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MARCH-APRIL 2020
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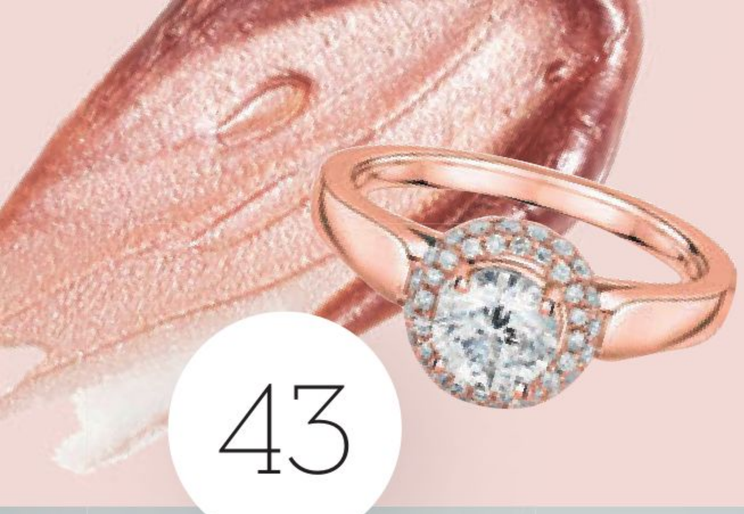

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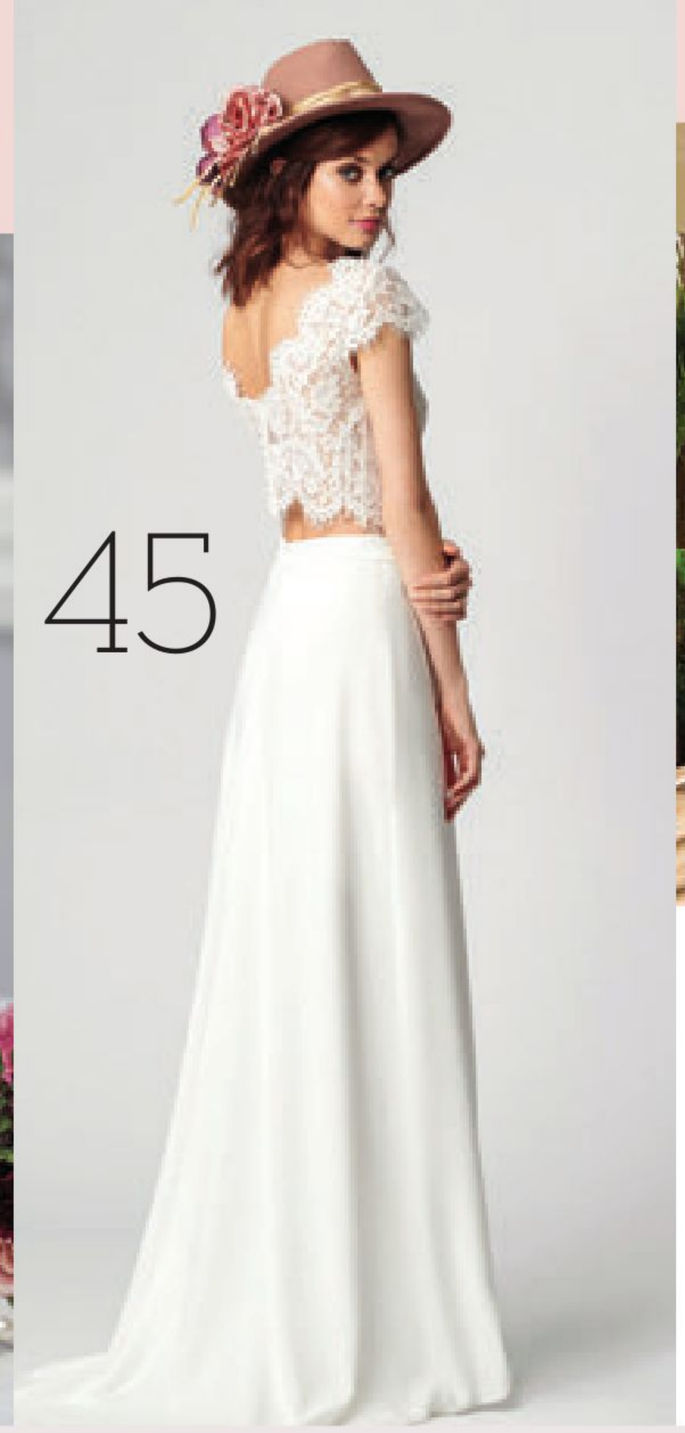






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**On the cover:** Natasha wedding gown, from £2,690, **Sassi Holford**
*Stockists on page 288*

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# Editor's WELCOME



Photo: simonsstudio.co.uk

Somehow, despite the festive season being a distant memory, this issue has taken a celebratory spin. I've got a milestone birthday on the horizon (I'll leave it to you to guess which one), so clearly I have good times on the brain!

We get the party started in our bridal fashion section on page 24, mulling over how to transition your look from ceremony to reception. A second dress, adaptable separates, attention-grabbing accessories, or even simply slipping into trainers – the choice is yours. Our photoshoot on page 28 lines up modern dresses that are made for shimmying the night away in (and check out the irreverent neon signs we sourced to help serve some disco realness).

FOMO and JOMO – 'fear of missing out' and 'joy of missing out' for the unfamiliar – have been the acronyms on our lips this issue. For those in the former camp, we have hunted out locations that know how to throw big, blowout bashes (p.112), while couples who prefer to keep their occasions low-key will appreciate the more atmospheric, intimate spots. We've even got a rundown of impressive libraries to steal a quiet moment in with your new spouse (p.124).

It's back to bacchanalian behaviour in our featured weddings, though... We hear tales of a bride pulling an all-nighter in the venue's casino (p.176), chat to a duo who married at a former Glasgow clubbing institution (p.238), while another pair divulge how they ended their reception dancing on the shoulders of pals (p.250).

Libations and celebrations go hand-in-hand, so kick off proceedings with a drinks reception to remember as industry insiders spill the beans on canapés and cocktails to covet (p.283). Elsewhere, the *TTKS* team dream up their ideal entertainment roll call (p.255). One thing's for sure: we are *ready* for the dancefloor.

Until next time, happy planning.

**Beth Forsyth**
**Editor**
*beth.forsyth@peeblesmedia.com*


TIE the KNOT SCOTLAND

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**Editor**
Beth Forsyth (beth.forsyth@peeblesmedia.com)
**Digital Editor**
Sarah Gillespie (sarah.gillespie@peeblesmedia.com)
**Features Writer**
Rosie Patrick (rosie.patrick@peeblesmedia.com)
**Editorial Assistant**
Zoë Boothby (zoe.boothby@peeblesmedia.com)
**Designers**
Abbie Bunton, Jolyne Colburn, Faye Stacey, Linda Park
**Advertising Manager**
Linda Bruce (linda.bruce@peeblesmedia.com)
**Advertising Sales**
Janmarie Murphy (janmarie.murphy@peeblesmedia.com)
Brooke Jeffrey (brooke.jeffrey@peeblesmedia.com)
**Production**
Caroline Maciver, Alice Smith
**Contributors**
Alec Drew, Catherine Sheridan, Catrina Duthie, Catriona Garforth, Judy Diamond
**Photography**
Aboyne Photographics, Alexandra Roscoe, Eilidh Sutherland Photography, Gary Bonar Photography, Grant Parfery Photography, Hamish Campbell, Neale Smith, Simon's Studio

PUBLISHER
**Peebles Media Group Ltd**
The Albus
110 Brook Street
Glasgow, G40 3AP
Telephone: 0141 567 6000

SUBSCRIPTIONS
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# Bridal bulletin

THE WHITE EDIT | MEET THE MAKER | TALKING POINT



**From left:** Fox dress, £295, Klass jumpsuit, £295, Stone dress, £175, Mills dress, £225, and Fox dress, £295, all Sister by **Halfpenny London**

## WE ARE FAMILY

It's no secret that shopping for the 'maids can be the stuff of nightmares (a quick browse of any w-day forum is all the proof you need), so whenever a new directional brand launches, we're practically feverish with excitement. Sister is **Halfpenny London's** first, fashion-led foray into producing frocks for the squad, all with designer Kate's signature easy-breezy, cool-girl stamp. "I love the word 'sister'," she reflects. "It could mean family, but could also mean your best friend or wing woman. Dressing a group of fabulous, diverse women is a challenge, but we do it every day."



Fox dress in Dirty Pink/Blush, £295, and Mitchell jacket in Blush, £180, both Sister by **Halfpenny London**

# THE WHITE EDIT

Words by ***Rosie Patrick***

Beautiful big-day bounty that'll put a spring in your step






## COMING UP ROSES

Can you even *deal* with these? **Freya Rose London** and emerging British design house **Bertie Valentine London** will be offering handpainted kicks, with commissions starting at £95. We'll be customising the Jasmine boot, £495, below








**1** Every so often, a company comes along that completely steals our hearts. This month, it's **Cake Topper Animals.** Designer and maker Harley's squeal-inducingly adorable creatures are just superior **2** From me to me: gift yourself a **Blushing Bride Box** monthly subscription from £22.99. It's chock-full of must-haves, like headbands, eye masks and ring cushions **3** Positivity is key when you're planning a wedding and being hounded from every angle. Channel this **Neon Sheep** notebook's cheery message when you're drafting up the table plan, £4 **4** Long live **Lipstick Queen**, our go-to lippy brand. The Nothing But The Nudes Naked Truth shade is an instant classic, £22 **5** There are three colognes in **Jo Malone London's** lush new limited-edition collection, all offering a fresh perspective on an iconic ingredient: English lavender. A nighttime spritz is a first for the fragrance house, so lull yourself to sleep with its blissful Lavender & Musk Pillow Mist, £25 **6** How much have faux flowers improved in recent years? **Gisela Graham's** sweet-pea stems, £4.50 each, would make an ideal floral centrepiece



6

## Just my SIZE

Ashley Graham – what a hero. The curvy supermodel has done so much for womankind's collective self-esteem and self-acceptance, broken down barrier after barrier, and challenged every beauty standard going. Now, she's set her sights on bridal. Teaming up with the mighty **Pronovias,** Ashley has devised an inclusive range of gowns available in sizes 0 to 34, cut to fit and flatter any figure. Where bootylicious babes have struggled to find enough choice in the past, this line covers nearly all bases: sleek mermaids, ethereal trains and frothy ballgowns. Our fave? Dehaven, left, £POA, a delicate blend of appliqué, finespun lace and trailing tulle cape.



## Saving GRACE

It's not just cute, flirty occasionwear that awaits you at **Chi Chi London** – the brand also produces tempting bridal pieces, with appealing prices bound to give you pause for thought. This season, it's a flurry of frills, beaded collars and playful bows, with the light and airy Willow gown, left, at just £140, topping the bill for us. Its Bardot neckline is oh-so-romantic, as is the oversized bow and voluminous train at the back, giving guests an exquisite detail to feast their eyes on during the ceremony. It's sexy and insouciant at the same time, and, considering how much it costs, is a worthy option for a destination celebration.



## YOUR TUBES

Have we finally left the mirrored fishbowl centrepiece in the past? Let's hope so. This swirl test-tube vase, £75, from **NotOnTheHighStreet.com**, filled with freshly plucked wildflowers and ferns, is a much cooler alternative arrangement




2



1



3

## SWEET TALK

**COCO's** Isle of Skye Sea Salt & Lime milk chocolate sounds dangerously delicious, and the artful, limited-edition Timorous Beasties packaging makes it a perfect favour idea. £6







5




4



6

**1** There's no doubt that charity favours are always worthy of your hard-earned dosh, but sometimes they're not the *most* aesthetically pleasing. They've got a job to do, we get it. But **Macmillan Cancer Support's** pin badges, £13 for a pack of ten, are irresistible **2** Shut-eye's in the bag with **Sophie Allport's** Butterflies Flutter Bye sleep mask, £19 **3** Your mum would look ravishing in **British Heart Foundation's** emerald sinamay clip fascinator, £16.99 – plus she'd be helping a deserving cause in the process **4** Cult beauty brand **Pixi** can do no wrong as far as we're concerned. We can't wait to try the latest bestseller in the making, the On-the-Glow Blush, £18. Formulated with ginseng, aloe vera and a mix of fruit extracts, the tinted balm injects colour and hydration into cheeks **5** Rose is a Marmite scent, but we're willing to bet **Tom Ford** can convert even the most reluctant with its new surprisingly spicy eau de parfum, Rose Prick, £218 **6** Following last year's wildly successful collab, **Rainbow Club** and **John Lewis** have joined forces once again on a divine shoe line. Drawing inspiration from the New York catwalks, there are dazzling crystal brooches and chiffon bows for you to slip your feet into. We predict a riot for the Ida slingbacks, £125 – those rainbow gems!

***Stockists on page 288***

## HOME *sweet* HOME

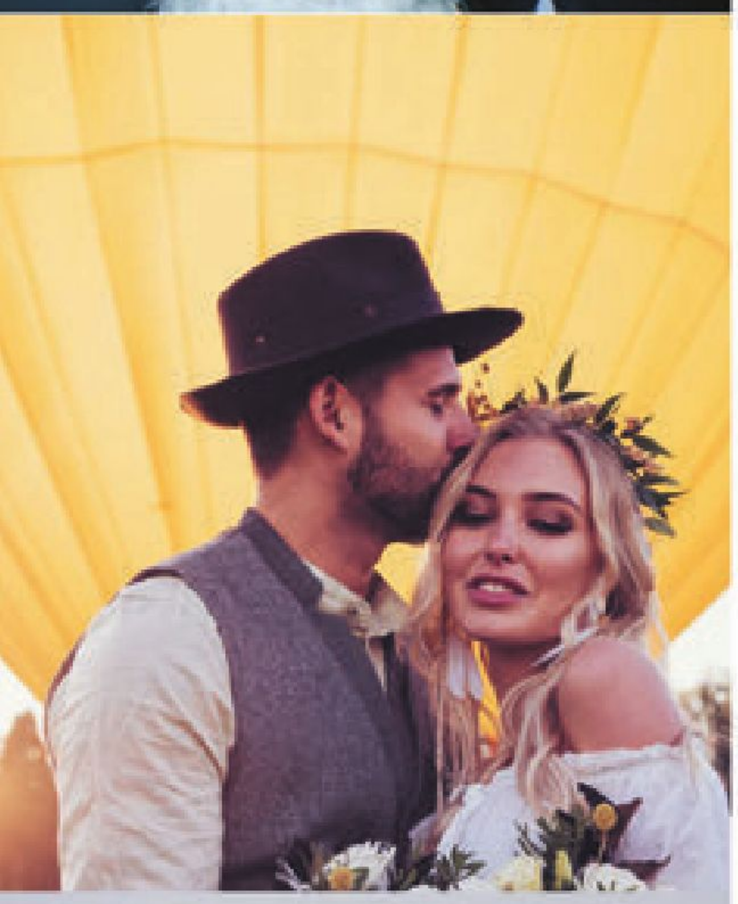
Catering, cake-making, meal deliveries – is there anything chef and baker Suz Henderson, AKA **The Home Cook,** can't do? "I love a challenge," laughs Suz. "Inventing impressive dishes for your guests to enjoy is my passion. I have an unlimited repertoire, and can create anything you want – just ask! I'm also adept at working with any budget." While The Home Cook, and its extensive set of menus, can take care of the full spread (we'll have the chorizo and pork meatloaf and thyme and apple tarte tatin), its celebration cakes (such as this three-tier masterpiece, right) are especially tempting prospects.











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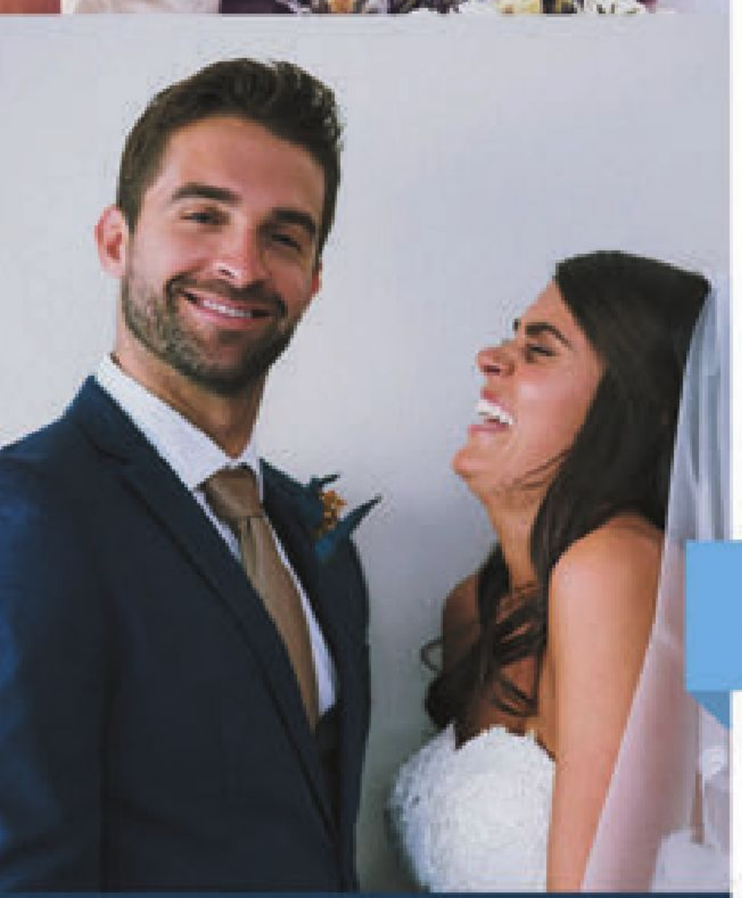

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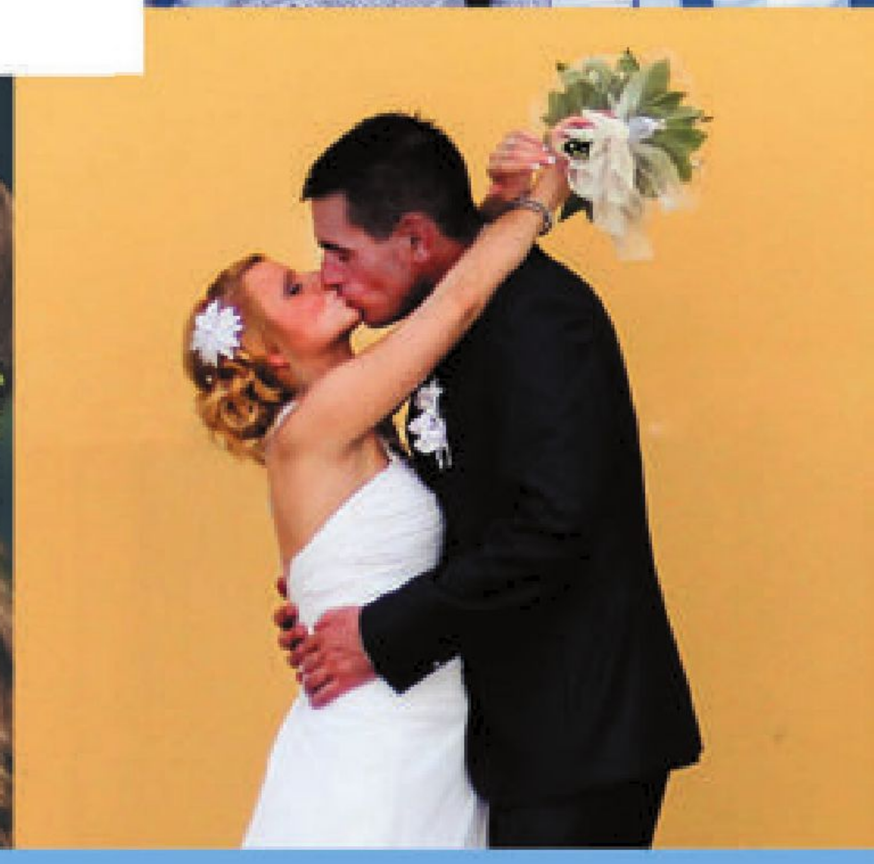

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# Malcolm & Annie

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# Talking point

THIS ISSUE, WE DON OUR THERAPIST SPECS TO ASK: HOW DO YOU KEEP YOUR RELATIONSHIP ON TRACK DURING WEDDING PLANNING?

You're going through this whole crazy process as a show of your commitment to one another, so why are you falling out every five minutes? *Zoë Boothby* plays agony aunt

# For better, FOR WORSE?

**I'll let you in on a secret: I'm *obsessed* with star signs.** Actually, scratch that – I can hardly claim it's a secret, when the zodiac is the cornerstone of at least four conversations a day for me. Like a lot of people, I got into horoscopes while going through a particularly bad break-up, when I needed to believe there was some greater cosmic power pulling the strings. I'm now fully recovered but I still check my Co-Star app every day – if you know, you know – and regularly blame my problems on Mercury being in retrograde. (What do you expect? I'm a stubborn-ass Leo.)

However, I'm beginning to accept that my reliance on astrology is, actually, nothing short of a crutch. Dating apps can let me filter out certain star signs all I want (Bye-bye, Capricorns!), but maybe it's time to accept the cold, hard truth: relationships require a lot of work, regardless of planetary alignment. And if you're currently in the midst of planning The Greatest Day of Your Life™, this is a pertinent lesson to bear in mind.

"Staying in tune with each other is one of the most testing challenges a couple will face while organising their wedding," says Alison O'Neill, founder of Lanarkshire-based planning service Pebblefish. "We don't all approach decision-making in the same way, and there's often a tendency for one person to assume control and head off at 100mph, while the other half feels left out, left behind or just completely uninvolved."

Despite the fact that, with that little 'yes', you've just made the biggest possible commitment to one another, it isn't time to lift your foot off the pedal. Far from it – no relationship should be taken for granted, particularly when a wedding is involved.

With that in mind, the solution for stress-free nuptials is simple: plan, plan, plan. "Decide ahead of time who is doing what, and outsource as much as possible to avoid chaos and arguments further down the line," advises dating and relationship coach Kate Mansfield. "Ask your partner which aspects of the day are most important to them, and listen to what they say. Be open to compromise and don't take their views too personally." Happy wife doesn't always mean happy life – it's about the two of you creating something together.

One bride who knows the importance of strategic planning is newlywed Hannah Rosie, who got hitched to hubby Terry at Kirknewton Stables in June last year: "After spending an entire weekend looking for a guestbook (which we only realised afterwards was completely ridiculous!), Terry created a list of every task we had to do, no matter how small, and assigned a time window to each one, agreeing who would do what. He actually made me sign it, and, much to my dismay, his 'wedding contract' really worked!"

## LABOUR OF LOVE

Mind the old adage 'prevention is better than cure'? As you advance towards the big day, it's best to anticipate the bumps in the road and come up with a game plan to evade them beforehand. If you're in the early days of post-proposal bliss, you'll likely be feeling sick to your stomach every time you think about having to orchestrate the biggest (and most expensive) event of your life. Our advice? Don't – at least not yet. "Enjoy your engagement for a few weeks," agrees Hannah. "Take some time to live in the happy little bubble before you immerse yourself in wedding planning. By all means get the venue and the date sorted, but the details can wait."


