a formal suit. Tweeds and check suits are always a good option for this look as they can be dressed up or down and teamed with different styles.' -

Suit pictured: Skopes Doyle



The Disney Princess

The ultimate in princess dresses is our Essense of Australia Aurora gown. It is full of sparkle and grandeur, perfect if you're looking for a princess gown that you've dreamt of since you were a little girl. A real show stopper and sure to make an entrance.

Photo by @sophiemayphoto



Hipster Groom

Hipster groom is all about self-expression. Don't conform - let your personality shine through. Whether it's a small nod to the past with a bow tie or grandad collar or fully alternative, this look should be effortlessly stylish. Layering different textures, tones and prints is a good way to go.'

Photography: @rebeccaemilyphoto



The Boho Bride

Made of statement Cotton lace Bonnie from Willowby by Watters is ideal for the boho bride. She's super comfortable to wear so you can dance the night away and would look amazing in anything from a tipi to a beach elopement.

Photo by @ekrpictures



The Vintage Bride

A vintage beauty the Pronovias Lake dress captures the light covered in delicate sequins from head to toe over a feminine bush tone dress. With detachable flutter sleeves and a beautiful illusion back completed with elegant buttons over the soft tulle.

Serious Style

WHAT TO WEAR ON YOUR BIG DAY

If you're looking for some outfit inspiration then **LOOK NO FURTHER.** With endless styles, it can feel like a bit of a mine-field deciding what to wear for your wedding day; afterall it is only one of the most important days of your life, no pressure! To help narrow down the options, we have called in the experts and created some ready-made outfit inspiration to suit every type of bride and groom.

Here Sophie, owner of Ivory White Bridal and wedding dress extraordinaire, gives us the lowdown on her pick of Bridal styles and the suit connoisseurs at Blidworths Menswear have selected some ensembles for the modern groom. Which style takes your fancy?



Country Gent

Country gent is an ageless look to follow. Mixing tweed and muted earthy tones for a classic heritage look. Throw in a flat cap for a "Peaky" twist.

- Suits ideal for this look are Marc Darcy DX7 or Marc Darcy Ted.



The Minimalist Bride

For the minimalist bride look no further than the showstopper that is the Pronovias Williams, coming with the incredible statement cape with the longest train finished with buttons from the neck to the hem; she has a real wow factor. Then for the evening remove the cape and just wear the simple form fitting bandeau gown or even team it with a modern metal belt to complete the look.



Colour Loving Grooms

For any colour loving grooms berry, raspberry or burgundy toned suits are always a good go to without being too in your face. Add additional colour with contrasting ties, bow ties, boutonnieres or pocket squares. A shocking Fuschia will add a punch of colour and make a bold statement.'



The Slinky Sexy Bride

Slinky and sexy highlighting your shape and sinching in all the right places is our Essence of Australia Emmy gown in the amazing rum colour highlighting all the lace detailing and contouring the body. Finished with modern linear lace, delicate straps and a statement illusion back.

Photo by @laurajaynphotographer



The Ethereal Bride

For Ethereal beauty, Willowby by Watters have so many options. With so many beautiful ethereal gowns in the range it's hard to choose but we love the combination of their Honor gown teamed with our bespoke wings by Tulle and Flo, for a modern feminine look.



The Trendy Bride

Unapologetically you, the Stars Align from Willowby by Watters is totally unique. A blush gown embellished all over with incredible gold stars is sure to be a dress like no other and absolutely perfect if you're looking for a celestial theme.

Photo by Caroline Goosey



OUTDOOR SPRING WEDDING WITH A SUSTAINABLE TWIST

BY WILLOW AND
RUST



MORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

Waking up at the venue on the morning of your wedding day after a lovely evening of laughter and bubbles with your girls, having your hair and make-up done, putting on the dream dress that you have been waiting so long to wear and heading across the lawn to see your other half standing there below a beautiful archway of flowers waiting for you. After saying your vows in front of your dearest family and friends you are ready for the party to start! Music, drinks, food, love, laughter and dancing carry you through to the end of the night when you both head over to your wedding night tipi, happy and content. Feet aching from dancing and voices and hoarse from singing. The perfect end to the perfect day.

I think after the last few months, we are all in need of some beauty and inspiration, so the team jumped at the chance to create this sustainable spring themed shoot at brand new outdoor venue Measham House Farm in Swadlincote, Derbyshire.

As always I wanted to show that a more eco-friendly wedding can be just as beautiful and unique as any other kind of wedding. The amazing back drop of Measham House was a great starting point and they also offer a field for glamping, so it's the perfect venue for an outdoor festival style wedding! I chose a naked tipi as our base and mirrored this with the glamping tipi. The style I wanted to create was fresh and elegant with a vintage feel and the colour scheme just had to be spring inspired!

We had a great team of sustainable suppliers for this shoot; the wedding dress was handmade from bamboo silk and re-purposed voile by ethical bridalwear designer Frock Goddess. The beautiful stationery was designed by sustainable wedding stationer Ellie & Liv Weddings and printed on a mix of recycled and FSC certified fully recyclable cards and papers with eco-friendly organic inks.

The florals were provided by the amazing Inspired Floristry; as always she created beautiful sustainably sourced and created pieces that fit perfectly with my vision. The foliage was foraged from the surrounding area and the flowers seasonal and sourced locally where possible, specifically chosen to be robust and withstand the elements and being out of water for a prolonged period of time. We also used small individual arrangements on the table which could then be given away to wedding guests as gifts on the day.

It is important to think about the suppliers you use and where you are going to source items from for a more sustainable wedding; buying vintage and reclaimed pieces, hiring instead of buying. We used a combination of both to create this look along with naturally died ribbons and fabrics for the table linen.

Our grazing table was a mixture, sourced from local farm shops and delicatessens and the beautiful cakes and sweet treats were provided by Red Robin Cakery, a local small business. Sustainable to the end, of course, nothing went to waste as we all enjoyed eating it for lunch after we had wrapped up the shoot!



SHOP THE SUPPLIERS

- Photographer: EKR Pictures [Visit Website](#)
- Planning, Styling and Props: Willow & Rust [Visit Website](#)
- Venue: Measham House [Visit Website](#)
- Floral design: Inspired Floristry [Visit Website](#)
- Cakes: Red Robin Cakery [Visit Website](#)
- Stationery: Ellie and Liv [Visit Website](#)
- Hair accessories: Ophelia Ren Bridal [Visit Website](#)
- Hair stylist: Hair by Ria [Visit Website](#)
- Make-up: Make Up by HLA [Visit Website](#)
- Bar: The Gin Kitchen [Visit Website](#)
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- Tables, chairs & mirror: Design Services [Visit Website](#)
- Ribbons: Laik Style [Visit Website](#)
- Dress: Frock Goddess [Visit Website](#)
- Robe: Made Your Day [Visit Website](#)
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CELEBRATE WITH
CELEBRANTS

MORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

Between all of the grandeur of weddings; the styling and the florals, the outfits and the menus, it can be easy to get swept away and forget what the true essence of the day really is! The ceremony is the true heart of the day, the part where you make your promises and romantic declarations in front of your closest friends and family so it makes sense to pay it special attention.

Well, did you know that as well as a religious officiant or registrar, there is an increasingly popular third option for creating your wedding ceremony; working with a celebrant lets couples design something that suits them perfectly, reflecting their unique relationship, interests and values.

Rather than a registrar using a fixed script that’s been heard many times before, celebrants work with couples as part of their core wedding team, to write and deliver a bespoke ceremony.

Karen Faulkner, a humanist (non-religious) celebrant of Stand Out Ceremonies says “As well as traditional ceremony elements, in a humanist wedding we can include special features that make the ceremony super memorable: whether that’s including family, guests, your precious pooch, or symbolising your marriage by doing something a bit different! Every element is personalised; I tell a couple’s story to reflect on the adventure and relax everyone, and I support couples to write their own, meaningful vows if they want to.

On the big day I’ll set the tone, be a friendly face at the end of the aisle, and always try to keep out of those important photos! Your ceremony doesn’t need to be inside a licenced structure; it can be outside, or somewhere truly unique.

Celebrants are committed to making the ceremony an enjoyable highlight of the day, not the bit some couples (and guests!) might dread!”

Humanist weddings are still relatively niche in England and Wales, their popularity restricted by their lack of legal recognition. This means that couples need to make a separate appointment at a registry office to take care of the legal paperwork either before or after their wedding day.