Photo: ashley-livjamieson.com

[Above] Hannah and Terry didn't find wedding planning all plain sailing, but they still made it to the finish line of Kirknewton Stables with smiles on their faces

That's all well and good, but if the pair of you have decided that this is going to be an extended engagement, you might be struggling to summon up any excitement for a day so far in the future. "If it's going to be a long one, remember there's no need to rush out and book things straight away," says Alison. "Take time to work out your priorities and understand how all of the key elements of your wedding will fit together. That way you can create a plan that allows you to spread out the big decisions so that every month you are focused and, more importantly, relaxed."

Regardless of where you're at, the time is always right to focus on each other and remind yourselves of why you're embarking on this journey together. If that means banning the w-word, then so be it. "Terry and I would set aside weekends or even weeks where we agreed not to talk about anything wedding-related," Hannah shares. "We'd make time for each other outside of planning, and have regular date-nights, which helped to maintain the fun and keep stress at bay."



## RELATIVE VALUES

As prepared as you might be, all the to-do lists and spreadsheets in the world won't be enough to keep the inevitable tension at bay. So what common issues should you be looking out for? "Although families can provide fantastic support, they can also at times be a major contributor to 'wedding politics'," warns Alison. "Guest lists and seating plans are always an adventure, unearthing a never-ending supply of problems concerning relatives you barely know but apparently have to invite. Too many couples find themselves navigating family disputes when they should be enjoying the excitement leading up to the big day. Unless an elopement is on the cards, a bit of strategic planning is the answer."

> "REMEMBER, IT'S JUST ONE DAY. IT SHOULD BE SPECIAL, BUT IS IT REALLY WORTH COSTING YOU THE RELATIONSHIP JUST TO HAVE IT YOUR WAY?"

What else can throw you a curveball? "Budgeting," says Alison. "It's never too late to seek advice on the finances. If you sense a problem, step back, re-evaluate and talk it through with each other, or even with a planner – enlisting help from someone who can listen objectively will often prompt you to regroup, reorganise and find the enthusiasm and direction you need to carry on. If you're worried about money, the key is to stop."

For Hannah, one of the things that threatened to cause discord in her relationship with Terry was, surprisingly, the DIY projects she'd set her heart on. "We made around 90% of our decorations, which was very stressful," she recalls. "I had so many ideas, and I'm a total perfectionist, so it was difficult to bring our vision to life. We solved this by taking it one step at a time and playing to our own individual strengths."

Kate, however, suggests that finding your inner *Blue Peter* presenter could actually bring you and your partner closer. "Making stuff for the wedding and being creative together can really lower the expectations of it having to be faultless – a small job that isn't too taxing can be fun and can connect the two of you." (Although maybe have one you 'made earlier' on hand just in case.)

## TOGETHER FOREVER

Should tension get the better of you, try to get some perspective. "Remember, it's just one day," Kate cautions. "It should be special, but is it really worth costing you the relationship just to have it your way? Perhaps it's worth investing in couples' therapy to help you bond fully and iron out any differences before you get married – many problems that build into loaded resentments begin as minor miscommunications. Trust me when I say that this approach has saved people a lot of money in the divorce courts later on!"

And if you find you're personally struggling, don't forget that you've got your best resource standing right by your side – your partner. "I expected to get a lot more stressed, but Terry really balanced me out and kept me unnaturally chilled," Hannah recalls. "For example, four days before the wedding I had a mini beauty-prep nightmare that almost sent me into meltdown. He told me to forget everything and took me out to dinner. After a couple glasses of wine I felt much calmer!"

Besides, at the end of it all, there will be something super-special waiting for you on the other side. "Getting married really solidified our relationship and made us feel like more of a unit," Hannah smiles. "We're stronger than ever, like a little family with our cat, Wolfie."

Well, that's me told – time to stop spending so much time with my head in the stars and instead focus on the person sitting across from me. That being said, I'm still not about to mess with any Capricorns... ♥



Photo: shutterstock.com

# Meet the maker

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH A TALENTED SCOTTISH WEDDING CREATIVE






# JAPPACAKES

Laura Japp's w-day bakes taste as good as they look – and they look *fabulous*! She gives us the inside story on her thriving cake business

Photography by ***Neale Smith***

**Jappacakes actually happened by accident.** Back in 2013 I was made redundant. At the time, I was pregnant with my son (who's now almost seven), and I decided to try and sell the odd cake until I could get a proper job. It was originally meant to be just a temporary source of income. I started off baking from home, making birthday and celebration cakes. More and more people asked for wedding cakes, and I was getting so many orders, I knew I'd need bigger premises. **Our shop in Lanark opened almost two years ago** and I now have two members of staff (and we're on the lookout for a third). Our approach has always been to focus on quality over quantity and to go the extra mile with customer service. **I think there are a lot of amazing wedding cake designers in Scotland** and they all offer something different. Our couples book us because they like how our cakes look and taste, and they also like the process we offer



**[Top]** There's always a warm welcome – and some cupcakes or sponge slices for sale – at the Lanark bakery **[Above]** A classic monogrammed cake enlivened by blooms

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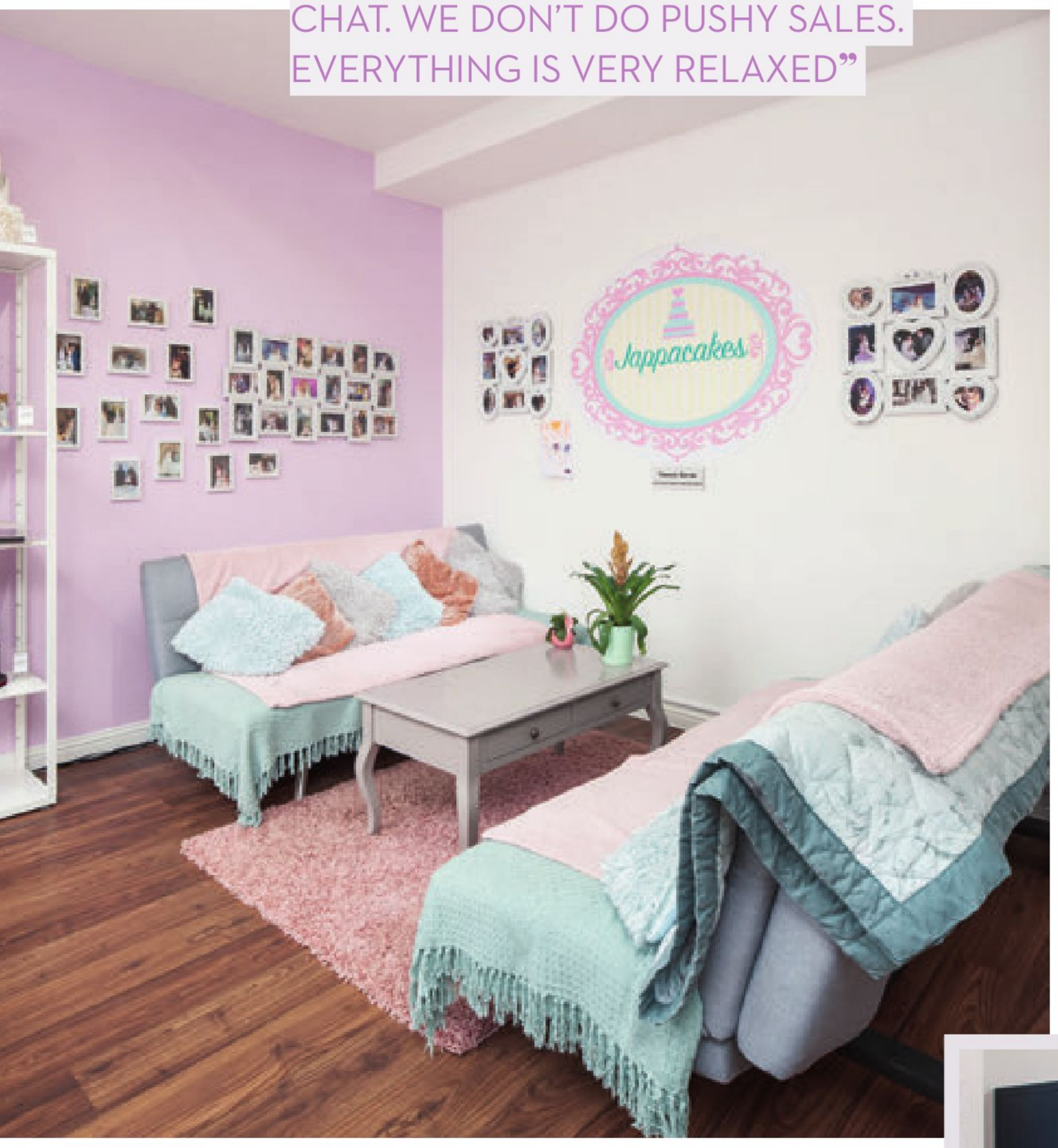




**[Left]** The bakery's walls are adorned with photos of previous happy couples, while current clients can peruse folders of cake inspo while having a comfy seat **[Below]** Staff member Rachel stacks up a celebration cake **[Bottom]** Laura covering a cake with fondant





from initial enquiry to set-up on the day. They love that we are a shop with staff and that we have the potential to grow but that we choose to remain focused on taking fewer orders in order to ensure every single one of them is perfect. **Building a business while raising three children (two of whom arrived after I'd started this whole thing) is something I'm incredibly proud of.** The day we opened the shop felt like a massive achievement too. We've had lots of proud moments along the way – winning the Vows Awards in 2018 was phenomenal. **As well as our wedding, birthday and celebration cakes, we make cupcakes and cake slices** and sell them in our shop. We also do a small range of cookie/cakepop and cupcake wedding favours. My favourite flavour is probably chocolate. Sorry if that sounds boring, but it's just such a classic! I'm a sucker for carrot cake too. **Creating a work of art from eggs, flour, butter and sugar is an incredible thing to do.** Cake makes people so happy – there's always a celebration involved. **Some customers want us to design a bespoke cake for them, which we are always thrilled to do.** They can tell us about their ideas when they book, but generally we find the design process is easier once the wedding date is a bit closer. We leave it to our couples to decide the best time for them, and then we get them in for a consultation at the shop. They'll often bring along invites, favours, fabric swatches and so on to spark ideas, but we also have lots of display cakes and portfolios in the shop which can help people figure out what they like. We start off by working out what size of cake they need and then take it from there. **If you're coming in for a consultation, you can expect a comfy seat and a good chat.** We don't do pushy sales. Everything is very relaxed. **You don't have to design your own cake, of course.** Our off-the-peg range, Simplicity, is very popular, and we're in the process of creating a second range as well. Simplicity has been going strong for a number of years, and offers good-quality, well-made cake at a bargain price. Customers simply choose the style of their tiers off-the-peg rather than have design consultations. The Simplicity Plus range that we're currently working on will bridge the gap between this and our standard bespoke service. It will offer fancier options than Simplicity but it cuts out the design service, which allows us to lower the →

"CREATING A WORK OF ART FROM EGGS, FLOUR, BUTTER AND SUGAR IS AN INCREDIBLE THING TO DO. CAKES MAKE PEOPLE SO HAPPY – THERE'S ALWAYS A CELEBRATION INVOLVED"



**[Above]** Rachel works her magic on a bespoke birthday creation, smoothing on red buttercream, ahead of more intricate finishing decoration



**[Top]** Ruffles and lace look even more lush in a delicate pink and grey colour scheme **[Below]** A stunning textural white four-tier cake



price. **Probably the biggest challenge for me is trying not to do everything myself.** I am so determined to maintain the high quality our customers have come to expect of us. I'm a bit of a control freak and it has been difficult for me to relinquish some of the jobs in the shop. Finding really good staff has made that easier. The three of us have a lot of fun. I like to think I'm a pretty relaxed boss (maybe the staff would say different, particularly in July!) and we have a laid-back approach to working. We always have music on and have a right giggle together as we work. They are a great source of inspiration too, and bouncing ideas around is always a productive use of our time. **There is no such thing as a typical working day at Jappacakes.** We open the shop and stock the counter and then will either be baking cakes, making fillings, cutting and filling cakes, making ganache, decorating cakes or delivering cakes. We also hold consultations at the shop too, so often have couples in for that. It takes around a week on average to make a wedding cake. We start off by baking (completely from scratch) all the cakes for that week and then, over the following days, we take them through all of the various stages needed to reach the final product. **I'm a huge fan of the New York cake designer Ron Ben-Israel and I'm incredibly jealous** of the sheer number of boxes of sugar flowers he has in his shop, all handmade and ready to go. **The most memorable cake I've ever made was for my best friend's wedding.** It stands out, not just because it had 15 separate cakes arranged in ten tiers, but also because he gave me completely free rein with the design. It was such a brilliant moment when I set the whole thing up and brought him into the room to see it on his wedding day. **I don't worry about trends in cake design** – I've never considered myself a very trendy person, to be honest. Some styles are certainly more popular than others; our customers are opting for butter-cream cakes with fresh flowers more than any other design at the moment. This might be a knock-on effect from Harry and Meghan's big day. There are one or two styles I'm not keen on, such as geode. I don't get it. Maybe you have to be





**[Clockwise from left]** These hand-moulded mice are part of a bespoke wedding cake inspired by a couple's cat. Spot a fondant Pascal from *Tangled* in the background!; various tools of the trade that Laura and her team couldn't do without













**[Left and above right]** There are no shortcuts to achieving that perfectly smooth finish on a cake's exterior. It's all done by hand at Jappacakes

a fan of rock formations to appreciate it. Thankfully, we've never been asked to create one! **My parents are my biggest influence because they taught me to work hard, and my kids are my motivation. I want to give them a good life.** We aren't quite there yet as I keep reinvesting any money I make back into the business, but my hard work is to secure their future. **Reading is my favourite way to unwind.** It's only in the last six months or so that I've actually found myself with any free time. It has allowed me to rediscover my love of books. **The future of Jappacakes is all about work, work, work!** We are going to finish developing our new range and spend some time marketing it. I've been desperate for a while now to open a second shop, but my accountant is quite keen for me to let some profits make their way to my own bank account for a couple of years before I put even more money in the business. All I can say is watch this space, as I don't seem able to sit still!

***jappacakes.co.uk*** ♥


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# Fashion

BRIDALWEAR | BRIDESMAIDS | ACCESSORIES | BOUTIQUES | TRENDS | ADVICE

Photo: laurenpolsonphotography.com

## GROUP EFFORT

**Sometimes, the simplest ideas are the greatest.** Like, say, shooting a flawlessly tailored **Sottero and Midgley** gown in a lavish location, just to show it off in its full, elegant glory.

"I never pass up an opportunity to supply a dress for a photoshoot with local creatives. It's a fabulous way to support each other," admits Eilidh Campbell, owner of Aberdeen's **Etiquette Bridal**. "This shot [right] is one of my favourites *ever*. The team decided to work towards creating a glamorous, vintage-inspired aesthetic for the shoot and the Aston dress by Sottero and Midgley fits in perfectly with the vibe, given the gold, Art Deco-reminiscent beading on the back and the cuffs [just seen]. It's a bit different to many of the gowns I have in stock at the minute, and I was thrilled to be able to give it its moment in the spotlight." Isn't it dreamy against the opulent backdrop of **Durn House**, paired with a tousled up-do by **Keri Bremner**, makeup by **Rachel Raine**, and wild, bohemian florals, arranged by **Paper & Petals**?

If you're as mesmerised as we are, now's the time to make tracks to Etiquette Bridal. Not only has the boutique rebranded (it was formerly known as Brides Delight), but it has recently moved to a dazzling new store at Rosemount Viaduct. The shop's thoughtfully designed layout aims to give you and your gang a more personal, one-to-one experience. ♥

Aston gown by Sottero and Midgley, £1,365, Etiquette Bridal

*Stockists on page 288*

28 PAGES OF alluring BRIDAL FASHION START HERE

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# THE BRIDAL COURTYARD

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THE 7TH SCOTTISH WEDDING AWARDS 2019 REGIONAL WINNER

THE SCOTTISH WEDDING AWARDS 2017 REGIONAL WINNER

# Boutique buzz

SPRING HAS SPRUNG, AND, WITH IT, SO HAVE ACCESSORY EVENTS, A CLUTCH OF MUST-HAVE GOWNS AND TOO-GOOD-TO-MISS SALES. *ROSIE PATRICK* HAS THE BRIDAL BUZZ

*Stockists on page 288*




Now that Aberdeen's **Etiquette Bridal** has settled into its lovely new store, it's time to get back to the business of ushering in this year's freshest gowns. "Our Spring 2020 Maggie Sottero collections have arrived," announces Eilidh Campbell. "My top pick has to be Dawson [left, £1,250], a streamlined, crepe halterneck." We're also in awe at the body-sculpting powers of this expertly constructed dress, from the curvaceous silhouette of the bodice to the cascading train. And, since we're all about earrings these days (see p.51), that bead-encrusted neckline will show off a drop nicely.



## Have your day IN COURT-YARD

Hands up who feels like their bank account is still recovering from Christmas? Have no fear, **The Bridal Courtyard** is here. "We're holding a big sale throughout March, where all gowns in store will be on sale and available to take away that day," owner Jennifer Gilbert says. "All dresses will be priced at £800 or under, so it's a rare chance to land yourself a designer gown at a fraction of its original cost. Book in by emailing sales@bridalcourtyard.com." You're spoiled for choice at the Glasgow store, with designs filtering in from Kenneth Winston and Phoenix Gowns. What would Jennifer reach for? "It's tough, but I'd probably say Kenneth Winston's 1861 [left, £1,799]," she says. "I adore the combination of satin and lace."



Being a bridal buyer is a role we definitely don't envy (can you imagine how *impossible* it would be to decide between all those incredible gowns?), but sometimes the stars just align. "There's a dress named after me," chortles Amy at **Amy King Bridal and Beauty.** "As soon as I laid eyes on this Rebecca Ingram gown, and noticed it was called 'Amy' [right, £POA], I thought well... it would be rude not to! Luckily, the gown is gorgeous, with divine shimmering lace, a crepe skirt and lace train." If you fancy giving it a try, now's the perfect time – Amy's store had a mini-makeover over the New Year, so there's even more space for gowns and accessories. Speaking of which, Amy has now taken on headpiece supremo Kate Dillon Designs. We're thinking a pearl-studded band with this one...

Better clear your schedule, because **Kudos Bridal Boutiques** in Dunfermline is putting on a couple of events you won't want to miss. "On 14th March, we'll be holding a launch party to welcome our newest designer, Maggie Sottero, to our boutique," reports Megan Carberry. "We're looking forward to celebrating the collection, and giving our brides the opportunity to shop some of Maggie's most popular styles that wouldn't normally be available in store." We suggest making a beeline for figure-hugging Fernanda, right, £1,255. The store is also running an accessory event on 9th April, with advice from hair and makeup artist Kirsty MacPherson. →



DEAR DIARY



While **La Novia** and sister boutique **Oscar Lili** work hard behind the scenes on their respective made-to-measure collections, there's still plenty of newness to entice, in the form of Enzoani. "We are hosting some trunk shows over the summer to showcase our various Enzoani ranges, and will be offering 10% off all orders made on the day and 20% off accessories," says designer Liliana Dabic. "These will be by appointment only, so make sure you book in quickly if you're keen." Head to Oscar Lili on 16th May for the Elysee by Enzoani event (featuring gowns such as Françoise, left, £POA), and La Novia for Beautiful by Enzoani on 30th May and the main Enzoani line on 20th June.



## *In the Makin*

If you're a bit of a hopeless romantic, you'll want to get acquainted with the Edinburgh branch of **Kudos Bridal Boutique's** current muse. "We're so excited about Wendy Makin's 2020 collection," says manager Millie Polson. "We're awaiting the arrival of more of the Australian designer's stunning gowns, but we already have some top sellers, including Fleur [left, £1,400]." We can certainly see why – the lace bodice is adorable, and even more so when paired with the sweeping, ethereal skirt. This eye for a surefire success is just one of the many reasons the store has scooped a new accolade. "We won 'Best Wedding Dress Retailer 2020' at January's Confetti Awards," smiles Millie. "It's such a huge achievement."

# TIME *to* SHINE

Three boutiques pick out their current favourite gown



### THE BRIDAL COURTYARD

**PH9007 by Phoenix Gowns, £1,200**

"Phoenix Gowns' PH9007 is our absolute favourite," Jennifer Gilbert gushes. "Look at that structured bodice – it lends brides a shape to die for. The off-the-shoulder neckline is very on-trend and flattering, and the overall feel is classy and elegant."

### REFLECTIONS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

**Stella by Ellis Bridals, £1,575**

"We are loving this sultry, modern mermaid gown from Ellis Bridals," shares owner Carol Donald. "From the clean lines of the mikado and plunging neckline to the mesh panelling and gentle sparkle from the intricate beading, it's a bold choice."

### LA NOVIA

**Lily by La Novia, £2,100**

"Although this is a timeless strapless style, it has a modern twist," says designer Liliana Dabic. "The sleek crepe bodice has brilliant structure, creating a beautiful fit, which merges into the lace skirt. The appliqué lace is then layered over tulle for dramatic texture and volume."

## *Boutique* events

Discover new collections and fabulous discounts

MARCH

1st-31st Shop-wide sale (dresses priced at £800 and under), The Bridal Courtyard, Glasgow, by appointment only

14th Maggie Sottero launch party, Kudos Bridal Boutiques, Dunfermline

APRIL

9th Accessories night (10% discount), 6pm-8pm, Kudos Bridal Boutiques, Dunfermline, by appointment only

MAY

16th Elysee by Enzoani trunk show (10% discount on dresses and 20% off accessories), Oscar Lili, Edinburgh, by appointment only

30th Beautiful by Enzoani trunk show (10% discount on dresses and 20% off accessories), La Novia, Edinburgh, by appointment only

JUNE

20th Enzoani trunk show (10% discount on dresses and 20% off accessories), La Novia, Edinburgh, by appointment only

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APPOINTMENTS RECOMMENDED






# Day to night

They say that when you find your dream gown you'll never want to take it off. But what if you do, just so you can dance? Here's *Rosie Patrick* on the trend for having more than one bridal outfit – without wrecking the budget

*Stockists on page 288*

[Left] Thea gown with removable sleeves, from £4,995 (without sleeves), **Sassi Holford**

[Above] Harlem jumpsuit, £POA, **Eliza Jane Howell**

[Above] Benicia gown by Maggie Sottero, £POA, **Etiquette Bridal**

**Back when we were students,** my pals and I were bewitched by the exotic concept of 'desk to bar'. We built up such a glittering, glamorous vision of office life in our heads, imagining our filing cabinet drawers stuffed full of the kind of transitional heels, drop earrings and box clutches that would catapult us from computer chair to bar stool in time for happy hour. How wrong we were. Want to know what's really in my drawers? Snacks. A couple of packets of tea. Stacks of used notebooks. I'm sadly lacking in transformative jewellery.

Still, the fantasy of fashion metamorphosis is one I cling to. If I could get away with it, I'd have more costume changes than Mariah Carey. In the real world, we just don't have enough opportunities to play diva dress-up, with one shining exception – the big day.



DAY

NIGHT

[Left] Ava lace top, £610, and Brooke stretch crepe skirt, from £700, both **CG Loves**
[Below] Suzy jumpsuit, from £475, **CG Loves**



[Above] Margeaux gown, £POA, **Jenny Packham**

## Top tip

"If budget is an issue, please don't feel that the only option is to buy online. Give your local store a call and ask if it sells discounted sample gowns. I recently had a bride who was able to buy two samples for less than what she'd budgeted for one!"

**Eilidh Campbell, Etiquette Bridal**



DAY

NIGHT

[Above and top] Remove the lace jacket in this combo of **Mikaella Bridal** separates (style 2293) to reveal a daring crop top, £POA

And here's the thing: even though its roots are in celebrities' insatiable appetite for dresses and drama, switching up your bridal look is not such a 'diva' stunt any more. There are actually solid reasons behind the trend.

Let me explain. Although *inspired* by the latest merry-go-round of stars opting for multiple gowns, like Sophie Turner, Zoë Kravitz and Ellie Goulding (whose infamous six outfits – and counting, apparently – caused quite a stir last year), a wedding wardrobe *can* be a practical choice rather than a purely indulgent one. Say you've got two venues to factor into the equation, one religious and the other glitzy. Will one gown suit both?

"A lot of women find they need to cover up a bit more if they're getting married in a church, which is totally understandable," says designer Catriona Garforth. "You might then feel you can't fully enjoy your reception in this gown, in which case a second, fun option might be worth considering. You want to be able to dance and socialise with ease, without, for instance, the weight of a heavy train trailing after you."

Couturier Sassi Holford agrees: "Perhaps you're planning a traditional wedding that calls for longer sleeves, but you're going to have a ceilidh later on. Your evening dress will need to be all about movement and flexibility." Strip the Willow is no cake walk.

Sustainability could also be a factor. I know, I know – am I seriously advising you to buy *more* in order to be eco-friendly? But think about it. That ballgown could take you comfortably from first look to last orders, but afterwards? It's not going to have much mileage, unless you're secretly a duchess. Separates might offer better post-wedding wearability, with the added bonus of keeping guests guessing throughout your wedding day, as if you're some kind of sartorial chameleon.

"Most of our brides go for wardrobe changes simply because we specialise in separates and pieces that can be reworn," Catriona says. "We've had clients who've stripped down from beneath a fabulous flowing skirt and lace jacket to a slinky bias-cut gown to rock the reception."

And you might have other limitations to contend with. Not everyone, it seems, is on the 'your day, your way' train. "Unfortunately, as I have seen happen on occasion, the bride has had to settle for a certain style in order to keep members of the bridal party happy," recalls Etiquette Bridal's Eilidh Campbell. "It's always frustrating. But in such circumstances, it makes sense for the bride to change into a party dress that's more in line with what she originally wanted."

Obviously, we'd strongly advise you to stick to your guns, but if that plunging Martina Liana masterpiece is going to cause →




[Above] Divine gown and overskirt, £POA, **Suzanne Neville** [Right] Divine gown, £POA, **Suzanne Neville**

a family feud, maybe having a couple of dresses to hand wouldn't compromise you entirely. "The second can show another side of your personality," points out Sassi. Well, if it worked for Meghan Markle...

## MONEY HONEY

Sold on separates? Plotting a party frock? Better get crunching those numbers, pronto. Can you afford to splurge or do you need to think more creatively?

"Definitely consider your budget before diving in," warns Jennifer Gilbert at The Bridal Courtyard. "We all know how much weddings cost these days, so when you add an extra dress into the pot, it can throw things off. Plus, it's hard enough finding The One as it is, so you are potentially giving yourself a lot of extra work. Why not search for one versatile dress? We have a few from Phoenix Gowns that have detachable trains, skirts, straps and belts, which can really alter the look and feel of the gown. We've also had brides opt for a lace jacket during the day and then swap it for a sparklier version at night. There are plenty of low-cost options."

"Accessories can be very useful and inexpensive too," suggests Catriona. "For day, style up your gown with an embellished headpiece and veil, then shake your hair loose and introduce a floral crown and pared-back belt for a different mood in the evening."

## GAME PLAN

So, you've found yourself a killer modular dress or a flirty jumpsuit – what now? When and how to morph into your night-time look?

"I have been asked along several times to help brides change from their day dress into their evening one, and what I've found is that many end up in a panic as they realise they're missing their own party," laughs Eilidh. "Make sure your gown is easy to put on, so the transformation is as swift as possible. Also, the re-styling must be significant enough to be noticed – the last thing you want is to make tweaks only for no one to clock them!"

"Make minimal changes that aren't too time-consuming," advises Jennifer. "Spending too long on it will take you away from your loved ones and your meticulously planned day. Brides who do change tend to do so in the slight lull before the evening guests arrive."

For Eilidh, it's worth keeping your main gown on until after your first dance: "It means all your evening guests can see the dress you walked down the aisle in. You'll only wear it once – make the most of it!"

Move over, desk to bar. Aisle to dancefloor – now that's the dream. ♥



[Right] Tempest mini dress, £335, **Needle & Thread**

[Above] Lace and tulle poncho (style E190) by Bianco Evento, £150, **The Bridal Courtyard**

[Above] Isla body, from £925, and Lucinda pleated skirt, from £1,495, both **Sassi Holford**

# Glitz and pieces

The fastest route from noon to night is via attention-grabbing accessories. Shop statement earrings, bridal trainers and covetable hairbands for party time

*Stockists on page 288*

Soraya ivory leather sandal with mother of pearl and polished brass heel, £595, **Freya Rose London**

Personalised Converse trainers, from £105, **Wedding Converse**

Cadiz earrings, from £51, **Arianna Tiaras**

Blessing clutch, £190, **Dune London**

Selene hair clips, £160 each, **Tilly Thomas Lux**

Tess flats, £95, **The Perfect Bridal Company**

Pearl headband, made to order, **Kate Dillon Designs**

Zeera embellished trainers, £59, **Paradox London**

Lisa lace brogues, £265, **Florence**

Alise ivory satin slingbacks, £75, **Rainbow Club**

George block heels in Unicorn, £250, **Charlotte Mills**

Shimmy anklets, £100, **Grace Loves Lace**

# It's my party

**[Right]** Monroe modern stretch-satin gown with plunge illusion neckline by CC Couture, £POA, **Reflections Bridal Boutique**. Small diamond hoop earrings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Shoes, stylist's own. Small colourful bouquet of calla lily, craspedia, agapanthus, waxflower, rose and eucalyptus, from £65, **The Flower Croft**. Classic Cuvee MV magnums of English sparkling wine, £77.99 each, both **Nyetimber**.

**[Opposite]** Famous crepe fit-and-flare halterneck gown with button detailing by Modeca, £POA, **Amy King Bridal and Beauty.** Liza earrings, £120, and Stella and Holly hair pins, £65 each, all **Polly & Bella**. Diamond rings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Shoes, stylist's own. Quad bistro table, from £15 to hire, **Cameron Events**. 'Aye Do' neon sign (usually supplied mounted on a frame), £150 to hire, **Make Believe Events**. Rainbow sugar-flower wedding cake, £POA, **Jappacakes**.
***Stockists on page 288***




You'll want to dance like everyone's watching in this selection of modern, easy-to-move-in gowns. Time to have a (disco) ball

Photography by ***Alexandra Roscoe***
Styled by ***Catriona Garforth***

**[Right]** Nina contemporary coat-style wedding dress from the Couture collection, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**. Mirabelle blue earrings, £45, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**. Shoes, from a selection, **Kudos Bridal Boutiques (Edinburgh)**. 'Ye Dancin?' pink neon sign on copper frame, £200 to hire, **Make Believe Events**. ***Stockists on page 288***



**[Left]** Corded lace and mikado dress with pockets (style 1136) by Sweetheart, £999, **The Bridal Courtyard**. Aleena trio of hair pins, £65, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**. Pearl bracelets, £POA, and pearl earrings, £POA, both **James Brown & Partners**. Small colourful bouquet of calla lily, craspedia, agapanthus, waxflower, rose and eucalyptus, from £65, **The Flower Croft**. ***Stockists on page 288***



**[Right]** Lavande fitted crepe gown with lace back by the French Collection by Wendy Makin, £1,200, **Kudos Bridal Boutiques (Edinburgh)**. Swallows earrings, £74, and matching bangle, £235, both **Sheila Fleet**. Diamond rings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Shoes, stylist's own. 'Always and Forever' Painted by Lucky customised faux-leather jacket, £POA, **Amy King Bridal and Beauty**. White Queen chair, from £6 to hire, **Cameron Events**. 1086 Rosé 2010 magnum of English sparkling wine [front], £375, and Classic Cuvee MV magnum of English sparkling wine [just seen], £77.99, both **Nyetimber**.

***Stockists on page 288***

**[Left]** Ava burnout velvet floral gown with double split and leatherette belt, £1,200, **CG Loves**. Rosie silk flower earrings, £75, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**. Nimbus black diamond ring, £1,230, Aeon ring, from £850, and Radiant gold ring, £1,600, all **Katie Lees Jewellery**. Shoes, from a selection, **Kudos Bridal Boutiques (Edinburgh)**. Pair of cherry blossom trees, £60 to hire, **Make Believe Events**.

***Stockists on page 288***



**[Above]** Olwen soft fishtail Art Deco gown with plunging V-back and front, from £2,740, **Sassi Holford**. Rene back-drop necklace, £175, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**. Pearl earrings, £POA, and bracelet, £POA, both **James Brown & Partners**. Vex ring, £690, Nimbus ring, £1,230, and Radiant ring, £1,600, all **Katie Lees Jewellery**. Shoes, from a selection, **Kudos Bridal Boutiques (Edinburgh)**. Royale chair in gold, from £75 to hire, **Cameron Events**. Mixed eucalyptus, tree fern and French ruscus foliage hoop, from £25, **The Flower Croft**.

**[Opposite]** Aberdeen crepe gown with full-length sleeves and side split by Maggie Sottero, £POA, **Etiquette Bridal**. Jenna earrings, £85, **Polly & Bella**. Diamond rings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Shoes, from a selection, **Kudos Bridal Boutiques (Edinburgh)**. ***Stockists on page 288***

[1] 'Always and Forever' Painted by Lucky customised faux-leather jacket, £POA, **Amy King Bridal and Beauty**. Swallows earrings, £74, and matching bangle [just seen], £235, both **Sheila Fleet**.

[2] Olwen soft fishtail Art Deco gown [just seen], from £2,740, **Sassi Holford**. Rene back-drop necklace, £175, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**. Pearl earrings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Vex ring, £690, Nimbus ring, £1,230, and Radiant ring, £1,600, all **Katie Lees Jewellery**.

[3] Nina contemporary coat-style wedding dress from the Couture collection, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**. Mirabelle blue earrings, £45, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**. Loam ring, £995, **Katie Lees Jewellery**. Ruby faux-fur cape, £410, **CG Loves**. 'Ye Dancin?' pink neon sign on copper frame, £200 to hire, **Make Believe Events**.

[4] Famous crepe fit-and-flare halterneck gown by Modeca, £POA, **Amy King Bridal and Beauty**. Liza earrings, £120, and Stella and Holly hair pins, £65 each, all **Polly & Bella**. Large pink bouquet of Avalanche rose, O'Hara rose, lisianthus, astilbe, ranunculus, waxflower, eucalyptus, French ruscus and clematis, from £75, **The Flower Croft**.

[5] Harmony made-to-measure gown, £1,890, **La Novia**. Vega hair crown, £395, **Polly & Bella**. Diamond rings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Pink bouquet of Avalanche rose, O'Hara rose, lisianthus, astilbe, ranunculus, waxflower, eucalyptus, French ruscus and clematis, from £75, **The Flower Croft**. Macramé wall hangings (two shown), £75 each, **Cox & Cox**.

***Stockists on page 288***








2



4



3

**Hair** Louise Quinn Hairdresser
*www.facebook.com/LouiseQuinnHairdresser*
**Makeup** Makeup by Leigh Blaney
*www.makeupbyleighblaney.co.uk*
**Model** Hannah Raymond at Colours Agency
**Shoot assistants** Rosie Patrick and Zoë Boothby
**Shot at** Broadscope Studios, Glasgow
**Special thanks to** Stephanie Wheatcroft at The Flower Croft, Heather McGowan at Make Believe Events, Cameron Events and Missy the dog.





**[Above]** Harmony made-to-measure gown, £1,890, **La Novia**. Vega hair crown, £395, **Polly & Bella**. Loose rose stems, £POA, **The Flower Croft**.

**[Opposite]** Boston romantic layered tulle gown from the Studio Collection, around £1,500, **Joyce Young Design Studios**. Lunar hot pink earrings, £71, and matching pendant, £82, both **Sheila Fleet**. Diamond rings, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**. Large pink bouquet of Avalanche rose, O'Hara rose, lisianthus, astilbe, ranunculus, waxflower, eucalyptus, French ruscus and clematis, from £75, flower crown (in same blooms), from £25, and bespoke floral floor installation, £POA, all **The Flower Croft**.
***Stockists on page 288***

# Love the look

Selection by ***Rosie Patrick***

3

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5

# Mulan

As the live-action remake of Disney's empowering classic hits cinemas, bring honour to us all with bold blossoms worthy of a warrior

6

12

TOM FORD

11

7

8

10

9

**1** Easton gown, £POA, **Sottero and Midgley** **2** Bamboo birdcage, £155, **Shimu** **3** Classic garland, £5, **Paper Dreams** **4** Norma jumpsuit and Erté kimono, £POA, **Eliza Jane Howell** **5** Floral dressing gown, £16, **Primark** **6** Warrior Heart shoes, £129, **Irregular Choice** **7** Blossom tree centrepiece, £POA to hire, **88 Events** **8** Four-tier white cake with rose and blossom sugar details, made to order, **Liggy's Cake Company** **9** Disney Princess gold-plated Mulan earrings, £25, **Couture Kingdom** **10** Painted birchwood and cotton-voile fan by Fern Fans, £80, **Net-a-Porter** **11** Mulan-inspired 3D printed hair comb by Chompworks, £12.60, **Etsy** **12** Gloss Luxe lipgloss in Disclosure, £38, **Tom Ford** ***Stockists on page 288***

# Classic BLUE

Pantone's colour of the year has your 'something blue' covered. Pair with crisp whites to highlight its rich depths

**1** Grace silk dupion tie-front shirt-dress in Pacific Blue, £529, **Bombshell London** **2** Watercolour cake with anemone detailing, made to order, **Happyhills Cakes** **3** Klass navy jumpsuit from the Sister collection, £295, **Halfpenny London** **4** Rhodium-plated stud earrings, £59, **Swarovski** **5** Hetty heels in Midnight, £220, **Harriet Wilde** **6** Navy invite with personalised envelope insert, made to order, **Caledonian Cowgirl** **7** Orca jug, £35, **Sweetpea & Willow** **8** Bowed flat-strap trumpet gown with front slit in Sofia Blue (style 6826), from £190, **Dessy** **9** Iced cookies, made to order, **Ruby & Pearl Cake Art** **10** Royal Blue feathery looped fascinator, £70, **Chanix Millinery** **11** Sheer Transformation Perfecting Moisturiser, £34, **Ole Henriksen** **12** Jess headband, £28, **Chi Chi London** ***Stockists on page 288***

Boho styling is going nowhere. If you need us, we'll be lounging on our peacock chair, looking resplendent in artisan lace and crochet-like textures

# Macramé *all day*

we love

1 Macramé hanging basket, from £14.99, **Dobbies Garden Centres** 2 Let It Fringes full lace dress, £POA, **Rembo Styling** 3 Chamonix 5 necklace by Mon Bijou, £16.50, **The Design Gift Shop** 4 Macramé chair backs by Wall Knot, £20.80, **Etsy** 5 Matilde headpiece, £300, **AM Faulkner** 6 Hippie daisy earrings, £12, **Realm Designs** 7 Yuzu crop top, £825, and Grove skirt, £1,080, **Willowby by Watters** 8 Macramé tags, £3.75, **Cox & Cox** 9 Macramé backdrop, made to order, **Lavender & Rose** 10 Adley vintage boho wedding dress with high halter neckline, from £1,799, **All Who Wander** 11 Crisantemo fringed gown, £POA, **Yolancris** 12 Dunaway gown, £POA, **Ashley Graham x Pronovias**
***Stockists on page 288***

# Rose gold

The prettiest of metals is reigning supreme again. Think pink and embrace glittering sequinned gowns and shimmering frosting

1 Glass Glow Face in Prism Rose, £26, **Kevin Aucoin**
2 Illiana sequinned organza gown, £POA, **Elbeth Gillis**
3 Rose gold stationery suite, made to order, **Two Tabbies**
4 Anna 18ct rose gold diamond ring, £5,995, **Laings** 5 Alicia gown, £5,495, **Sassi Holford** 6 Long-sleeved sequin bridesmaid dress (style 8848), from £289, **Sorella Vita** 7 Asymmetric dress, £120, **Miss Selfridge** 8 Rose gold Love script balloon, £5.99, **Candle & Cake**
9 Four-tier cake with rose gold floral details, made to order, **Suzanne Esper Cakes** 10 Love eau de parfum, £55.98, **Victoria's Secret** 11 Pillow Talk Luxury Palette of Pops, £42, **Charlotte Tilbury** 12 Gina long slip, £590, **Gilda & Pearl** ***Stockists on page 288***

# Crowning glory

## 2020's most unexpected trend? The rise of bridal millinery. The way forward is clear – if you really want to get ahead, you'll have to get a hat (or a headpiece)

Words by *Rosie Patrick*

***Stockists on page 288***



[Above] Aurora headband, £140, Stephanie Gallen Millinery

**Photo:** Steve Lewarne



[Right] A pearl-studded halo under construction at Stephanie Gallen Millinery



**Photo:** victoria-photography.co.uk

[Above] Floral headpiece, £POA, Chanix Millinery

**I first noticed it in Barcelona.** I was in the Spanish city for its annual bridal fashion week, and the catwalk had been all but conquered by an army of millinery-sporting models. It wasn't just the odd stetson or top hat for theatrical effect, as you might expect: most designers, from the relaxed boho brands to the edgy urban names, were capping off laboriously crafted gowns with statement brims. I chalked it up to some runway peacocking.

Then came the 2020 collection images. My inbox was flooded with yet more bridal hats and headpieces, often in place of veils and tiaras. Ah. So this *is* a thing.

It's pretty rare that the industry makes a brave move like this. When was the last time we experienced such a breath of fresh air? Sure, bridal hats are not totally new territory, but you have to set your time machine all the way back to the 1970s to find a few eccentric floppy options. This latest crop is a different animal. It's early days, but mark our words, our current penchant for headbands is only the beginning: we're predicting panamas and perchers, fascinators and fedoras, birdcages and buttons. It's a full-on takeover, and it's gonna be *big*.

"HEADBANDS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING. WE'RE PREDICTING PANAMAS AND PERCHERS, FASCINATORS AND FEDORAS, BIRDCAGES AND BUTTONS. IT'S A FULL-ON TAKEOVER"

## COME TO A HEAD

The question is – do Scotland's milliners feel the same? Have brides here caught on and started commissioning?

"Yes!" exclaims Chanix Millinery's Rachael Nixon. "Styles like the silk crown and the modern Tudor are very popular. Last year, during a consultation with a mother of the bride, her daughter, who'd accompanied her, spotted a crown sample in nude pink and fell in love with it. She wanted it as a bridal headpiece – I was surprised, as I had only ever associated my millinery with mothers and guests. When she went away, I did a bit of research and came across other brides on Instagram who were wearing headpieces. It's definitely becoming a trend – perhaps because it's more common for brides to have two dresses, and, with that, a change of millinery."

"More and more brides are looking to stand out from the crowd and wear something unusual," agrees Kate Dillon. "There are so many options now that choosing your hair accessories is almost as important as finding the gown – they're reportedly outselling fashion jewellery, and are all over the catwalks and celebrity culture."

If hat makers were taken by surprise initially, they've quickly caught up. "There has been an unmistakable increase in brides commissioning headpieces from me," says milliner Stephanie Gallen. "So much so, that I'm in the process of launching my first bridal range, as opposed to simply taking bespoke orders. My theory is that this has coincided with the growing appreciation for vintage dresses. These, I feel, require a headpiece that's a little different than the standard boutique offering, and, if you're lucky enough to source the perfect vintage gown, it's super-hard to find a co-ordinating headpiece. That's where we come in."

Intrigued? Let's get you acquainted with your choices. "There are so many!" says Kate. "Hair vines are so versatile, and can be worn with other accessories, such as a headband or crown, or entwined in a loose braid. Headbands, meanwhile, can be highly decorative and embellished with crystals or feathers. Or, you can embrace a more minimalist aesthetic and opt for something simple."

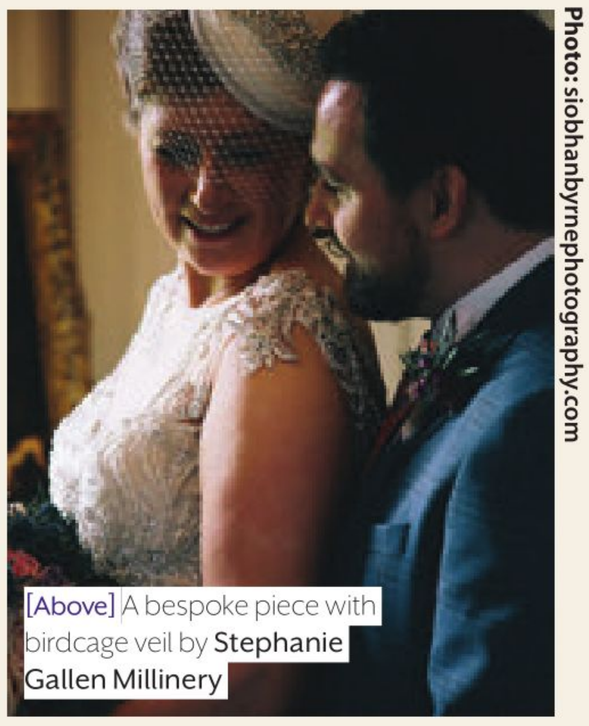


Photo: siobhanbyrnephotography.com

[Above] A bespoke piece with birdcage veil by **Stephanie Gallen Millinery**

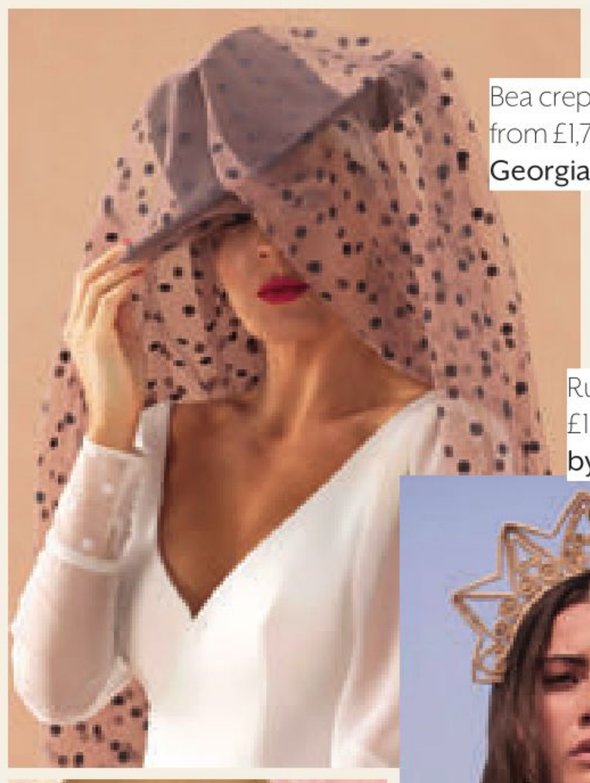
## HAT TRICK

If you're going in deep with a hat rather than a headpiece, how on earth will you know which type is going to suit you? "I tend not to focus on face shapes, but more on what works for each individual client," reassures Rachael. "As soon as someone tries a sample on, I can immediately tell whether it's for them or not. Nevertheless, as a rule, pillboxes sit over the face, 1cm above the eyebrow. This wouldn't be ideal for someone with a fringe, as it would flatten the hair. If you've got a fringe, you'd be better off going for a crown."