Karen explains “The lack of legal recognition is something Humanists UK (the charity I’m accredited by) have campaigned to change for many years, culminating in a successful high court case in July 2020 that recommended humanist marriage should indeed have legal status. So we are confident the situation will change to bring us in line with countries such as Scotland (where humanist marriage accounts for over 20% of all marriages), but the timescale is unknown. Until that time we have to ask couples to take care of the administration separately; but to thousands of couples every year this slight compromise is worth it for the benefits in how their ceremony is created and delivered.”

Of course, we couldn’t let Karen go without a word on the pandemic and how the celebrant community has responded: “The main difference to my couples is that they are calling me - an accessible, flexible and committed member of their wedding team – to discuss how we can adapt or change the celebration, while ensuring it is still an incredible, once in a lifetime event. This is quite different from dealing with the council registry office who have a huge workload and many thousands of both marriages and other registrations to deal with. With many unusual situations arising from the pandemic (such as proceeding with a small legal ceremony and then having the ‘main event’ later) there has been an increased awareness that we can create something for the ‘sequel ceremony’ that more than makes up for splitting the event in two. We have also worked closely with venues that want to open up using larger or outdoor spaces for ceremonies (without a licenced structure in place), something that we are able to do”



GET IN TOUCH

www.standoutceremonies.co.uk

t: 07789 908904 | e: karen.faulkner@humanistceremonies.org.uk

Image Credits: Left Page Georgi Mabee; www.Georgimabee.com | Top & Middle right page Matt Horan : www.matthoranphotography.com | Bottom Right Dani Louise Photography : danilouisephotography.com

GETTING TO KNOW DAVID WILLIAMS

MORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

Name us a more romantic sound than a love song being played on acoustic guitar? We bet you're struggling because the simple strumming of those strings evokes a pretty unique magic and sets THE perfect atmosphere on your special day. Just imagine walking down the aisle to "your" song, especially arranged just for you... it is enough to give you goosebumps! Well luckily for you, we know just the man for the job; David Williams: talented musician – at your service! Recently, we caught up with David to talk and find out more about his wedding service.

So David, can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you got into performing at weddings?

I began playing guitar from the age of 10, and went on to study music at university. From this point, I have been fortunate enough to play guitar for a living ever since. One of the best parts about my job, is being able to play for a couple's special day; to be chosen to play on someone's wedding day is such an honour as it is a day that people will remember for years to come. Every couple wants to add something original and



unique to their wedding day, this is why an acoustic guitar played from the ceremony all the way to the wedding breakfast is such a popular choice.

What type of music do you perform and would you say you have a particular style?

I arrange popular songs for fingerstyle acoustic guitar. It doesn't matter what the song is, whether it is 'Sweet child O' Mine' by Guns & Roses, 'Iris' by the Goo Goo Dolls or 'Love on Top' by Beyonce, I'll be able to create an arrangement to suit.

Can you tell us more about what you provide and how it all works at the venue?

I'll provide music for your ceremony, drinks reception & wedding breakfast. I offer bespoke package offers for multiple parts of the day and I am also very flexible to work around you. I will provide everything that's needed, from my own seat, the PA & if you are in a remote location struggling for power, I even have a battery powered PA. Along with providing the music on my guitar, in between sets I will provide appropriate music via Spotify.

What song would you pick for your first dance?

'Marry Me' by Train. This is a very special song for me as I played this song whilst my wife walked down the aisle. I absolutely love the song and my wife still cries to this day when she hears it (in a good way of course!).

Are you looking forward to anything in particular when you get back behind the strings after lockdown begins to lift?

I can't wait to see all the emotion, smiles and laughter that a wedding brings. Family and friends coming together, some who haven't seen each other in a long time, at a beautiful venue with their favourite drink; it is going to be extra special now!

GET IN TOUCH

www.davidwilliamsguitarist.com

e: davidwilliamsguitarist@gmail.com



GETTING TO KNOW
 ICONIC BRIDE

MORE INspo OVER ON OUR BLOG



Nestled on the quaint high street of the picturesque Nottinghamshire village of Edwinstowe, you will find the stylish bridal studio; Iconic Bride. We head inside to meet the brand new owner, Tina and find out more about this beautiful boutique.

So Tina, what made you want to take on Iconic Bride and have you always been interested in the wedding industry?

Well, who wouldn't want to be surrounded by gorgeous gowns all day every day?! We already have a wedding car business so had "dipped our toe" into the wedding industry and have fallen in love with all-things-weddings! So when the opportunity presented itself, I jumped at the chance and haven't looked back.