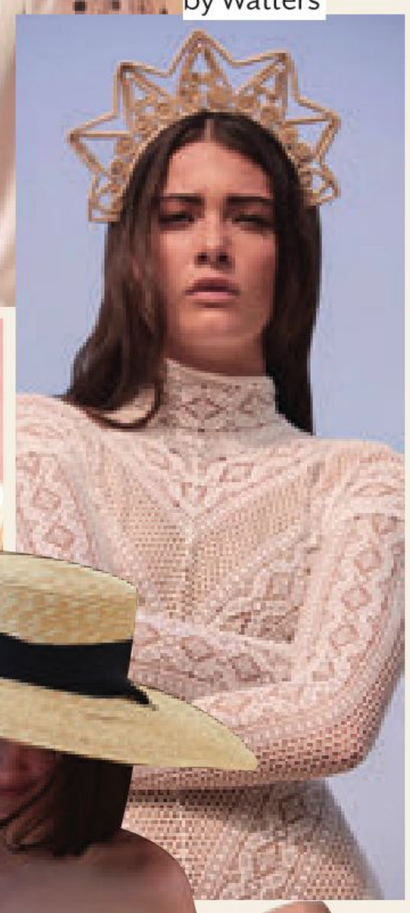
"I made a pillbox for a bride two years ago," recalls Stephanie. "Emma [pictured far left] had seen a couple of vintage pieces in a shop that she loved. We worked together to develop something that incorporated both. At the eleventh hour, though, she decided to wear a pair of green Manolo Blahniks and wanted the hat to match! So I changed the clear Swarovski crystals to emerald ones. If you make use of your milliner's skills, you'll end up with a unique hat that makes your heart sing." ♥

# HEAD START

## STUCK FOR STYLING IDEAS? CAST YOUR EYE OVER THESE



Bea crepe gown, from £1,725, **Georgia Bridal**



Russell gown, from £1,530, **Willowby by Watters**



Amor Amor gown, £POA, **Marylise**



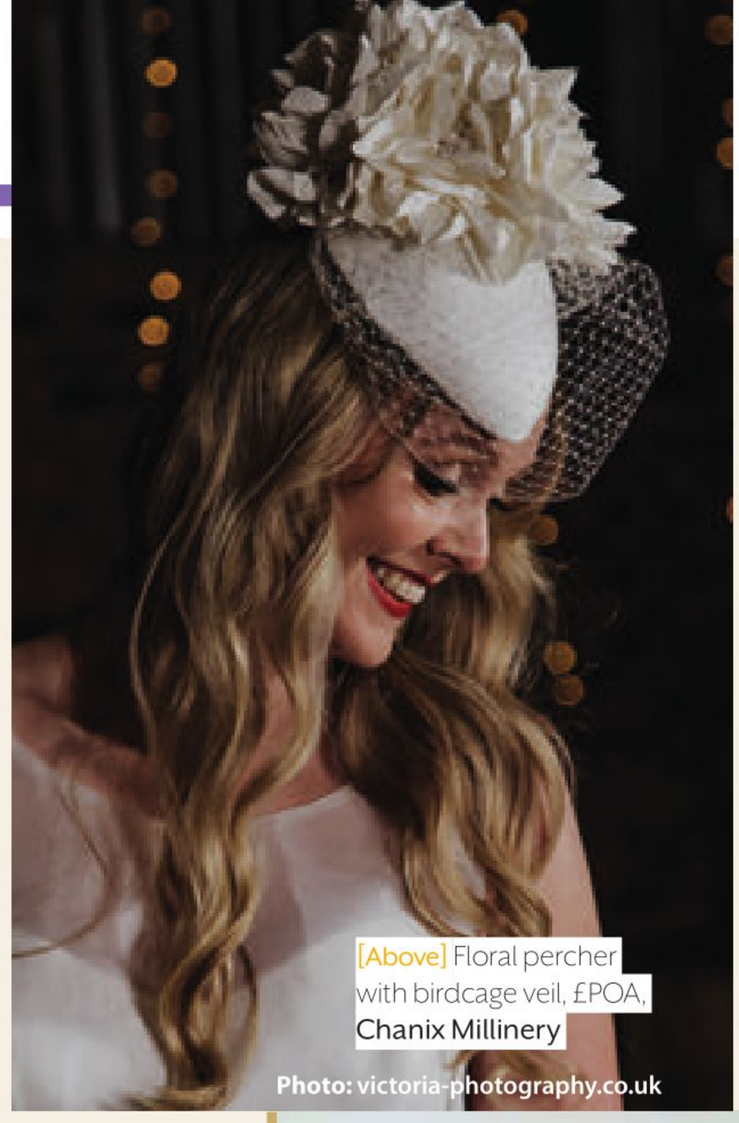
Ophelia gown, from £1,470, **Willowby by Watters**



Style 62006, £POA, **Hayley Paige Bridal**



Kiss & Tell gown, £POA, **Rembo Styling**



[Above] Floral percher with birdcage veil, £POA, **Chanix Millinery**

Photo: victoria-photography.co.uk



[Above] Nude hat with lace ribbon trim, silk bow and hand-stitched pearls, made to order, **Kate Dillon Designs**

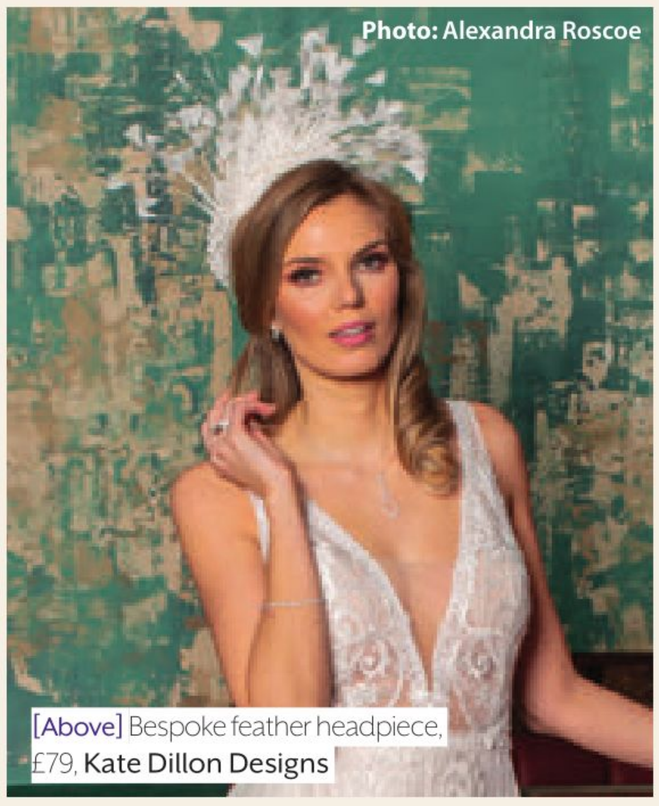


Photo: Alexandra Roscoe

[Above] Bespoke feather headpiece, £79, **Kate Dillon Designs**

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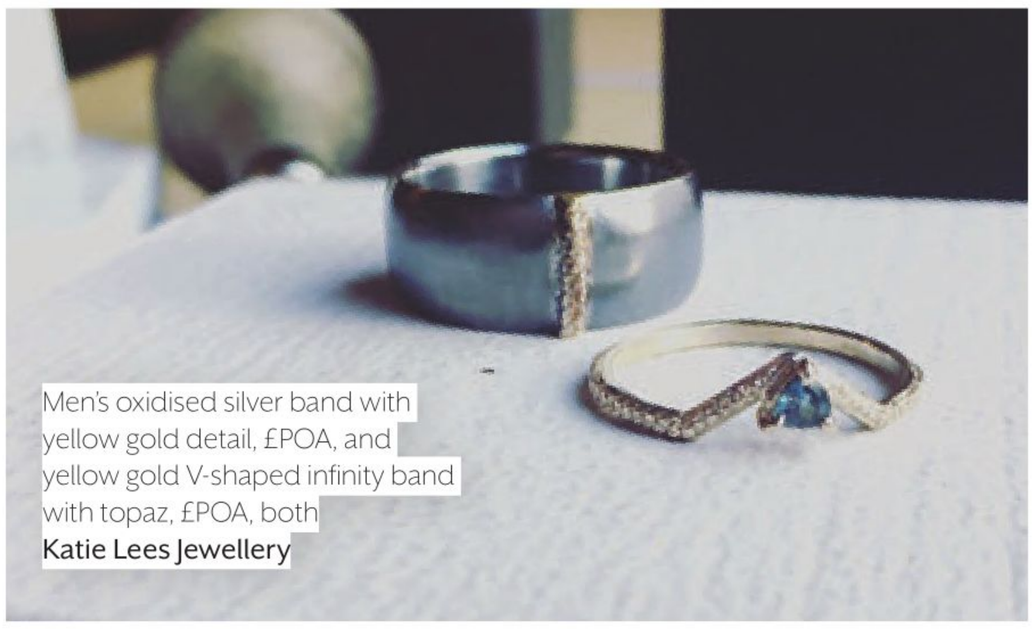
# Boys' CLUB

We're the first to admit the wedding industry can be more than a little bride-centric. It's time to change all that – this one's for the guys

Words by *Zoë Boothby*

*Stockists on page 288*



Men's oxidised silver band with yellow gold detail, £POA, and yellow gold V-shaped infinity band with topaz, £POA, both **Katie Lees Jewellery**

**The other day, I was chatting to my parents about their wedding rings.** "Did you get them engraved?" I queried innocently. "Nope," shrugged my dad. My mum looked at him incredulously. "Pass me your ring," she demanded, turning it over to reveal the inscription inside: 'F.A.C to C.S.B 05.06.93'. Whoops.

It's not his fault, I suppose. The wedding industry is so geared towards women that it's hardly surprising when men like my dad take little or no interest in many aspects of the big day. There are signs, however, that things are changing. "Encouraged by the fact that more couples are opting out of traditional norms, I think guys are now choosing bands that show off their individuality and not necessarily just matching their ring to their partner's," says Glasgow-based jeweller Katie Lees. "I love it when men take pride in wearing a band: it's the most significant and longest-lasting element of the wedding day, so to really cherish it is a must."

Over at jewellers James Brown & Partners, it's a similar story. "We've definitely noticed an increase in the number of men prepared to invest in metals like platinum and 18ct gold (whether yellow or rose), as opposed to non-precious metals like steel or titanium," Julia Black tells us.

Finally! It's clear there's something of a breakthrough happening, and we couldn't be happier about it.

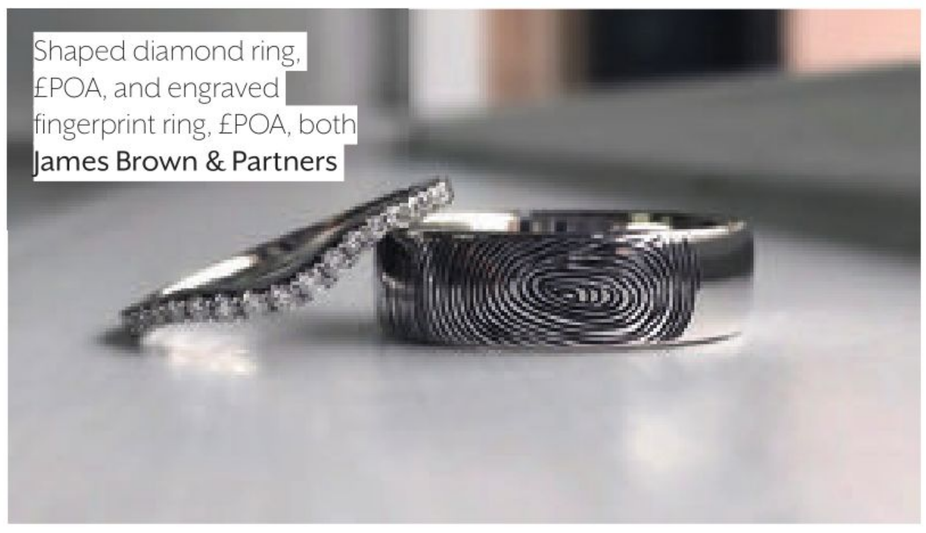
## FIRST THINGS FIRST

A lot of men never wear jewellery, so it's no wonder they don't know the first thing about rings. Thankfully, the professionals have some pointers to keep you on track. "If something has caught your eye, I'd always recommend you ask yourself if you can imagine being happy to still be wearing it in forty years' time," says Julia. "Trends don't last, so it's best not to invest in something that will date quickly. There's a distinction between choosing a design that's a bit different and picking one you'll soon outgrow."

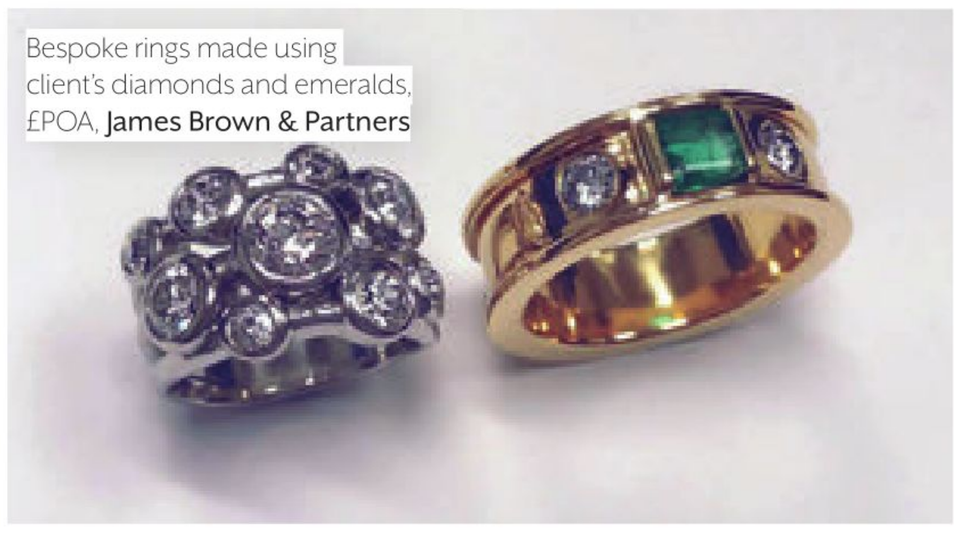
> "I LOVE IT WHEN MEN TAKE PRIDE IN WEARING A BAND: IT'S THE LONGEST-LASTING ELEMENT OF THE DAY, SO TO REALLY CHERISH IT IS A MUST"

Katie agrees: "Fashions come and go, so selecting something on a whim can come back to bite you. And don't be shocked if it takes a while to become accustomed to your band. Allow a good two weeks to get fully used to any ring, especially if you're not in the habit of wearing one at all."

Before thinking of the aesthetic elements, try to get an idea of what size you should be looking for. "If you're considering →



Shaped diamond ring, £POA, and engraved fingerprint ring, £POA, both **James Brown & Partners**



Bespoke rings made using client's diamonds and emeralds, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**



Celtic ring in 9ct yellow gold, from £684, **Sheila Fleet**

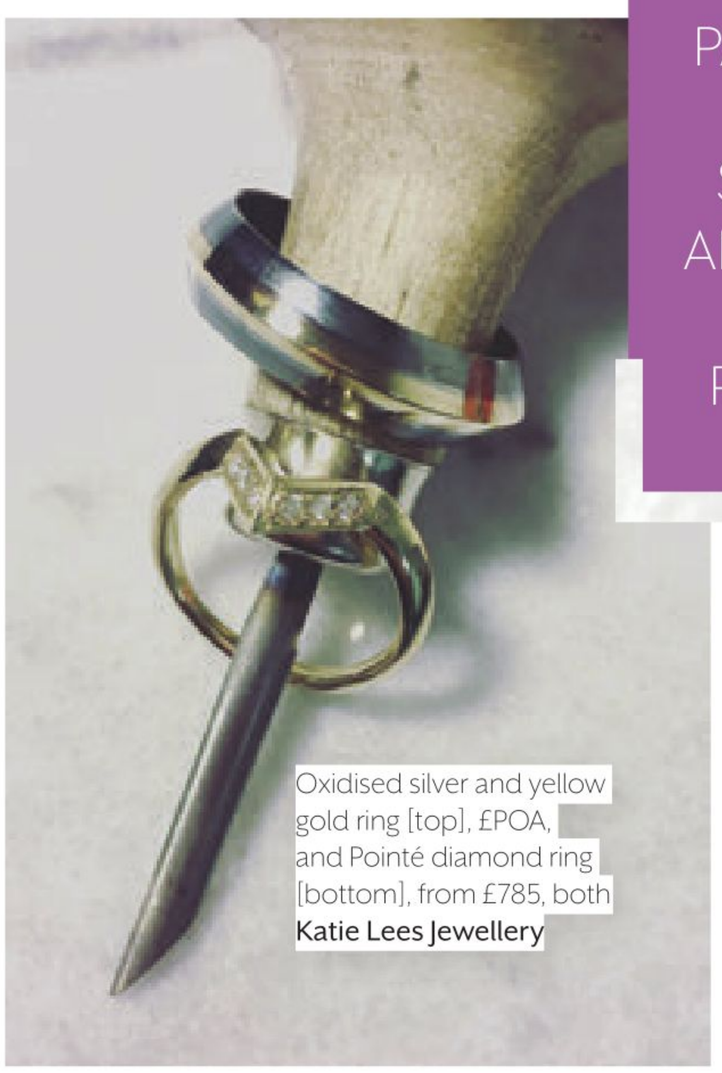


Thistle wedding band, £POA, **James Brown & Partners**

a narrow ring (between 3mm and 5mm), your finger should be measured by a gauge of a similar width; for wider rings, try a 6mm gauge instead," suggests Orkney-based jeweller Sheila Fleet.

## TOOL OF THE TRADE

It's almost time to get carried away dreaming up your perfect band, but first there are some practical points to take into consideration, including



Oxidised silver and yellow gold ring [top], £POA, and Pointé diamond ring [bottom], from £785, both **Katie Lees Jewellery**

the ol' 9 to 5 (or 5 to 9 as the case may be). "Although it is not advisable to wear a ring while doing manual work, if you have this kind of job and you don't want to take your ring off, choose a metal that is hard-wearing – maybe 9ct or 18ct yellow gold, or platinum, which is the most durable," says Sheila.

Unsure whether the material you have in mind will be suitable? Ask the designer for guidance. "I recently made a ring for a cameraman who wanted something really low-profile so it wouldn't interfere with the camera mechanisms," says Katie. "Likewise, if you're a personal trainer who's constantly lifting weights, I'd suggest you don't wear the ring to work, or else that you go for a really hard-wearing metal such as palladium. For hygiene reasons, a lot of people who work in the medical profession can't wear rings with stones set in them. If that sounds like you, go for something easy to clean."

There are some metals it might be best to steer clear of altogether. "If your lifestyle means the ring is going to take a lot of wear, we'd generally suggest avoiding white gold," Julia points out. "It needs to be rhodium-plated

> "WE LIKE A CHALLENGE, SO TELL US ABOUT YOUR IDEAS. PATTERN, TEXTURE, ENGRAVINGS, STONE SETTINGS AND MIXED METALS CAN ALL ADD A PLAYFUL TOUCH"



Celtic ring in platinum and 18ct yellow gold, from £1,495, **Sandy Menzies Jewellery**



Ogham ring in sterling silver, from £95, **Sheila Fleet**



Matrix ring in 9ct yellow gold, from £604, **Sheila Fleet**

once a year to keep that 'white finish' look, which can become a bit of a nuisance."

Did your partner propose to you? If so, it's possible you'll have an engagement ring to work around. Katie has the solution: "There are so many stacking options and shapes that can be manipulated to fit around another piece, or you could have something custom-built for you, to make a really considered, complementary design."

However, in this instance, you might have an advantage over the ladies. "Most gents' bands are broader, so it's unlikely both rings will be on the same finger," Julia offers. "As long as they don't sit together, there's no limits to what you can do."

## YOU DO YOU

And now for the fun bit: designs! Here at *TTKS* Towers, we're always encouraging brides to stay true to who they are, and more fool you if you think we're not going to give guys the same advice, especially when it's never been easier to stamp your personality on a piece. And it needn't be flashy: "Something as subtle as an engraved line around the band could carry the hidden meaning of being the skyline of the place you got engaged or married," suggests Julia. "It's less common to see, but gents' bands also look great set with stones – a diamond is a really effective way to inject some charisma."

"Why not add your partner's name in runic letters?" says Sheila. "Most people won't be able to understand the text, making it extra special for the couple. Alternatively, our Ogham ring has a secret message inscribed that translates as 'a blessing'."

Of course, if there's anything specific you want, jewellers will try accommodate your desires. "We like a challenge, so tell us about your ideas," promises Katie. "Pattern, texture, engravings, stone settings and mixed metals can all add a playful touch. You could retrace old engravings and patterns on a new ring, but giving it a modern edge; or create inlay and negative space with designs and shapes that mean a lot to the wearer."

Above all, don't forget that, like your spouse, this is a ring to treasure forever. "Invest in a style that won't date and that you'll never tire of," Julia smiles. Sound advice if ever we heard it. ♥

Sheila Fleet.