What are you most looking forward to about reopening the shop after lockdown?

I am looking forward to finally letting people through the doors to get those final fittings done which brides have been desperately waiting for



and, of course, to meet all the prospective brides who are excited to get trying on! We have some new and exciting collections which need to see this year's aisles.

Which designers do you stock at the shop?

We have an extensive range of designer wedding and bridesmaids' dresses including the likes of Sophia Tolli, Wtoo By Watters, Rosa Clara along with our New Beautiful and Timeless range. There really is something for everyone!

If you were getting married, which dress would you opt for?

There are just so many I love, it is so tricky to choose! If I had to pick just one, I think it would have to be the Alesha dress by Sophie Tolli which is an absolute stunner. I am a sucker for ruffles and fairytale vibes so this dress fits the bill!

What advice would you give brides ahead of an appointment at the boutique?

Experiences in the shop are, of course, a little different at the moment so expect face coverings, temperature checks and hand sanitiser but don't let this put you off, we will still make sure you have the most special time finding your dream dress. We can only allow 2 additional guests to attend your appointment with you at present, so think carefully about who to bring; people who are kind but honest are a good choice.

Aside from covid restrictions, I would say to come with an open mind as many brides end up with an entirely different style of dress than they expected to like and nude/light coloured simple underwear is a must!



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MORE INSPO OVER ON *OUR* BLOG

Here at Save the Date HQ, there is nothing we love more than an effortlessly chic bride so you can only imagine our delight when we spotted this wedding. We just fell instantly in love with Lisa's lockdown wedding look; doesn't she look amazing? Captured by the mega-talented photographer, Henry Lowther, Lisa and Chris married in a micro celebration at Bridgeford Hall in September 2020.

"We started planning our wedding at the start of 2020 with no idea that a couple of months later the whole country would shut down for the first national lockdown. We had got our hearts set on what we thought would be our dream day, so of course we were devastated. However, as the months passed, our priorities changed - there's nothing like a global pandemic to make you realise what is (and isn't) important.

Fortunately neither of us had ever dreamed of a big white wedding, we just wanted to be married above everything else. We didn't want to wait forever and didn't believe there would ever be the "right time". Chris phoned the registry office on a Tuesday afternoon in August to arrange for us to officially give notice, which felt like the first step in the right direction. During the same phone call he spontaneously booked the next available date for a ceremony, which was 1 month later.

The ceremony was short and sweet, with our parents as our only guests. Such an intimate setting meant those moments felt relaxed, romantic and somehow even more meaningful. A few of our closest friends and family waited outside the venue to throw confetti and drink champagne with us afterwards, socially distanced of course!"

Keeping things simple for the day, Lisa wore a satin wide leg jumpsuit from the ASOS bridal collection and her best friend made my bouquet from eucalyptus and gypsophila from her parent's garden but she did splurge on a Bottega Veneta bag to "even out the budget". The relaxed feel didn't stop here; "After the ceremony and celebrations, we walked across the road to Gusto, where we were lovingly greeted with huge gin and tonics and bottles of Champagne. We ate and drank the afternoon away with an amazing sharing table of sourdough pizzas, chilli prawns, calamari, salads and focaccia; washed down with lots of wine and finished with boozy affogato.

The whole day was so laid back and relaxed, which is very "us" - it's hard to imagine it ever being something different. I can remember thinking throughout the day that I couldn't have wanted anything more". And we aren't surprised, it sounds like a perfect celebration! Understated and intimate, this wedding really was a stylish little soiree!

SHOP THE SUPPLIERS

Photographer – Henry Lowther

[Visit Website](#)

Venue – Bridgeford Hall

[Visit Website](#)

Bridal Jumpsuit – ASOS

[Visit Website](#)



WHY TO HIRE A WEDDING PLANNER WITH IN AWE WEDDINGS & EVENTS

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GET IN TOUCH

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Investing in a wedding planner and stylist is a decision most couples discuss at length, weighing up the pros and cons and the value they place on hiring a true professional, eliminating stress, having more time, and actually, in the long run, saving money! We enlisted the help of expert-in-all-things-wedding Emily, from In Awe Weddings and Events, to explain some of the benefits of taking the plunge.