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Pearl hoop earrings, £18, **jewellerybox**

Gold hoops with multi-coloured zirconia, £149, **Sif Jakobs Jewellery**

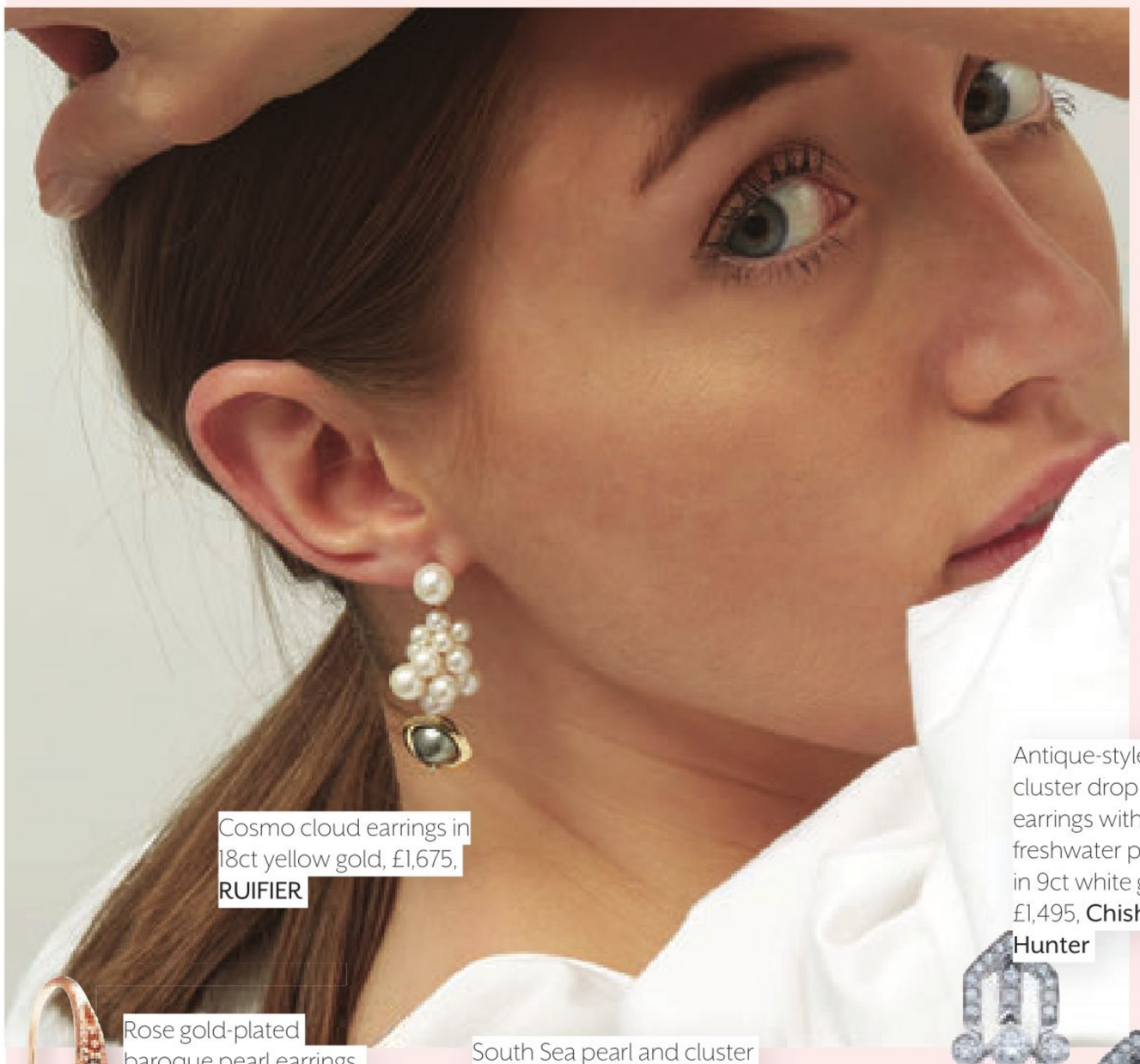
Silver hoop earrings, £95, **Sif Jakobs Jewellery**

## hoops

Luna pearl hoops in yellow-gold vermeil, £155, **Dower & Hall**

Mini infinity hoop earrings, £190, **Katie Lees Jewellery**

Daring Infinite earrings, £202, **Carolin Stone**



# EAR *candy*

Earrings are having a moment, but how will you wear yours come w-day? Let your lobes lead the way...

Compiled by *Zoë Boothby*

Cosmo cloud earrings in 18ct yellow gold, £1,675, **RUIFIER**

Chopard Happy Hearts mother-of-pearl earrings, £2,510, **Laings**

Antique-style cluster drop earrings with freshwater pearl in 9ct white gold, £1,495, **Chisholm Hunter**

## stars &hearts

Rose gold-plated baroque pearl earrings, £12, **Jon Richard**

South Sea pearl and cluster diamond earrings, £8,850, **Hamilton & Inches**

Diamond stud earrings in 18ct white gold, £4,080, **Laings**

Mira earrings, £55, **Sif Jakobs Jewellery**

Pull-through pearl earrings, £30, **jewellerybox**

Mikimoto bubble earrings in 18ct yellow gold, £550, **Laings**

Secret Hearts earrings in sterling silver and 9ct yellow gold, £261, **Sheila Fleet**

Secret Hearts earrings in sterling silver and 9ct rose gold, £208, **Sheila Fleet**

## pearls

***Stockists on page 288*** →

# diamonds & crystals



Aquamarine pear-cut stud earrings in 9ct white gold, £99, **Chisholm Hunter**





Pear-shaped diamond drop earrings in 18ct white gold, £8,115, **Hamilton & Inches**





Allure cubic zirconia drop earrings, £34.95, **Joshua James Jewellery**

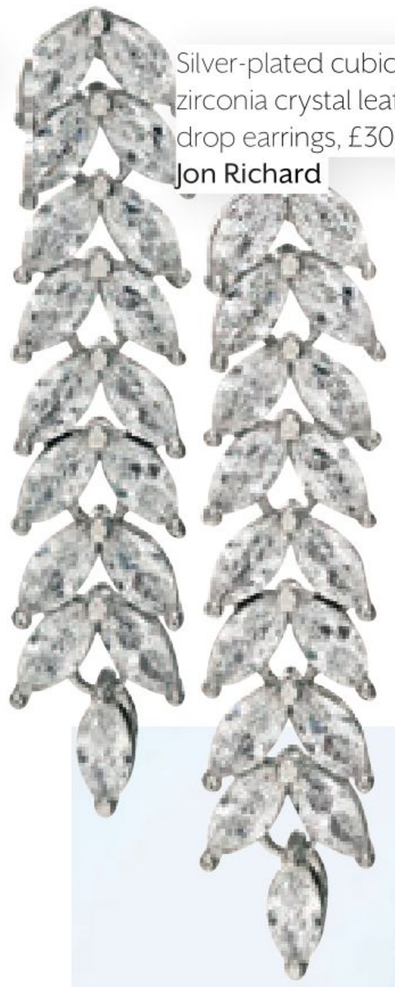




Blue sapphire and diamond drop earrings in 18ct white gold, £23,000, **Laings**



Morning Dew earrings, £85, **Sheila Fleet**



Silver-plated cubic-zirconia crystal leaf drop earrings, £30, **Jon Richard**



Lophorina Tassel Treasure earrings, £181, **Outhouse Jewellery**



Ranjana Khan x Silvia Tcherassi Liliana ear cuff, around £325, **Ranjana Khan**



Leaves earrings with 18ct yellow gold plating on sterling silver, £169, **Thomas Sabo**



Flora earrings, £60, **Accessories by Elizabeth Wallace**



Eden Arbour earrings, £275, **Outhouse Jewellery**

# statement



Raina earrings, around £330, **Ranjana Khan**



Wave stud earrings, £325, **Katie Lees Jewellery**



Silver-plated cubic zirconia stud earrings, £18, **Jon Richard**

# studs





Biella earrings, £69, **Sif Jakobs Jewellery**





Wildflower earrings, £69, **Pureshore Jewellery**



Charming earrings in sterling silver, £187, **Carolin Stone**



Mini Eight earrings in 9ct yellow gold, £128, **Jane Harrison Jewellery**

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# Mother of the bride

# Shape of you

Stockists on page 288



Photo: facebook.com/tanyakiaiephotographer

What you wear doesn't matter as long as you wear it with confidence. *Rosie Patrick* consults the experts on combining wedding outfits and self-belief

Juudit [left] wears: Strapless satin wedding dress, £POA
Riina [right] wears: Elegant coat and dress with guipure detail, £POA, all **Joyce Young Design Studios**



[Above] A-line crepe dress with cap sleeves and beaded bodice (style 991506) by Veni Infantino, £POA, **Patricia Forbes**

**The other night, I settled in to watch the new Taylor Swift documentary** *Miss Americana*. Let me add a disclaimer here: I'm a bit of a Swiftie (there's a surprise). But where I thought I'd be getting 85 minutes of fangirl fodder and maybe some outfit inspiration, I actually found something much more substantial, something very relatable – painfully so at times. Her struggles with body image really hit a nerve. She talks about how she'd obsess over paparazzi shots, zooming in on her stomach and critiquing her curves, and how she has had to unpick her unhealthy habits one by one and rewire her self-sabotaging brain. Whenever she catches herself slipping back into her old ways, she tells herself, 'No. We don't do that anymore.'

You and I might not be celebrities, but what if we could do the same? What if we could reprogramme our insecurities? For mothers of the bride or groom, the pressure can be crushing: you have to accommodate your offspring and their vision for one of the biggest days of their life; dance around your opposite number's choices; and find an outfit that makes *you* feel like the best possible version of yourself, so you can face those guests with grace. All the while, society expects you to be a certain size and age, wear a certain dress, and act a certain way. Of course you're going to feel like you're under the microscope, with every hang-up magnified. But let's not do that anymore. Let's break the cycle, starting now.



[Above] Knee-length dress in Rose Gold by Ispirato (style ISE800), £POA, **Patricia Forbes**

## GOOD FOR YOU

First, it's important not to beat yourself up for feeling less than. "You're not alone," says Glasgow couturier Joyce Young reassuringly. "Most women intend to lose weight before the wedding, so they leave the task of looking for an outfit too close to →

the date. It then becomes a very stressful experience when it should be just the opposite. None of us is 'perfect'. We come in all shapes, sizes and complexions. There are no hard and fast rules that apply to everyone."

So, what's the kindest shopping strategy? How can you guard against changing-room meltdowns and intense trial and error? Joyce's advice is to avoid it altogether. "Don't allow pushy sales people to persuade you into an outfit that you feel uncomfortable or unfamiliar in just because you're the mother of the bride or groom," she cautions. "Consider going bespoke instead. The advantage of having something made to measure is that you can choose the style and have it tailored to your precise measurements and proportions, so you know that it will fit impeccably, flattering your best assets and diminishing any parts you don't want people to notice."

If your budget won't quite stretch to made to measure, your focus should be on finding the boutique or brand that's on your wavelength, thus saving your precious time and energy. There will be a partner-in-crime out there, someone who'll prioritise you and your wellbeing. "If you're nervous about shopping for an outfit, the right boutique will make you feel at ease," agrees Shona Thorpe at Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions. "You deserve a wonderful experience that makes you feel special at all times, and a stylist who offers solid advice and gently encourages you to try different looks to ascertain which suits your body best."




1 Navy and baby pink shift with tiered skirt and belted waist (style 70985N ) by Condici, £575, **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** 2 A-line mikado dress with V-neckline and floral detail at waist (style 991509) by Veni Infantino, £560, **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** 3 Shift dress with ¾-length sleeves and draping at the waist (style ISE806) by Ispirato, £550, **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** 4 French lace dress with detachable pleated chiffon overskirt, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**



[Above] Cropped jacket over tulip dress and wrap, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**

Do your research. Perhaps there's a designer on the market who specialises in exactly the kind of clothes that'll flaunt your figure? "We're renowned for wrap dresses, which are flattering on pretty much every woman – they create an hourglass silhouette whether you're a size 8 or size 28," says Bombshell London designer Katya Wildman. "Undergarments are another of our passions. The foundation of the look *has* to work for you and be comfortable. When I was dressing celebrities for the red carpet, it always boiled down to the shapewear. This can give you the boost you need to wear, say, a closer-fitting dress, and it can certainly combat any areas you're concerned about."

> "NONE OF US IS 'PERFECT'. WE COME IN ALL SHAPES, SIZES AND COMPLEXIONS. THERE ARE NO HARD AND FAST RULES THAT APPLY TO EVERYONE"

## DRESS CODE

Once you have a destination in mind, what then? The process of elimination seems daunting, doesn't it? Not if you give yourself plenty of time. "Start early," urges Joyce. "Don't leave it until the last minute."

"The search should begin as soon

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as you get that lovely news," echoes Katya. "It's never too early – although bear in mind that if you're looking very far in advance, collections will change. As far as making a purchase is concerned, I would say about three or four months before the event is what to aim for."

And you don't need to turn up at your appointment on your own, either. There's nothing to say you can't bring a friend or family member for support, as long as you beware of gathering too much of a crowd, or inviting someone who might not actually help your decision-making. "Make sure it's a true friend, one who will be able to have a positive input," cautions Shona.

"I think it's a good idea to take a trusted friend or relative," concurs Katya. "Or, better still, take the bride. She'll normally have pretty clear ideas about the look of the wedding, which can be really helpful. Friends and family can give you an honest opinion, but more than two people at a fitting can hinder the final decision."

As for what to bring to the changing room, or ask of your couturier if you're planning on having a bespoke piece made, listen to your gut – and your heart. "Most people have an instinct for what suits their shape," insists Joyce. "After all, you've lived with your body all your life. Although it may have changed over the years, at this stage you're unlikely to blindly follow fashion, and will know what you feel most comfortable wearing."

Know thyself. What's your build? While you certainly don't have to follow the stereotypical advice for your particular shape, the pointers will give you a steer if you're a little lost at first. "Pear-shaped women look amazing in flared skirts as they generally have small waists," offers Katya. "We find our customers can often be a different size on the top compared to the bottom, so fit-and-flare is a failsafe for balancing the figure and showcasing the décolletage, without compromising on which bra you can wear.

"If you're apple-shaped, consider a looser shift dress and a shorter hem to show off the legs. Our waist-shapers are a brilliant tool to flatter tummies, particularly when paired with our Confident or Grace dresses, which drape effortlessly."

For athletic women, Katya prescribes a fluid and feminine crepe de chine number: "It will float and sway around your body." For petite ladies, it's about stripping down to a more minimal ensemble. "Try not to wear a dress with acres of fabric, as that's going to drown you," she says. "Avoid ruffles, layers and volume, and keep the look streamlined."



[Right] Long bias-cut beaded silk georgette dress and top, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**

Photo: facebook.com/tanyakiaiephotographer



[Above] Grace pale pink soft matte stretch-satin tie-front dress, £329, **Bombshell London**

[Above] Confident latte capped-sleeve dress, £199, **Bombshell London**

[Above] Confident ¾-length-sleeve dress in Cinder Rose, £220, **Bombshell London**

[Above] A-line dress with beaded cowl neck in Fuchsia Pink (style 991517) by Veni Infantino, £POA, **Patricia Forbes**

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[Left] Printed midi dress in Cornflower (29467), from £500, **Invitations by Veni**



**[Right]** Chanel-style contemporary coat and pleated dress, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**

## YOU DO YOU

Guidelines aside, we're not about to squash you into a box or stick a label on you. You're an individual, and can take the stylist's suggestions on board or toss them out completely. "We are all different and what speaks to one person may say nothing to another," Shona believes. "Not everyone likes to wear a dress, for example, so why not investigate a trouser suit? It can be just as elegant, regardless of whether it's structured or floaty. And don't be afraid of colour if you're curvier."

Joyce also feels strongly about this last point. All too often, fuller-figured women are bizarrely advised against the bolder hues – but why? Who decided this? "If you have a big personality, why hide it?" she asks. "You *can* carry off those more flamboyant shades."

Nothing makes Team *TTKS* sadder than hearing of women desperately attempting to shrink and shed. Not only is this message old, tired and damaging, it's not even practical. "Please don't buy a dress to slim down into," Katya urges. "Seek out something that fits you *now*. I think the key is to be really sure of yourself in your dress and, ultimately, to go with what *you* want, as this confidence will shine through in the photographs."

And when you do get your hands on those prized photos, promise us one thing – that you won't over-analyse your every inch? Remember: we don't do that anymore. ♥



[Right] Pleated dress with asymmetric bodice in Smoky Amethyst/Cream (style 70986) by Condici, £795, **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions**



[Left] Tulip dress and swing jacket, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios**




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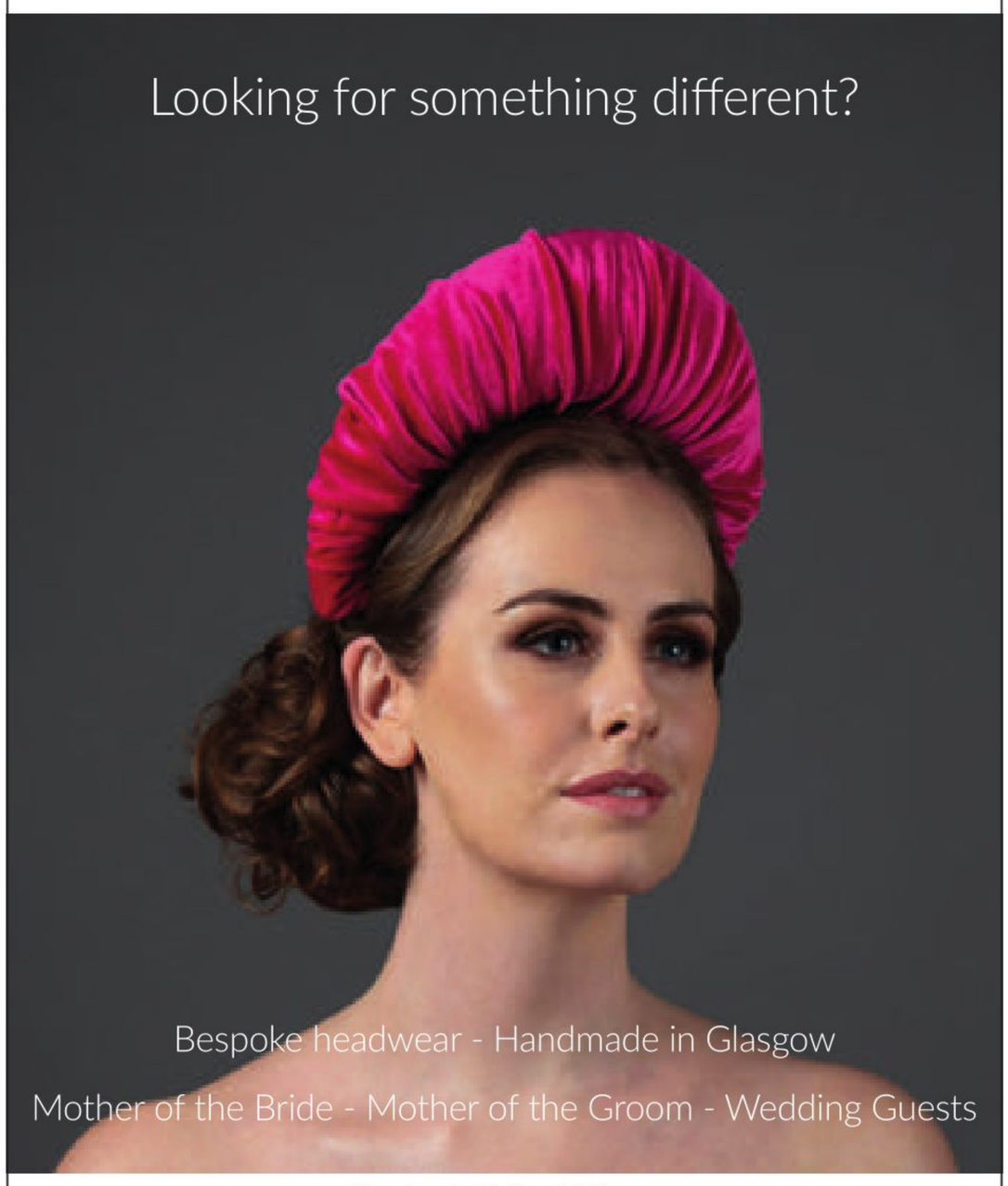

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# FINE *prints*

DITSY PETALS, STEP ASIDE: ALLOW BOLDER BLOOMS TO UNFURL ACROSS BODICES, SKIRTS AND NECKLINES. GO BIG OR GO HOME

Florals for spring? Hardly groundbreaking, but hear us out: classic blooms are feeling fresh again. Time to flourish! Compiled by ***Rosie Patrick***




**1** Floral butterfly-sleeve dress, £69, **GL/AMOUR** **2** Floral pencil dress and tailored peplum jacket (style 3512), £POA, **Teresa Ripoll,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick** and **Frox of Falkirk** **3** Floral shift dress with sheer sleeves (style 6379), £POA, **Gabriela Sanchez,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick**, **Frox of Falkirk** and **Gina Smart** **4** Angelica floral-print stretch-taffeta dress (style ISE823), from £349, **Ispirato,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick**, **Catwalk, Gina Smart, Patricia Forbes** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** **5** Bluebell pendant, from £149, **Sheila Fleet** **6** Rose-print dress with layered split skirt (style 26841), from £475, **John Charles,** stockists include **Bear Necessities, Catherines of Partick**, **Catwalk** and **Gina Smart** **7** Layered navy Georgina and foil print dress with diamanté trim and crepe jacket (style 70977), from £765, **Condici,** stockists include **Bear Necessities, Catherines of Partick**, **Catwalk, Gina Smart, Patricia Forbes** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** **8** Brocade cocktail dress (style 4G167), from £410, **Couture Club,** stockists include **Bear Necessities, Frox of Falkirk, Patricia Forbes, Serendipity & The Dress Exchange** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** **9** Kensington Roses Confident Bombshell cap-sleeve dress, £219, **Bombshell London** **10** Mikado dress in Rosa/Coral (style 991519), from £550, **Veni Infantino,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick, Catwalk, Gina Smart, Patricia Forbes** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** **11** Red floral headpiece, made to order, **Elegance of Perth** **12** Floral shift print dress and coral jacket, £POA, **Linea Raffaelli,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick** and **Catwalk** **13** Pointed court shoe, £24.99, **Bonprix** ***Stockists on page 288***

# FLOWER *power*


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## ANOTHER *level*


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7

1 Rose and pearl headpiece, made to order, **Kate Dillon Designs** 2 Voleta earrings, from £452, **Jennifer Behr** 3 Embellished jersey dresses with chiffon sleeves in both Ivory/Gold and Sapphire (style 991522), from £500, **Veni Infantino,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick, Catwalk, Gina Smart, Patricia Forbes** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** 4 Chiffon dress with attached coat and flower appliqué (style DU339), from £465, **Dressed Up by Veromia,** stockists include **Bear Necessities, Catwalk** and **Mia Bella** 5 French lace dress with satin cowl neckline (style 5003), from £795, **Gill Harvey,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick** and **Frox of Falkirk** 6 Bejewelled Florals rose gold-plated watch by Olivia Burton, £105, **Harvey Nichols** 7 Galaxy low heel, £380, **Harriet Wilde** 8 Shift dress with chiffon bustle and embellished floral details (style 3529), £POA, **Teresa Ripoll,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick** and **Frox of Falkirk** 9 3D appliqué lace top over elegant dress, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios** 10 French lace dress, £POA, **Joyce Young Design Studios** 11 Crepe sateen cocktail dress (style 4G189), from £440, **Couture Club,** stockists include **Bear Necessities, Frox of Falkirk, Patricia Forbes, Serendipity & The Dress Exchange** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** 12 Mikado knee-length dress with lace and tulle sleeves and neckline (style 991508), from £500, **Veni Infantino,** stockists include **Catherines of Partick, Catwalk, Gina Smart, Patricia Forbes,** and **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions** 13 Textured jacquard dress with 3D florals and bell sleeves (style 26854), from £630, **John Charles,** stockists include **Bear Necessities, Catherines of Partick**, **Catwalk** and **Gina Smart**

***Stockists on page 288***

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## YOU DA BOMB-SHELL

Please take our bank cards away – we've discovered **Bombshell London**, a figure-flattering brand with irresistibly covetable dresses from what seems like a bygone era. Since the website is a portal to fabulousness, it's a good thing that designer Katya Wildman has a current highlight for you to home in on. "An absolute favourite is the Gold Grace dress [below left, £389]," she says. "It's a classic, elegant design inspired by Grace Kelly and the Dior styles of the 1950s. The skirt skims the hip at just the right angle. It also comes in a beautiful silk dupion [below right, £529]."



# All dressed UP

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF OCCASIONWEAR? GET READY FOR A SERIES OF SASSY NEW STYLES THAT EVEN THE CELEBS CAN'T KEEP THEIR HANDS OFF OF

***Stockists on page 288***

Selection by ***Rosie Patrick***

## FASHION *mother of the bride*

It's always worth a visit to **Sheila Conn Ladies Fashions,** but right now, it's really hitting the jackpot. "New-season stock is starting to arrive and we're especially excited about Veni Infantino's style 991509 [below, £POA], with full navy skirt and Bellini bodice," shares Shona Thorpe. "We're also looking forward to our 25th year in business. It's quite a milestone." We'll say! To celebrate, the boutique is planning a special lunch in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Stay tuned.



## DEAR JOHN



Playing favourites is something you're always told *not* to do, but when you work in the fashion industry, you sometimes can't help it. "This season, I'm loving John Charles," admits Louise Brown at Falkirk's **Catwalk**. "I adore the designer's style 26869 [left, £749], which is crafted in chic jacquard and features a dynamic peplum detail at the waist. It's so stylish. The textured monochrome jacquard enhances the striking silhouette, with subtle metallic detailing designed to catch the light. Understated and timeless, this is a dress that's made for the limelight." We couldn't agree more (although throwing in the sleek retro ride in the background wouldn't hurt...).

## Bright idea

The one where the side hustle became the main gig: trained children's nurse Rachael Nixon was running **Chanix Millinery** part-time for four years before giving up her hospice job last year to concentrate exclusively on her masterful hats. "Millinery is quite a rare trade these days," reflects Rachael. "There aren't that many makers around, especially those like myself who use traditional methods." Since committing to full-time, Rachael's gone from strength to strength, not least winning the Fife Visual Artist and Craft Maker Award in October.



Photo: victoria-photography.co.uk



Photo: gettyimages.co.uk

A round of applause for **Frox of Falkirk**, crowned 'Best Mother of the Bride Outfitter' at the 2020 Confetti Awards, alongside being recognised as a finalist in the 'Best Wedding Dress Retailer' and 'Best Bridesmaid Retailer' categories. Is it any wonder, when none other than Susan Boyle is a fan? "Susan visits Frox on a regular basis to shop for her performances," reveals Natalie Godfrey. "We've helped her choose looks for *Britain's Got Talent*, album launches and, most recently, for a Christmas concert in Rome for the Pope, where she wore this metallic Marfil gown [left]."

## KING OF QUEENS



If you're not familiar with **Amy King Bridal and Beauty**, allow us to acquaint you. The Kirkcaldy boutique is bursting at the seams with divine dresses for brides and now, happily, for their mums too. The store is cooking up an exclusive, one-off mother-of-the-bride event in the next couple of months (we'll be glued to the socials for the announcement), featuring exquisite styles from Gill Harvey (like 3044 above). There'll also be a stylist on hand to advise and local milliner Kate Dillon will also be there supplying headpieces. This is not one to miss.



The sustainable **Serendipity & The Dress Exchange** has so much to offer under one roof that we're struggling to keep up. "I became owner of The Dress Exchange in Kilmarnock just over five years ago," says Kayleigh Kerr. "We sell pre-loved designer outfits on behalf of clients, and once the item is sold, they receive 50% of the proceeds. In July, we moved to bigger premises, changed our name and decided to stock new items from brands like Marfil [left, style 4J2D3, £465]. We're also well-known for our hat hire collection of over 200 pieces. It's very popular with mums who know they'll only wear it once." Sorted!

## HEAD IN THE GAME

"**Get Ahead Hats** is a small but very lively chain of 15 showrooms," Margaret Baillie introduces. "This gives us space and time to create designs in lovely locations and develop new millinery courses and apprenticeships. We have an in-house milliner, who can craft bespoke pieces in virtually any shade, and stock various designers, such as Amore and Rebecca Couture [we're rating emerald style RC600, hire prices from £45]. We'll be expanding our range of Amore headpieces this year – a range that's ideal for those who like a 'proper' hat and complementary to styles by Veni Infantino, Ispirato, Condici and John Charles."




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# Grooms

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Precise tailoring is everything at **MacGregor and MacDuff.** "We have a range of sizing jackets and kilts (each in a different tartan) that our customers can try during the measuring process, ensuring the fit is spot on," explains Izzy Tetlow at the kilt supremo

***Stockists on page 288***

## SHOP TALK

**MacGregor and MacDuff's covetable kilts have a swish new home.** Joining an already stellar line-up of stores in Ayrshire and Glasgow's west end, the brand has invested in a flagship on Bath Street. And it is *fly*.

"It occupies three levels of a city-centre townhouse. We started out as just the basement of the building, but we've expanded upwards and now have an exclusive sales room and style showroom on the floors above," reports Izzy Tetlow. "The basement is still the destination for all hire measurements: here, our stylists will be able to assist grooms (or the whole wedding party), and we have a range of jackets and kilts (each in a different tartan), that customers can try during the measuring process, ensuring that all sizes are correct."

What about upstairs? "On our spacious sales floor, grooms can be talked through our packages, flick through the tartan books and contemplate the accessory options," says Izzy. The showroom, meanwhile, is primed for making your mind up. "Grooms will have a fitting in this area, meaning that they can get fully dressed in a few outfits," says Izzy. "It makes the final decision of what to wear a lot easier. We suggest grooms book in for this luxury experience; however, with hire stock available in a range of sizes, we can sometimes accommodate impromptu fittings as well."

Time for your spotlight moment, fellas! ♥

Inside the plush new flagship store on Bath Street

Cameron of Erracht muted tartan outfit with navy Clunie jacket and waistcoat, from £850 to buy, **MacGregor and MacDuff**

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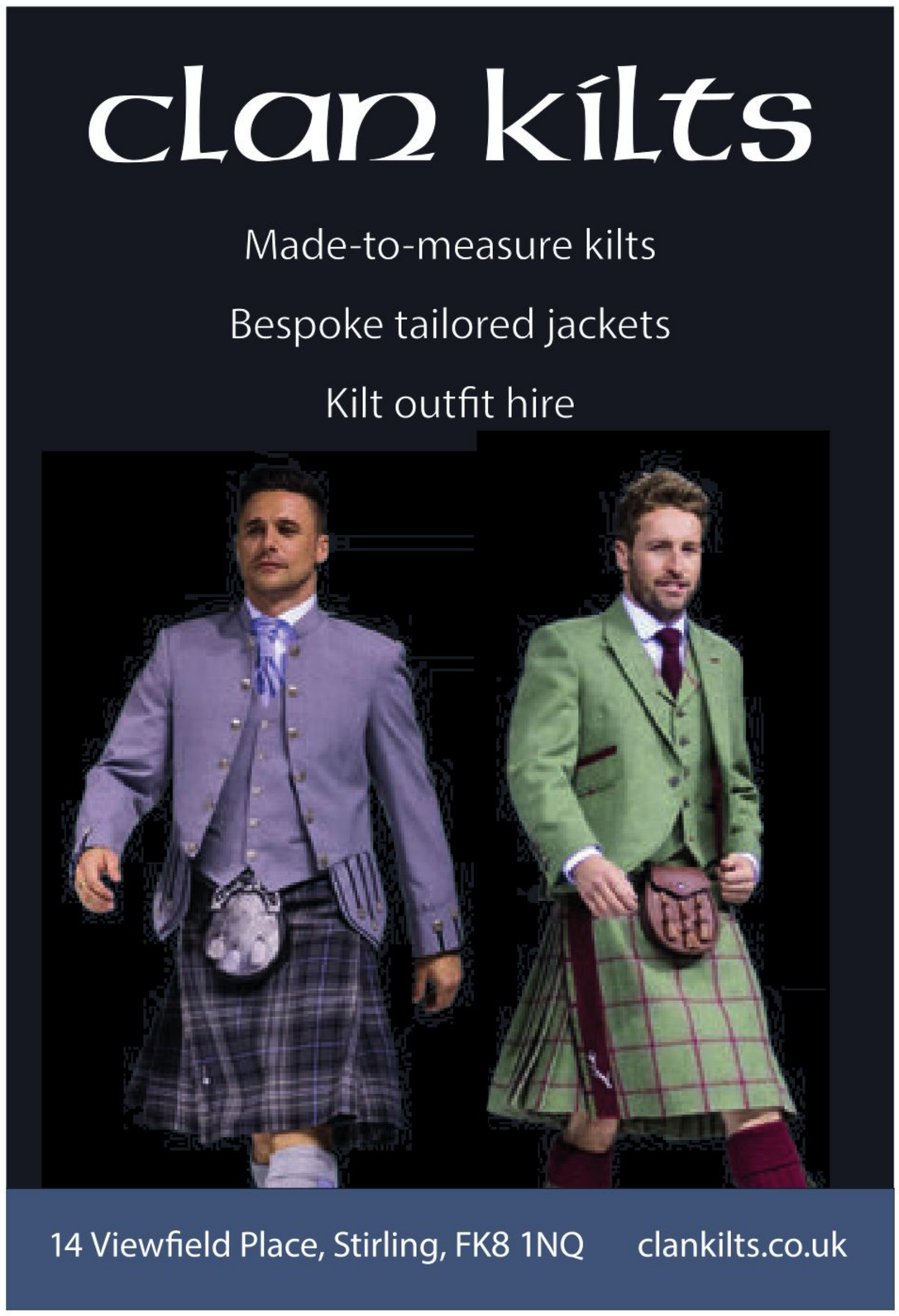
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# Grooms' style

Selection by ***Rosie Patrick***




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Photo: thecaryls.co.uk

## MANX A LOT

If you flip to our hire feature on p.77, you'll soon learn that loaning Highlandwear isn't a second-best option. The choice of tartans has improved drastically in recent years, with outfitters expanding their rental range exponentially. We're setting our sights on **Slanj Kilts'** rugged Hunting Manx tartan (right), which blends beautifully into this real groom's birch-tree backdrop, and, at a hire price of £109, won't break the bank. If you can't bear to part with it (and who could?), the full outfit is from £850.

# HUNTER GATHERER

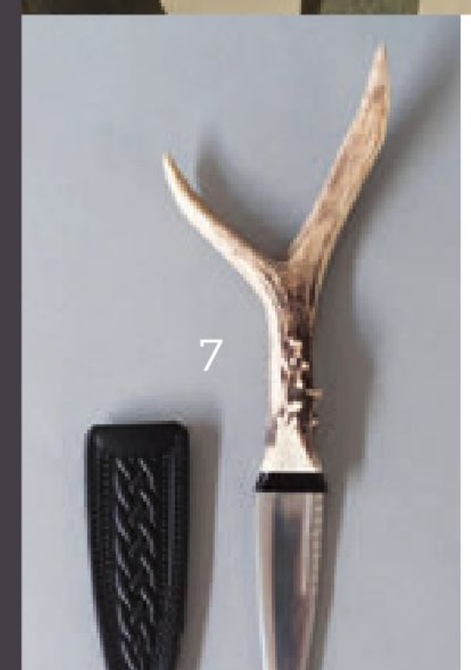


6



## TAKE A LEAP

It's a hard life, being a wild salmon. First, there's the run, the fish's annual and treacherous migration upstream to spawn. Then there's the 'fish tube', a cannon that shoots the swimming salmon over dams, and, incidentally, one of last year's favourite, most hysterical memes. Poor souls. Show your solidarity with **MacGregor and MacDuff's** unusual Hebridean Salmon tartan. "With its pink detailing, it adds a modern twist to a brown Clunie jacket and waistcoat [left]," notes the brand's Izzy Tetlow. "The recurring umber accents through the raccoon sporran, brogues and socks make the full outfit look cohesive." From £850 to buy.



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## Look to the landscape for inspo: earthy tones and natural materials abound

**1** No-one's expecting you to fish for your own wedding breakfast with your bare hands, but this Gentlemen's Hardware fish penknife could be handy stowed in the sporran, £16, **Wild & Wolf.** What a catch! **2** The elusive monarch of the glen may not make his appearance all that often, but you can emblazon him on your accessories: artisan classic sporran in brown leather with suede interior, £205, **ScotlandShop.com** **3** Like a freshly chopped tree stump, **Kilt Society's** round Amazaque wooden cufflinks, £18, have a rough-and-ready appeal **4** Considering trews? Now's the time. The top alternative to the kilt has reached peak popularity. We rate **New & Lingwood's** olive checked pair, £350 **5** A bad-ass kilt pin, such as this horn number from **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers,** £35, would lend your chosen tartan a real edge **6** Is it just us, or is this model a dead ringer for Eddie Redmayne? Either way, the *Fantastic Beasts* actor would cut a handsome figure in this **Moss Bros** sage slim-fit herringbone tweed suit, £159 **7** Antlers are a timeless detail for grooms, provided they're responsibly sourced. Tuck **Kilt Society's** quirky handmade sgian dubh, £75, into your hose **8** We're wild about **Walker Slater's** green pheasant tie, £54 **9** These brown ghillie brogues from **Geoffrey (Tailor)**, £95, are robust enough to tackle most terrains, so you and your other half can venture out into the countryside for epic couple portraits. Bear Grylls, eat your heart out **10** Nothing gets our heart racing like a flat-lay (it's a problem, we know) and **Master Debonair's** is particularly aesthetically pleasing. Using Marc Darcy's dandy Ted tan tweed herringbone three-piece suit, £242.97, as a base, the team have layered up the ideal country-gent ensemble, with the Justin Reece Dennis toe-cap Derby shoe, £79, and its two-tone laces, the star of the show

***Stockists on page 288***



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## The 25th instalment in the 007 saga is here and we're shaken (not stirred)

**1** It wouldn't be a James Bond edit without a cocktail shaker now would it? **Audenza's** golden beauty would be a welcome addition to the drinks trolley, £25.50 **2** What do you think Bond smells like? Cigars? Leather? Money? Wonder no more with the official eau de toilette, £32, direct from the **007 Store** **3** **Omega** has long been 007's quintessential watch of choice, and the latest iteration to be appearing on screen is the Seamaster Diver 300m, purposefully built with military needs in mind, with input from Daniel Craig himself. At £5,220, it's not really a cheap wedding gift to self, but in the unlikely event you have some cash leftover in the budget, this is the timepiece to invest in **4** If Bond were ever to marry (again), we think he'd get in touch with his Scottish roots and reach for **MacGregor and MacDuff's** exclusive Arran Mist outfit, from £115 to hire. He does have a licence to *kilt*, after all **5** *The World Is Not Enough*, but **Slanj Kilts** all-black Prince Charlie outfit, £POA, might just be **6** Face your latest mission, the aisle, in the Edward black velvet jacket from **Walker Slater**, £POA **7** Sadly, most of us can't afford the iconic car, but you *can* indulge in **Aston Martin's** 100% cashmere scarf, £139, and pretend the DB5 is waiting for you in the garage... **8** A Roger Moore classic, the white tuxedo is high maintenance, attention-grabbing and wedding perfection. Shop **Moss Bros'** Moss 1851 tailored fit jacket, £159, for a similar vibe **9** Or, if you're the type to spill your martini, maybe the tailored-fit notch dress suit, £169, also from **Moss Bros,** is more your scene? **10** Play your cards right with this Casino Royale print from **Mindthegap**, £252. Just don't let Le Chiffre crack your poker face... ***Stockists on page 288***

## SMOKING HOT

We're happy to admit we have a *serious* weakness for a man in a velvet smoking jacket, and it's probably thanks to good old James's penchant for this formalwear staple. **McCalls'** plush examples, shown above in the rich jewel hues of sapphire and emerald, are custom made (we'd accept nothing less) and are rather fetching when teamed with the Black Watch (left) and Platinum Pride (right) trews, to hire from £25. Finish off with a Bond-approved bow tie, pristine white shirt and your tipple of choice (perhaps a drop of Macallan whisky, as seen in *Skyfall*?).



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# BOND AMBITION

## SECRET CODE



There's such a thrill in being part of a gang – we hear of so many grooms gifting their parties with pocket watches or pins, to be treated with barely-contained excitement, like they're all in some sort of covert agency. Why not go one step further, and present the boys with their own suit? You may imagine that you'd have to hire the squad's outfits if you're to achieve that distinguished uniformity, but **Slaters'** series of dinner suits (above) are only £75 to buy, making them an affordable w-day souvenir the guys can easily recycle for occasions afterwards. Dark sunglasses essential.

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[Left] Highland Sky kilt outfits, from £67 to hire, all **Slaters**

# ON HIRE *ground*

*Stockists on page 288*

Renting groomswear has long been the easiest and most economical option, but will it give you the breadth of choice you need? A tartan-clad *Rosie Patrick* finds out

**If there's one area where Highlandwear** is leaps and bounds ahead of the game, it's in hiring. Until recently, the rest of the fashion industry was severely lagging behind, always pushing us to buy outright, even with items that would only be worn once. Not exactly sustainable. Slowly, slowly, however, things are changing. There are hat rentals popping up all over the place, as well as dress exchanges and shoe swaps. We're making progress, but there's still a long way to go.

Why the renting revolution? People, it seems, are starting to come around to what kilt outfitters have known all along: hiring makes perfect sense – economically and ecologically. Highlandwear is very specialised, which makes it expensive. What's the point in investing in formalwear for you and your gang if you won't have much opportunity to wear it again?

Hire ranges, too, are not what they once were. Nowadays, you've got *choice*. It's not a compromise anymore, surrendering to a limited line of rental tartans in the name of saving cash. It's a real option, well worth weighing up.

## NEEDS MUST

Your first step is to figure out what you're looking for in a kilt outfit. "Have a browse of our Instagram and Pinterest accounts," advises Izzy Tetlow at MacGregor and MacDuff. "These are bursting with inspiration. If you like what you see, you can then pay a visit to one of our stores. We offer grooms' fittings, which are a personalised experience, where you'll be able to try on your favourite outfits in your size. You can style them up with an array of →



[Above] Modern Pride of Scotland trews with black Argyll jacket, from £60 to hire, **McCalls**

[Below] Grey Stewart standard kilt outfit, from £65 to hire, **McCalls**





[Above] Black Watch kilt with navy contemporary tweed jacket, from £99 to hire, **McCalls**



[Right] Oban Mist Lomond Tweed outfit, from £115 to hire, **MacGregor and MacDuff**



[Right] Hunting MacGregor Modern Prince Charlie outfit, from £89 to hire, **MacGregor and MacDuff**

[Above] Red MacGregor Prince Charlie outfit, from £59 to hire, **MacGregor and MacDuff**

> "PEOPLE ARE STARTING TO COME AROUND TO WHAT KILT OUTFITTERS HAVE KNOWN ALL ALONG: HIRING MAKES PERFECT SENSE – ECONOMICALLY AND ECOLOGICALLY"

different accessories."

"Is there a specific tartan you'd like to wear?" chips in McCalls' Steven Angus. "A family tartan, perhaps? Or is there a colour scheme in mind, to tie in with the bridesmaids? From there, it would be a case of checking out each kilt shop's hire range, in store or online. McCalls has a variety of tartans for hire, including the Pride collection, which has something in every palette. You should also think about which styles of jacket you prefer. Would it be the traditional Prince Charlie, or something more modern, like a tweed?"

And there are other factors, such as your venue and the season. "So much depends on the situation the kilt will be worn in," says Slanj Kilts' Calum Grant. "You'll need to make a judgement on the weight of the cloth and the variations in warmth between different types. Consider how your wedding's taking shape – how dressy or individual do you want to be?"

Once you're armed with some answers, the shopping begins as soon as possible. "It's never too early," Izzy stresses. "We ask that all wedding party members are measured 12 weeks before the date. That will ensure, at peak times in particular, that we definitely have your chosen outfit in the correct size. We can accommodate hires in a shorter turnaround, so if you still haven't sorted your outfits at that 12-week mark, don't panic! It will still be possible for us to organise something for you."

"At McCalls, we suggest booking around four to six months in advance," says Steven. "At a push, we can take bookings up to three to four weeks beforehand, but we really wouldn't recommend you leave it so late!"

## TAKE ME HIRE

If you've never worn Highlandwear before, what should you expect when you visit a specialist outfitter? "We have 14 tartans in our hire range," says Izzy. "These include a collection of clan tartans, which cover the main colourways: red, purple, blue, green and grey. We also have our Mist collection of five tartans, exclusive to MacGregor and MacDuff, which reference various locations in Scotland. These are on-trend, yet timeless in design."

"McCalls' hire range has more than 30 tartans and seven jacket styles," adds Steven. "It sounds a lot but it's small compared to what we can offer if you're buying rather than hiring. Nonetheless, this selection has been put together over the years to suit all tastes, and to please fashion-conscious grooms and traditionalists alike. Our newest tartan, for instance, is a mix of both, with its classic but dramatic tones."

If you're feeling crestfallen that you can't track down your desired tartan, all is not lost. You don't

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have to resign yourself to buying. "This is why Slanj has its 'Hire Any Tartan' service in place," says Calum. "We can have any kilt manufactured to hire, from a selection of hundreds of tartans. You can rent a full outfit from £200, with the option to purchase the kilt afterwards for a further £200. Our standard hires, in contrast, cost from £99, whereas typical outfit purchases are from £850. So, if you are likely to wear the outfit more than nine times in your life, it might be better value for you to buy."

Not enough self-expression? McCalls can help. "If you want to customise your hire outfit, the most common (and wallet-friendly) way is usually through the accessories," notes Steven. "We have pieces priced from £15, such as sgian dubhs with a choice of stone, and thistle-themed kilt pin and cufflink sets."

MacGregor and MacDuff can supply finishing touches too – these, as Izzy points out, also make handy presents for your squad. Talking of the groomsmen, she adds, this is where renting Highlandwear really makes sense: "The main pro of hiring is that you can have your whole party wearing the same outfit. Our co-ordinator will ensure that all of the guys are professionally measured by one of our stylists."

The process is equally foolproof at McCalls. "We book each of your hires under a party name, so that as each guy comes in to be fitted, all they need to do is quote the name and they'll be given the same outfit," promises Steven. No danger of pals getting 'creative' here.



**[Above]** Mid-grey herringbone tailcoat outfit, from £90 to hire, **Slaters**
**[Below]** Granite Pride of Scotland kilt with charcoal tweed jacket, from £102 to hire, **McCalls**



**[Below]** Weathered Royal Stewart outfit, £99 to hire (additional £20 to upgrade to copper accessories as shown), **Slanj Kilts**



## PICK UP THE CHECK

It's organised. Finito. So how to get your hands on the kilts? "Your outfits will be ready to collect at least two days beforehand, giving everyone time to try the outfits on and have any sizing issues tackled. We also operate a Glasgow delivery service, meaning that if you live within a 15-mile radius of our Bath Street store, we'll deliver the attire to your address," Izzy says. "We then ask that your outfits are returned, either the next day, or a couple of days after. We can hire for a longer period at an extra cost."

It's a similar story at Slanj Kilts. "Our average hire is for four nights," says Calum. "For example, if the big day is on Saturday, we'd advise you take a Thursday to Monday hire."

You might not want to contemplate the prospect of spills along with the thrills, but what if your crew turn into something of a liability the minute you all hit the dancefloor? Is insurance a thing? "We completely understand what can happen at a wedding!" laughs Izzy. "Therefore, we offer an accidental damage waiver for all our hires. This is £7, and covers up to £250 worth of repairs."

Money well spent, we reckon. ♥



**[Left]** Muted Hunting Buchanan outfit with Moss Green jacket, from £99 to hire, **Slanj Kilts**
**[Above]** Hunting Manx outfit with Lovat Blue jacket, from £99 to hire, **Slanj Kilts**

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# Scotland's top kilt and suit purveyors speak out to nominate their favourite ensembles for spring

Compiled by ***Rosie Patrick*** ***Stockists on page 288***

# STYLE GUIDE

## MASTER DEBONAIR

"The Ted suit is one of **Master Debonair**'s bestsellers," notes Sally Minns. "It looks amazing, no matter the season, whether you choose the standard three-piece or – even better – mix and match, especially with the contrasting Dion suit [pictured]. It's the perfect stand-out option for any groom. Even the ring bearers can get in on the act, as we offer both the Ted and Dion suits in children's sizes 1 to 14 years."