Emily says "When I collaborate with you it's never about taking over the planning. I am here to offer honest informed advice and use my professional expertise to elevate your wedding experience beyond any original expectations. As well as these physical tasks, I really do provide a lot of personal support. I treat all my clients as friends, and a huge perk of my job is getting to know them on a personal level, giving them advice, and pouring them a glass of wine if they need one! There are massive advantages to hiring in some wedding planning help but here are my top 3;

Making Planning Simple

Weddings can take up to 300-400 hours to plan and that's with all the knowledge and resources. I absorb all the complex elements and admin of planning such an intricate event, so you can immerse yourself in the process and revel in the possibilities of your wedding day, with zero stress! As a professional I can also give you reassurance and unlimited support that allows you to feel confident in all your decisions, so there is no worrying or doubt along the way.



Unlocking your Vision & Creativity

Not everyone is blessed with natural free-flowing creativity, and some of you may have so many ideas that you just can't define one single consistent style. By spending time getting to know my couples on a personal level, what makes them unique, and how they envision their day to actually feel. I can build a visual style for your day that is both authentic and emotional to you and scattered with personalised touches and details.

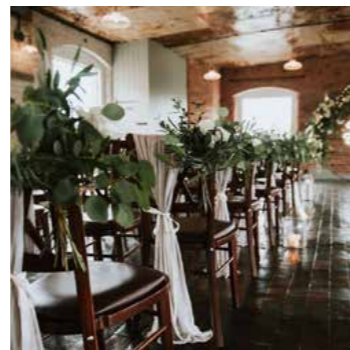
Giving You Access to the Cream of the Crop

As a planner you build up an incredible network of talented industry-leading suppliers which allows me to provide you with a team of creatives that gives you the most value for your money, and ensures an incredible delivery of your day. No overspending on any elements I know you won't need, or on pushing through last-minute orders with suppliers because you forgot something, plus, the exclusive discounts I receive are passed directly over to you.



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THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO
THE BEST STYLISTS IN THE
COUNTY



Whether you're wanting minimalist, contemporary, maximalism, classic romance or something unique; enlisting the help of a wedding stylist or hiring props will elevate your wedding décor and take it to the next level. If you want to create a show-stopping, wow-factor look for your guests then we have a selection of super stylists just for you!

Fox and Parker

Instagram Handle - @foxandbarker

Bespoke wedding planning & styling for lovers of the extraordinary. We create beautiful, original weddings inspired by your unique story and style as a couple. We're here to help you dream, plan and craft the big day you've always wanted - from luxurious ceremonies to decadent celebrations.

Image credit - Leigh McAra

twoeightone

Instagram Handle - @twoeightone1td

two.eight.one is a small independent wedding styling company based in Leicestershire, working with couples based in the Midlands and beyond. With a focus on low-key, relaxed, modern bohemian styling, they offer a range of wedding packages from on the day set up to full wedding design. They also stock a vast range of furniture, props and décor which are all available to hire to make your day effortlessly stylish and full of personality.

Image credit - EKR Pictures

In Awe Weddings & Events

Instagram Handle - @inawe_weddings

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Image Credit - Emmy Shoots

Nuptia

Instagram Handle - @nuptiaweddings

Nuptia are award winning wedding stylists dedicated to offering beautiful, bespoke styling for your perfect day. We have a gorgeous showroom in Carlton, Nottingham, full of beautiful props and decor, all ready to transform your wedding. With our commitment, passion, over 8 years' experience and 100's of weddings (I'd love to count them all) under our belts, you can be rest assured the team at Nuptia will design and style your dream wedding day!

Image credit - Daniel Hughes Photography

*seriously
stylish*

Fine and Dandy

Instagram Handle - @fine_and_dandy_events

Fine & Dandy is a boutique event planning & styling company based in the heart of the East Midlands. We pride ourselves in creating beautiful, unique & sustainable weddings & events, whilst offering a friendly, professional and reliable service. We can design, plan, & style your whole event from start to finish, or you can simply hire a selection of our decorative props from our prop shop.