[Below] Ted suit, £249, and boys' Dion suits, £99, all **Master Debonair**

## WALKER SLATER

"The herringbone's fawn hue is right on trend," observes Kris Dziewiakowski at **Walker Slater**. "And the unique double breasted-waistcoat adds flair. Why not dress the rest of the groomsmen in similar waistcoats, but *sans* jacket ? It makes for showstopping photos."

**Photo:** kewin-connin-jackson.net

Francis suit in Tan Troutbone Pendle tweed: jacket, £295, waistcoat, £105, and trousers, £115, all **Walker Slater**

## ANDERSON KILTS

"This outfit particularly appeals to members of the wedding party who may not want to wear a kilt, but still wish to make a statement," considers **Anderson Kilts'** Graeme Anderson. "It's available to hire with a choice of tartan ties and dress brogues."

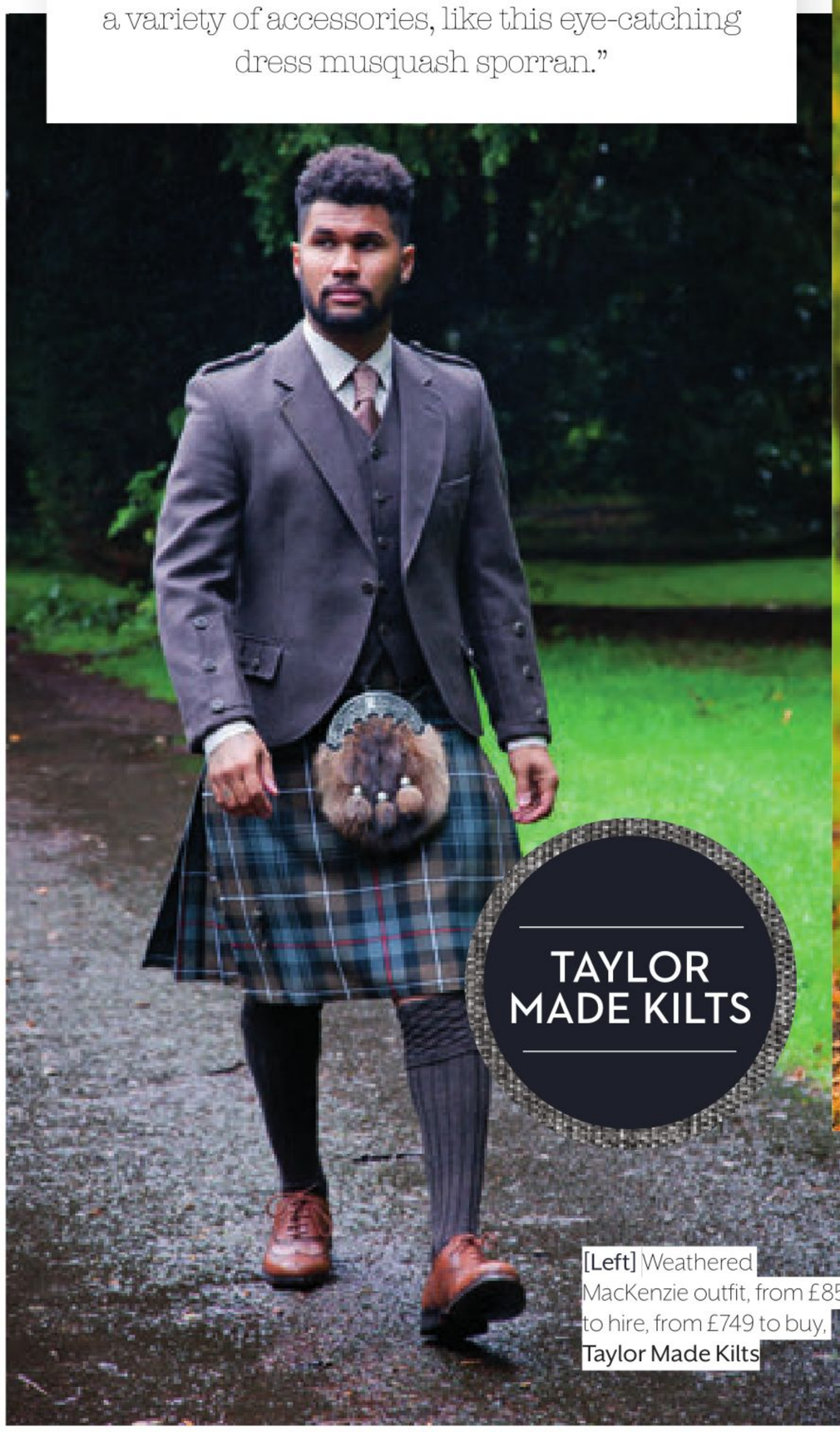
Light grey Crail jacket, Highland Granite tartan trews and waistcoat, from £60 to hire, **Anderson Kilts**

## MACGREGOR AND MACDUFF

"Our spring/summer 2020 colour palette infuses heritage with a vibrant contemporary update, making this our favourite outfit for the upcoming season," says Izzy Tetlow. "Designed in a similar vein to a traditional Prince Charlie, the Lovat Blue Clunie jacket features the typical elements you'd expect – a Crail cuff and twisted epaulette – but has a more modern, suit-like fit. We've then paired it with the Skirl tartan, a matching tie and brown brogues." →

Skirl kilt and Lovat Blue Clunie jacket, from £850 to buy, **MacGregor and MacDuff**

"The introduction of the Weathered MacKenzie tartan has proved to be hugely popular," reports **Taylor Made Kilts'** Hannah Ferguson. "It blends earthy browns and greys, and is extremely versatile, as it can be partnered with a variety of accessories, like this eye-catching dress musquash sporran."



TAYLOR MADE KILTS

[Left] Weathered MacKenzie outfit, from £85 to hire, from £749 to buy, **Taylor Made Kilts**



GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS

"Our striking John Muir Way outfit offers a bold flash of scarlet to bring us out of the moody winter months," says Gordon Nicolson at **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**. "We always encourage grooms to experiment with different tones and colour combinations to tease out their personality through their outfit."

[Below] Peat Holyrood jacket, £295, John Muir Way kilt, £595, sporran, £225, brown ghillie brogues, £110, red tie, £25, and hose, £35, all **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**



HECTOR RUSSELL

"Nothing says 'classic Scottish groom' quite like the Prince Charlie," reckons Emma McMullan at **Hector Russell**. "Its effortless elegance chimes well with fresher, more directional tartans, such as the Red Robertson featured in this outfit. The contrast between the rich red and sleek black-tie finish is stunning."

Prince Charlie jacket and waistcoat, £149, made-to-measure Red Robertson kilt, from £349, thistle buttonhole, £13.50, dress sporran, £199, hose, £15, and ghillie brogues, £80; full Prince Charlie kilt package, from £649, all **Hector Russell**



MCCALLS

"The Granite Pride of Scotland, with its various shades of grey, is one of our most easily adaptable and sought-after tartans," reveals Steven Angus at **McCalls**. "Pairing this with a Grey Sheriffmuir and charcoal cravat creates an understated yet stylish outfit."

[Right] Granite Pride of Scotland kilt and Grey Sheriffmuir jacket, from £105 to hire, from £1,299 to buy, **McCalls**

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# Check mate

Jack [right] wears: Master Debonair Lestrade Prince of Wales grey and navy tweed three-piece suit, £224.97, Guide London white cotton shirt with tan trim collar, £69.99, Knightsbridge Neckwear gold and green paisley silk tie, £29.99, matching silk pocket square, £14.99, and London Brogues Gatsby chestnut brogues, £75, all **Master Debonair**.

Declan [left] wears: Master Debonair Moriarty subtle navy check tweed blazer, £139.99, matching trousers, £59.99, Cavani Gaston sage check tweed-style waistcoat, £44.99, Master Debonair white shirt with floral trim, £59.99, Knightsbridge Neckwear burgundy stag silk tie, £29.99, matching pocket square, £14.99, and Justin Reece Rudolph brogues, £79.99, all **Master Debonair**. ***Stockists on page 288***



Jack [left] wears: Weathered Royal Stewart tartan kilt outfit with Moss Green tweed Crail jacket, from £99 to hire, from £850 to buy, **Slanj Kilts**.

Declan [right] wears: Skirl tartan kilt outfit with Lovat Blue tweed Crail jacket, from £900 to buy, **Slanj Kilts**.
***Stockists on page 288***

# It's hip to be square as Scotland's national fabrics – tartan and tweed – take a marvellously muted turn

Photography by ***Hamish Campbell***
Styled by ***Rosie Patrick and Zoë Boothby***



**[Right] Jack [left] wears:** Highland Dream tartan kilt outfit with navy Arrochar Wallace jacket, grey dress sporran, navy socks and Norwood brown brogues, from £70 to hire, from £799 to buy, **Clan Kilts**.

**Declan [right] wears:** Exclusive Ice Storm kilt outfit from new Tartan Tweed range with Pearl Grey tweed jacket, from £99 to hire (excluding shirt), from £1,099 to buy made to measure (including bespoke jacket, waistcoat and accessories), **Kapital Kilts**.

**[Opposite] Jack [left] wears:** Hunting Pride of Scotland tartan trews outfit, from £65 to hire, from £549 to buy, shown with optional cut-on-the-cross waistcoat (not available to hire), £140 to buy, **McCalls**.

**Declan [right] wears:** Weathered Patriot tartan outfit with Lovat Green tweed jacket and waistcoat, from £97 to hire, from £959 to buy, **McCalls**.

***Stockists on page 288***



Jack [right] wears: Nicolson tweed jacket and waistcoat, £595, Muted Red Nicolson kilt, £595, brogue sporran, £175, stag kilt pin, £95, brown brogues, £225, Ancient Green hose, £35, white shirt, £20, and tie, £25, all **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**.

Declan [left] wears: Holyrood Peat jacket, £295, Blue Buchanan kilt, £595, AC5 sporran, £225, stag kilt pin, £95, Peat hose, £25, brown ghillie brogues, £110, and brown tie, £25, all **Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers**. Blue shirt, model's own. ***Stockists on page 288***



**Jack [left] wears:** James Shetland tan micro-check jacket, £265, matching waistcoat, £95, matching trousers, £95, Harry cream shirt, £68, gold slim silk tie, £35, and gold Burmese handkerchief, £28, all **Walker Slater**. London Brogues Gatsby chestnut brogues, £75, **Master Debonair**.

**Declan [right] wears:** Edward Borders tweed navy jacket with red overcheck, £315, matching waistcoat, £105, matching trousers, £115, Harry white shirt, £68, burgundy wool tie, £28, and burgundy Burmese handkerchief, £28, all **Walker Slater**. Justin Reece Rudolph brogues, £79.99, **Master Debonair**.

***Stockists on page 288***



**Jack [right] wears:** Scottish National tartan kilt, £349, black Argyll jacket, £129, waistcoat, £70, dark green tie, £32.50, flashes, £22, black dress sporran, £215, sgian dubh, £75, hose, £15, black ghillie brogues, £85, all **Hector Russell**.

**Declan [left] wears:** Navy Arrochar tweed jacket and vest, Calton Shadow kilt, brogues, semi-dress sporran, navy hose, kilt pin, sgian dubh, Edwardian shirt, dark grey ruche and matching flashes, from £95 to hire, from £1,150 to buy, all **Bowdens**.

***Stockists on page 288***

**Jack [left] wears:** Arran Mist tartan kilt with charcoal Glen Orchy tweed jacket and waistcoat, raccoon sporran, antler kilt pin and brown thistle sgian dubh, from £89 to hire, from £850 to buy, **MacGregor and MacDuff**.

**Declan [right] wears:** Exclusive Oban Mist tartan kilt with navy Clunie jacket and waistcoat, light dress sporran, thistle kilt pin and grey thistle sgian dubh, from £850 to buy (tartan available to hire), **MacGregor and MacDuff**.
***Stockists on page 288***



Jack [right] wears: Blue slim-fit tailcoat suit with matching accessories, from £130 to hire, **Slaters**.

Declan [left] wears: Standard tartan tweed outfit with Highland Sky kilt, navy jacket and five-button waistcoat, from £92.50 to hire, **Slaters**.
***Stockists on page 288***



**Hair styling** Stephen Martin at House Martin Barbers
*www.housemartinbarbers.co.uk*
**Grooming** Sharon Stephen
**Models** Jack Sutherland and Declan MacLennan at Colours Agency
**Photography assistant** Matt Beech
**Shoot director** Beth Forsyth
**Shot on location at** Òran Mór, Glasgow.

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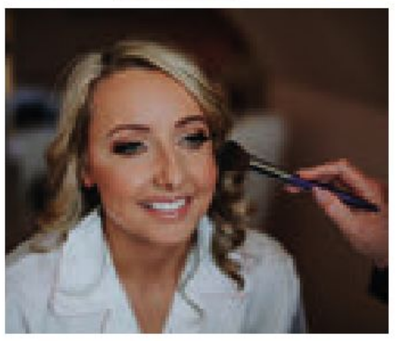
**Jack [left] wears:** 1854 Collection outfit with Green Kirkton tweed Crail jacket, Muted Red Roxburgh kilt, tartan tie, tan sporran, Lovat socks and tan ghillie brogues, £99 to hire, **Anderson Kilts**.

**Declan [right] wears:** Weathered Mackenzie tartan outfit with matching tie, brown Crail jacket and waistcoat, oatmeal shirt and dress musquash sporran, from £90 to hire, from £849 to buy, **Taylor Made Kilts**.
***Stockists on page 288***

# I DO MAKEUP

BY Geo Kane








Award-winning make-up artist Geo Kane of IdoMakeUp travels all over Scotland to bring the wow factor to any bridal party. She is creatively versatile and can offer you any style of make-up you require. She will not be satisfied till you look and feel a million dollars — a look designed to last throughout your most special day.

geo@idomakeupbygeokane.co.uk

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# Louise Quinn

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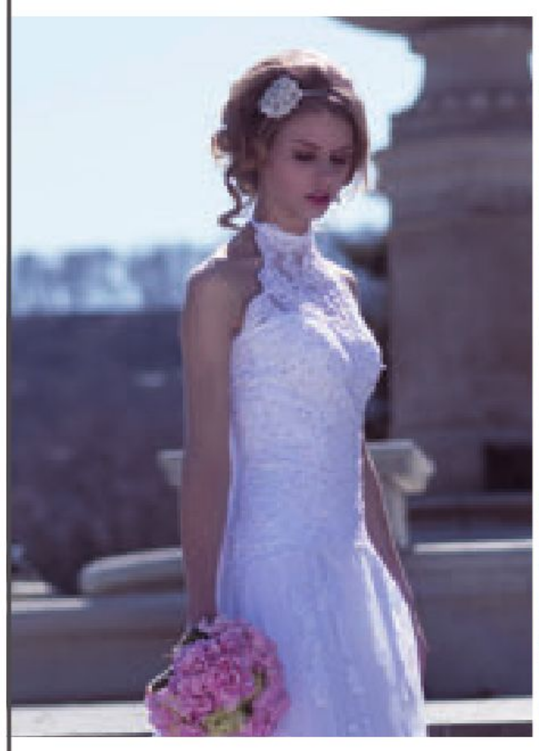
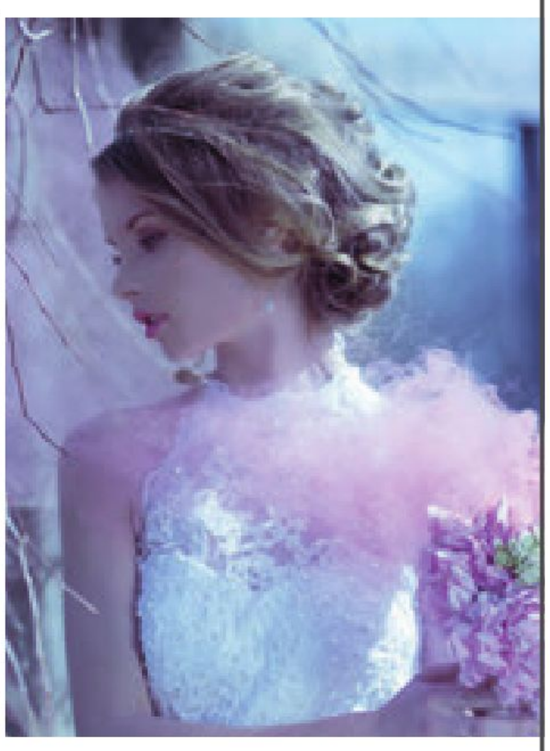
# The Blushed Bride

BY LEE HANNA





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# Make Up by JULIEANN MUNRO

Julieann









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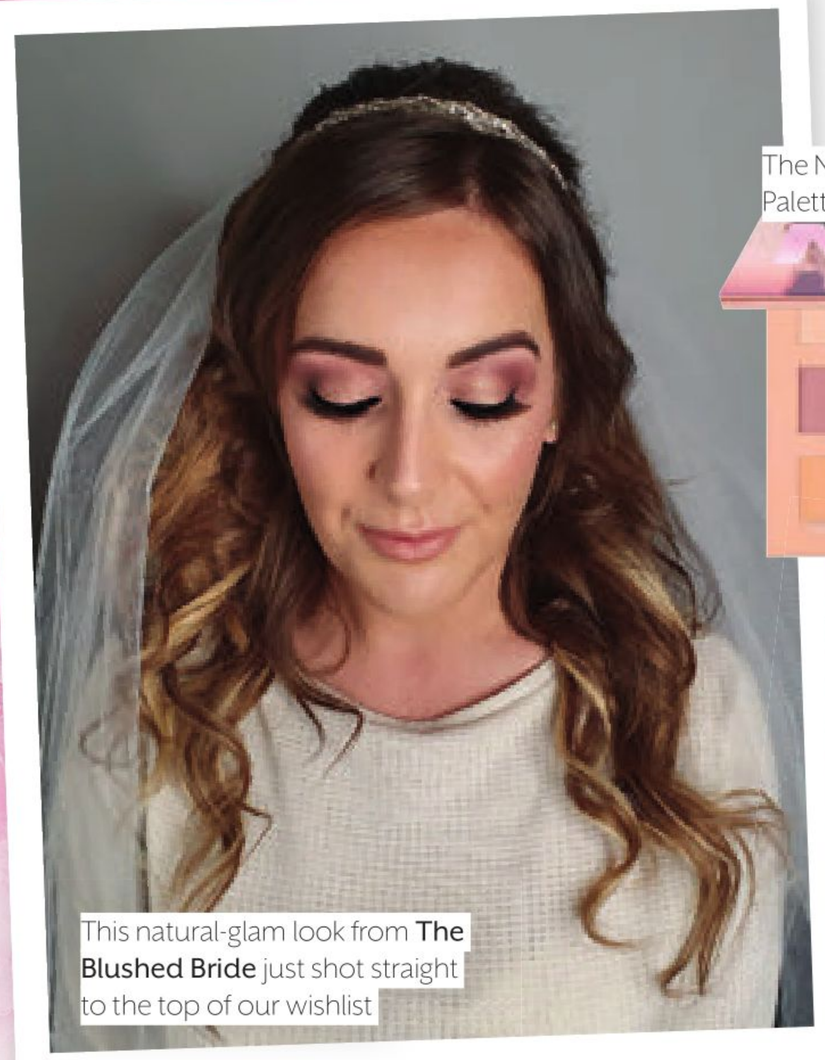
www.makeupbyjulieann.com

# Bridal beauty

Need some hair and makeup inspo? Just check out these recent looks from stylists and MUAs and learn how the pros worked their magic, suggests *Zoë Boothby*

*Stockists on page 288*

# looks of LOVE



This natural-glam look from **The Blushed Bride** just shot straight to the top of our wishlist



The New Nude Eyeshadow Palette, £56, **Cult Beauty**




Rimmel 100% Waterproof Mascara in Black/Black, £5.99, **Superdrug**

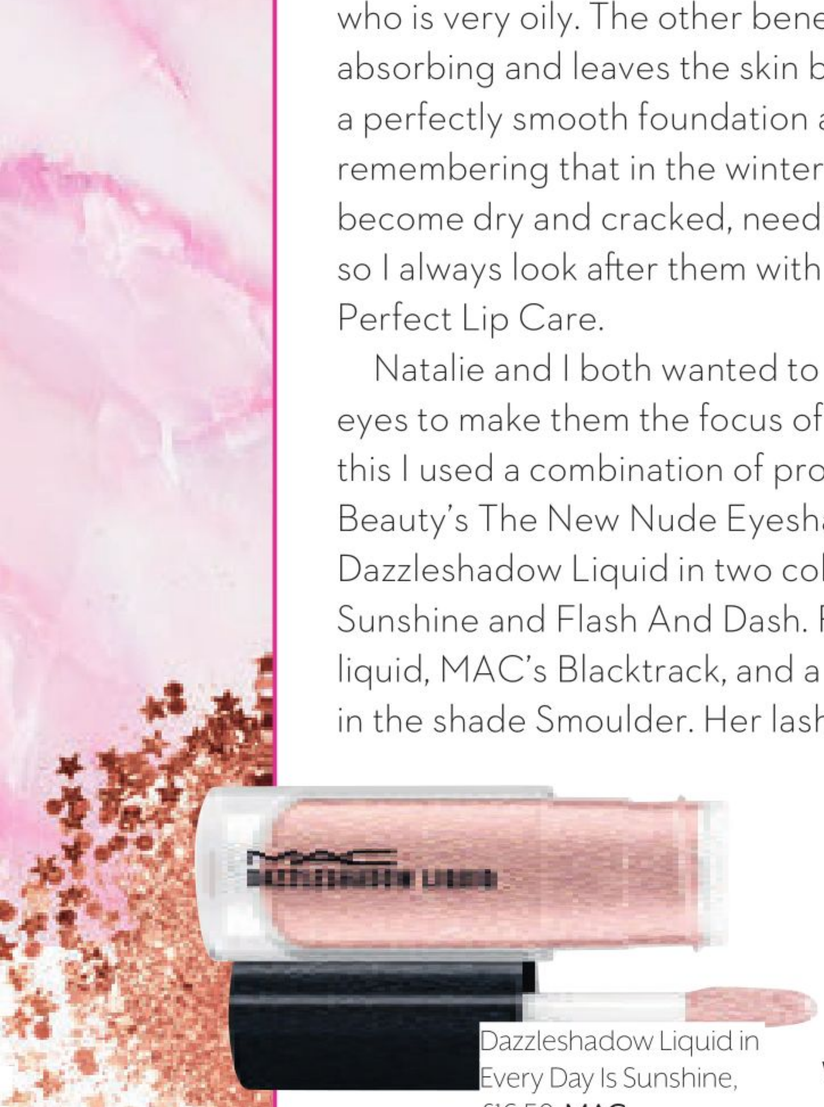
## LEE HANNA

### The Blushed Bride

To begin with, I prepped Natalie's skin with Embryolisse Lait-Crème Concentré, which acts as both a moisturiser and a primer. I'm a big fan of this product, as it's suitable for nearly all skin types, with the exception of someone who is very oily. The other benefit is that it's fast absorbing and leaves the skin beautifully hydrated for a perfectly smooth foundation application. It's worth remembering that in the winter months our lips tend to become dry and cracked, needing that extra bit of care, so I always look after them with Boots No7 Protect & Perfect Lip Care.

Natalie and I both wanted to emphasise her blue eyes to make them the focus of this makeup look. For this I used a combination of products, including Huda Beauty's The New Nude Eyeshadow Palette and MAC's Dazzleshadow Liquid in two colours, Every Day Is Sunshine and Flash And Dash. For liner, I used both a liquid, MAC's Blacktrack, and a pencil, MAC's Eye Kohl in the shade Smoulder. Her lashes were then coated in Rimmel's 100% Waterproof Mascara in Black/Black, and I applied JIMIRE Natural Lashes to complete the look.