Image credit - Weddings by Harry & Annie

Willow and Rust Weddings

Instagram Handle - @willow_and_rust

I love to create beautiful, elegant, unique weddings that are kind on the environment. I believe that just because you want your big day to have a small impact on the environment it doesn't mean that you have to compromise on your dream. I work hard to find the suppliers and props to bring your day to life, whilst staying true to my sustainable ethos. I love using vintage and reclaimed pieces and upcycling items to create beautiful bespoke elements to bring that extra special something to your day. Specialising in outdoor and dry hire events, barn, tipi, woodland and garden,

Image Credit - Dani Louise Photography

The Two Hummingbirds

Instagram Handle - @thetwohummingbirds

We approach each wedding with a fresh outlook; focusing on the individuality and uniqueness of you as a couple, nurturing a relationship built on trust and providing a service that prides itself on quality and making sure that you are always happy with everything along the journey. We believe your memories are to be treasured, and every couple deserves to feel amazing, so we create personalised displays of love, luxury and long-lasting impressions.

Image Credit - Safrina Smith Photography

Imagine Event Design

Instagram Handle - @imagineeventdesign

Devoted to bringing the wedding of your dreams to life. With a key eye for details, the award winning design team are passionate about transforming your venue and designing unique stationery that ensures your wedding will always be remembered. Services from design concept, throughout planning and inspiration to completion and after care are offered by a friendly and dedicated team, who work tirelessly to provide the highest level of service and professionalism.

Image Credit - Rosie May Kelly

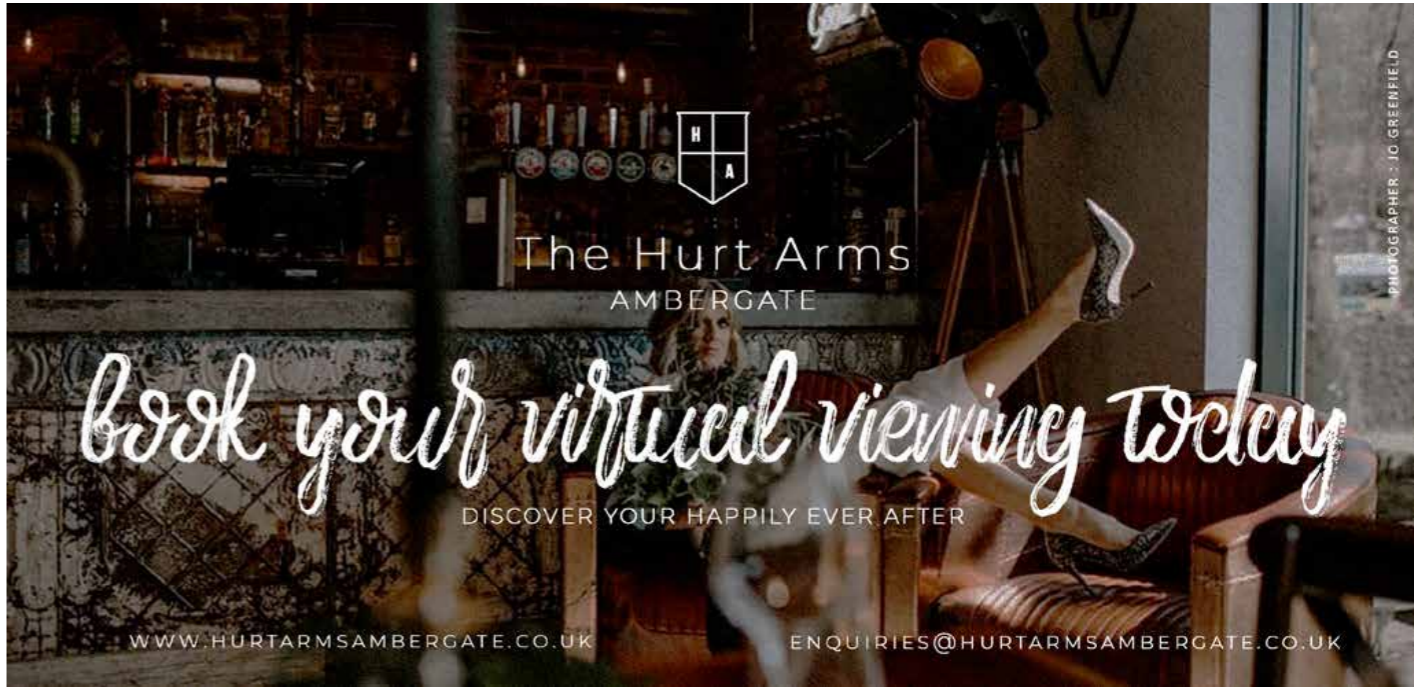


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