***www.theblushedbride.co.uk***



Dazzleshadow Liquid in Every Day Is Sunshine, £16.50, **MAC**

## JENNY ROSS

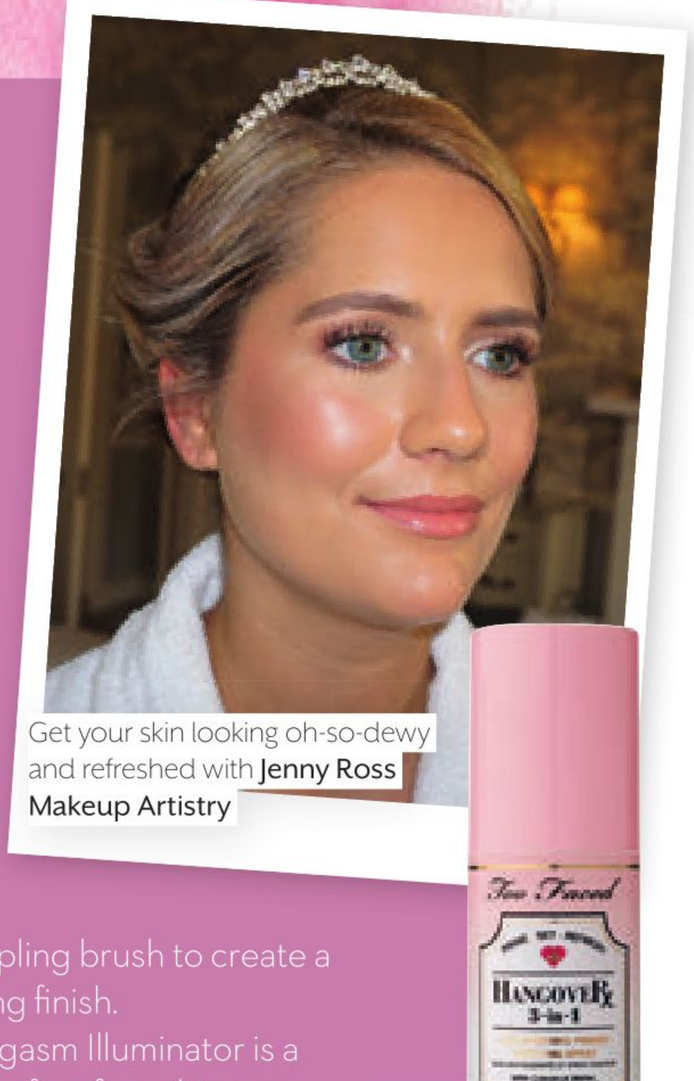
### Jenny Ross Makeup Artistry

At the moment, a dewy complexion has to be the most common request I get. One of my recent clients, Kelly, had very dry skin and wanted a healthy glow for her wedding, but it was also obviously extremely important that it lasted all day and night. To prepare the skin, I started off with Too Faced's Hangover 3-in-1 Setting Spray, a coconut water-infused mist that has become a staple in my kit. It's so refreshing and hydrating – definitely worth the splurge!

I then used a new (super-affordable) favourite: Maybelline SuperStay 24H Liquid Foundation. It's full-coverage but can be worked into skin beautifully; I've had nothing but positive feedback. I never like makeup to feel heavy, so I buff with Niré Beauty's Soft Focus stippling brush to create a seamless and light-feeling finish.

For colour, NARS' Orgasm Illuminator is a stunning peachy-pink, perfect for achieving a low-key blush with a soft, gleaming glow. And just because we've still got a while to wait for summer doesn't mean we can't still have that bronzed-goddess glow: my go-to is theBalm's Betty-Lou Manizer, a shimmery bronzer that can be built up to be as subtle or as golden as you like. Kelly already had her lash extensions done for her special day, so we kept eyeshadow muted and elegant – Makeup Geek's single eyeshadows are a big must-have of mine for everyday use, and also for my brides.

***www.jennyrossmakeup.co.uk*** →



Get your skin looking oh-so-dewy and refreshed with **Jenny Ross Makeup Artistry**




Too Faced Hangover 3-in-1 Setting Spray, £12 for 30ml, **Cult Beauty**



130 Soft Focus Stippling Brush, £12, **Niré Beauty**




Illuminator in Orgasm, £24, **NARS Cosmetics**




Time Frame Future Resist Foundation, £34, **Delilah Cosmetics**

'Indigo' lashes, £6.99, **Nadine Grant Makeup Artist**

## NADINE GRANT

### Nadine Grant Makeup Artist

I get most of my inspiration from red-carpet events: the flawless, natural makeup worn by celebrities is my favourite look to recreate. I discussed this idea with one of my brides, Gemma, and we agreed that it would be perfect for her.

To prep skin, I use the Caudalie range. Not only does it smell amazing, but it makes my clients look luminous. Brides want a foundation that provides soft but effective coverage that you can wear lightly or build up depending on the style you prefer. I used one of Delilah Cosmetics' foundations on Gemma: it's an amazing product and really glows on the skin without caking or looking heavy.

On w-day, the light colour of the dress can be very draining on the skin tone, so it's important to give your cheeks a touch of colour (you don't want to overpower them). For Gemma, I used MAC Powder Blush in Harmony: it never lets me down.

Lashes are so important: they don't have to be huge, but they open the eyes and have you feeling camera-ready. I love them so much that I have created my own range with six different styles. Gemma is wearing Belle, which was the ideal lash for her eye shape. To make sure the makeup stays put, finish off with a powder, especially in the T-zone area. ***www.instagram.com/nadinegrantmakeupartist***




Beauty Elixir, £12 for 30ml, **Caudalie**




Eyebrow Gel in Brunette, £6.50, **NYX Professional Makeup**

## GEORGINA KANE

### I Do Makeup by Geo Kane

This is a beautiful soft-glam look that I get asked for time and again: glowing skin, defined eyes and barely-there pink lips. It's classy and will still look good in photos in years to come. It's also a favourite style of mine, as it really is timeless makeup.

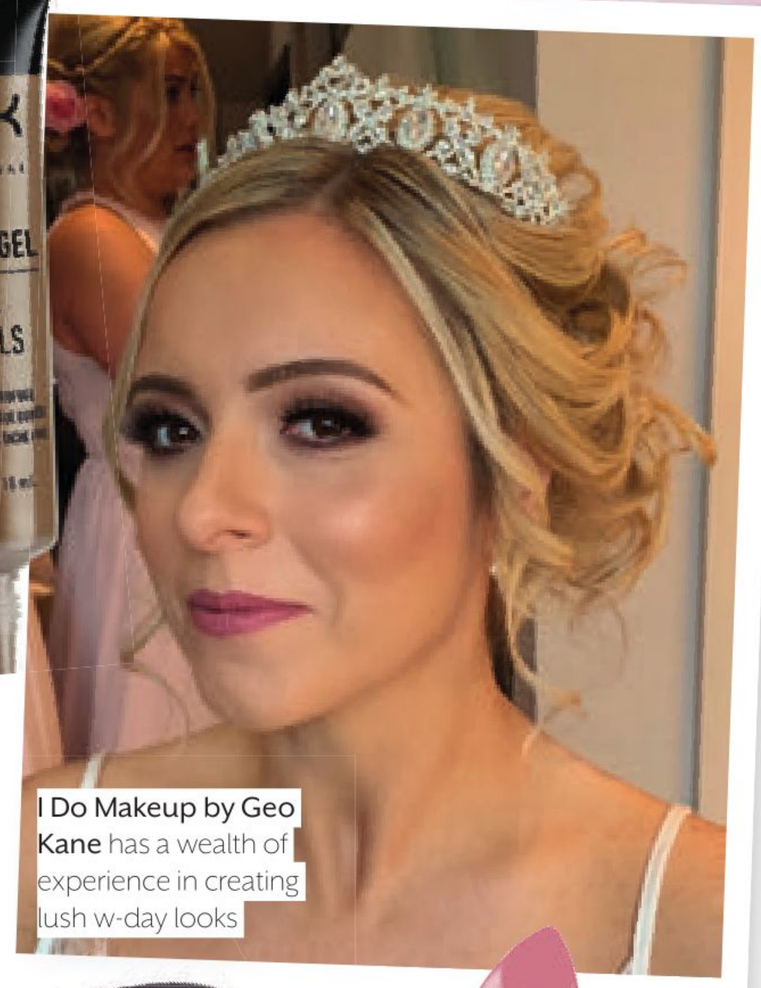
I'll prepare the skin with Charlotte Tilbury's Wonderglow, a light-reflecting face primer, before applying a mix of her Hollywood Flawless Filter and Light Wonder foundations, which gives the complexion a lovely luminosity. For concealer, I'd recommend Born This Way from Too Faced, before setting it with Laura Mercier's Secret Brightening Powder on top.

My brides' brows will then get the NYX Waterproof Eyebrow Gel treatment (here I've used Brunette) to create subtle, long-lasting brows.

I like a mix of champagne and brown eyeshadow from Makeup Geek for the eyes, followed by a coating of Inglot's AMC Eyeliner Gel to create definition, with KIKO's nude liner used on the waterline.

To finish off, I use NARS' Laguna bronzer for subtle contour, completing the look with MAC's Whirl liner and Brave lipstick. Mwah!

***www.idomakeupbygeokane.co.uk***



**I Do Makeup by Geo Kane** has a wealth of experience in creating lush w-day looks




Laura Mercier Secret Brightening Powder, £22.50, **Cult Beauty**

Satin Lipstick in Brave, £17.50, **MAC**



Both you and your mama will look totally darling thanks to **Makeup By Julieann Munro**




Powder Blush in Melba, £10.50, **MAC**

Studio Fix Fluid SPF 15 Foundation in NC13, £27, **MAC**

Colour Correcting Palette, £11, **NYX Professional Makeup**

## JULIEANN MUNRO

### Makeup by Julieann Munro

This is my bride, Stephanie – she has actually been a client of mine for the past five years. I am the only MUA she has ever worked with who has been able to cover her rosacea with flawless makeup that lasts all day.

I adore this look on Stephanie as it's so different from her usual party makeup; instead, she chose to go for a really natural style for her big day. As she struggles with redness and dry skin, she also came to me for regular facials in the run-up to the wedding to help her achieve that day-to-night bridal glow without the redness showing through.

To achieve this, I first applied MAC's Studio Fix foundation in NC13 on top of the Prep + Prime Moisture Infusion from the same brand, before using the green shade from the NYX Colour Correcting Palette to combat any redness. To keep this in place, I chose a Laura Mercier setting powder.

For some added colour, I love both MAC's Mineralise Skinfinish Natural Bronzer in Give Me Sun!, as well as its Melba Powder Blush for a rosy glow.

***www.makeupbyjulieann.com***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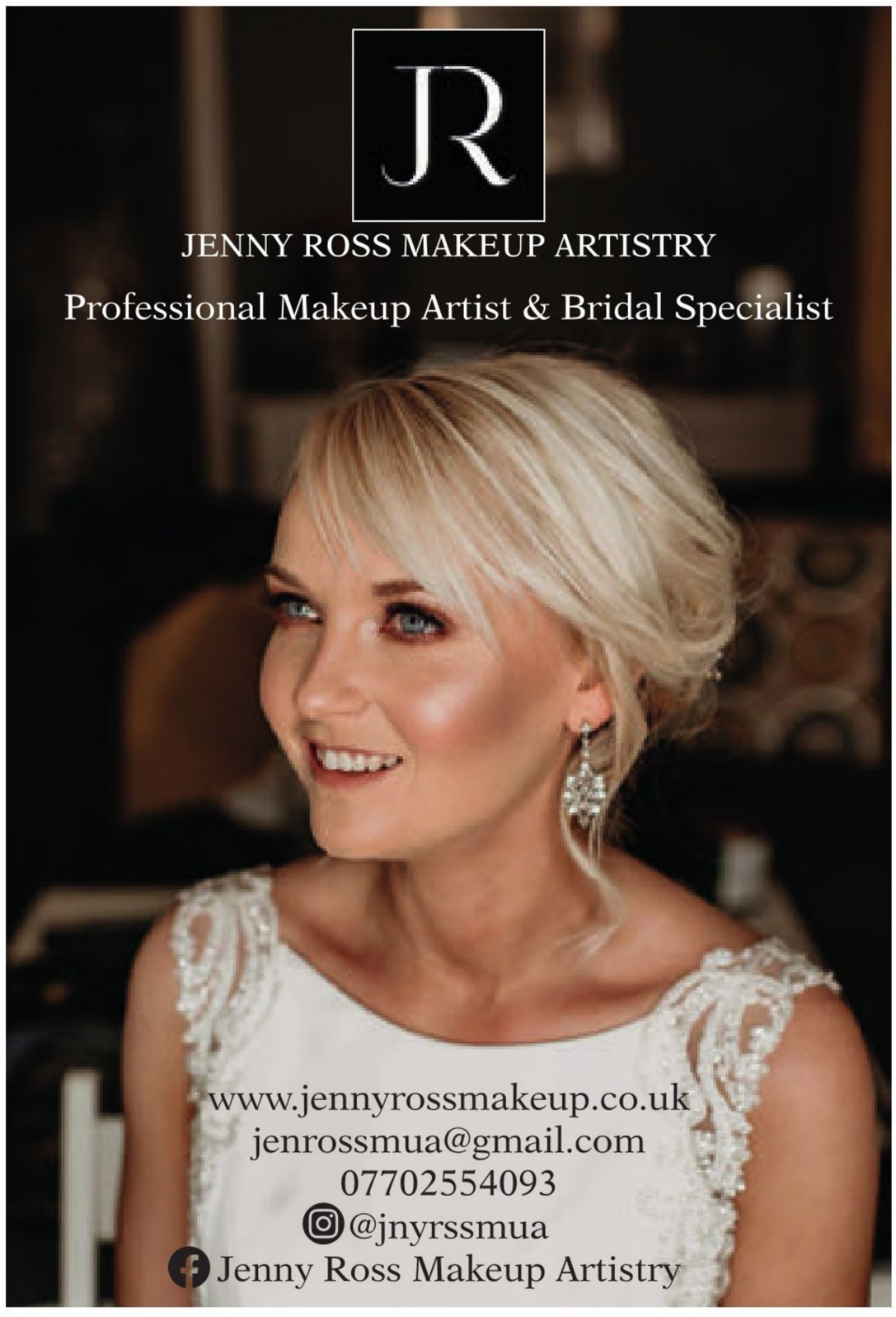
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# Nadine GRANT

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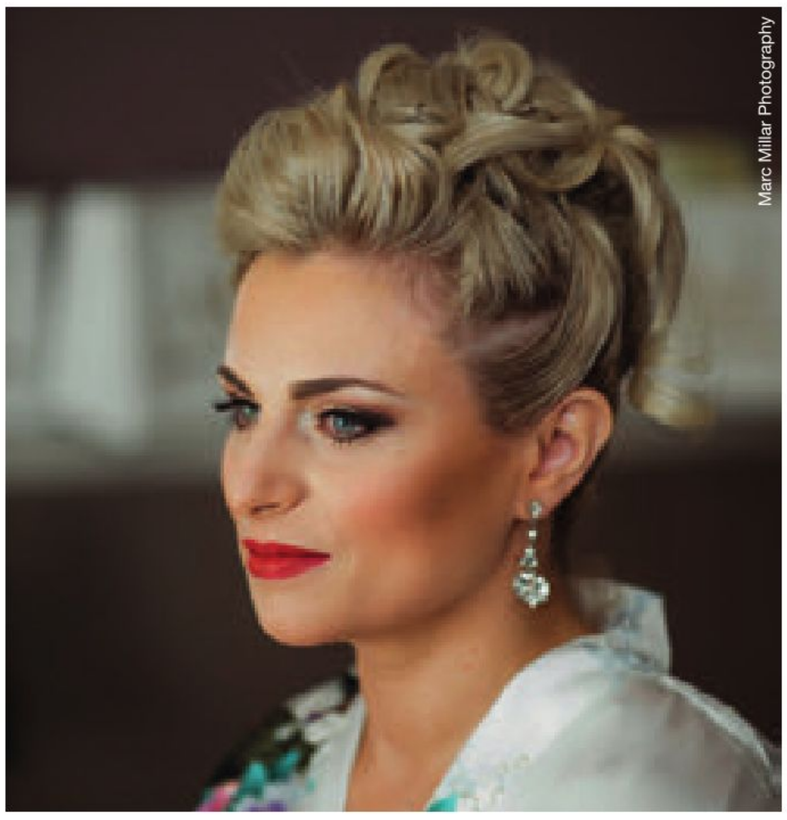


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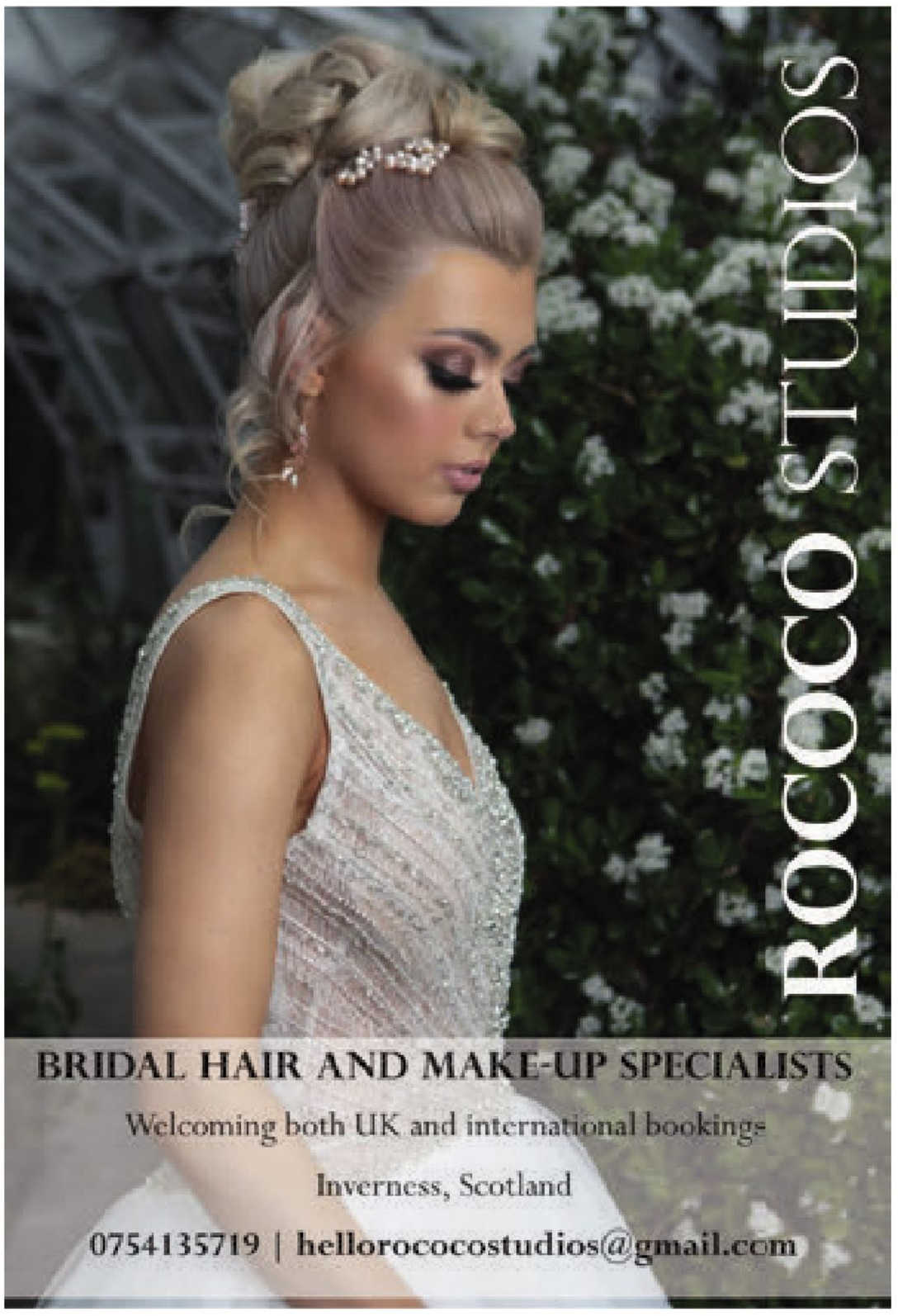
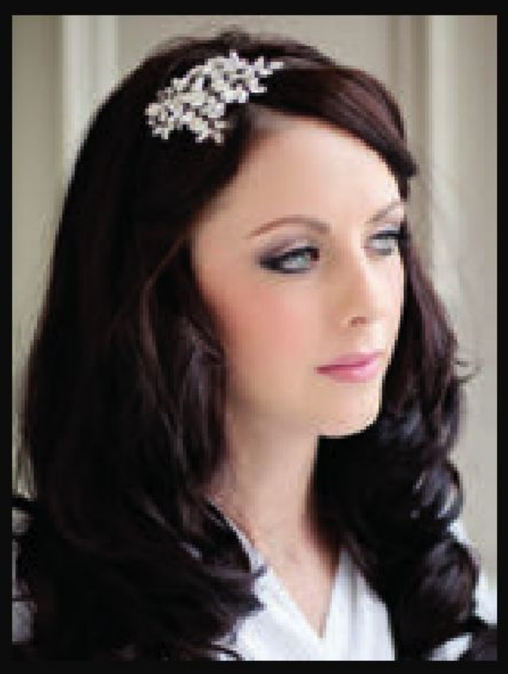



# LAURA DAWSON

MAKE UP





Laura has been a make-up artist for over 20 years, previously having worked for MAC, and lectured in colleges. She has now been working as a freelance bridal make-up artist for 10 years, winning Make-up Artist of the Year at the 2017 Scottish Wedding Awards.

*Get in touch today to start your bridal make-up journey!*

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# LEIGH BLANEY

## Makeup by Leigh Blaney

Like a lot of my clients, Mary didn't know what she sought for her wedding beauty: she didn't want her usual made-up look for the big day; yet she still wanted to feel like herself, as the 'no-makeup makeup' look wasn't for her. So we created a bridal-glam face.

Firstly, it's all about the flawless, glowing, picture-perfect skin that will look great up close and work well for the photographs. I used Charlotte Tilbury's Wonderglow primer, followed by the Hollywood Flawless Filter from the same brand, as well as IT Cosmetics' full-coverage CC Cream. After bronzer and blush, I added Radiant Creamy Concealer by NARS and set it all with a loose powder from Laura Mercier.

Instead of going for smoky black for the glam eyes, I used a mix of mauves and plums, with a pearlescent finish to brighten and soften. Drama comes courtesy of the liner, which was on top, underneath and in the waterline, making the eyes really pop.

Lashes were Remy by Ardell, which are my new faves: glam and effective but still natural hair, so not too much. All in all, this was a stunning bridal look for Mary. She said she had never felt so beautiful in all her life – job done!

***www.makeupbyleighblaney.co.uk***

Ardell Remy Lases 778, £11.50, **Beauty Bay**







Your Skin But Better CC+ Cream with SPF 50+, £32, **IT Cosmetics**

Wonderglow Face Primer, £39, **Charlotte Tilbury**

Worried about your wedding photos? With **Makeup by Leigh Blaney**, you'll have nothing to stress about

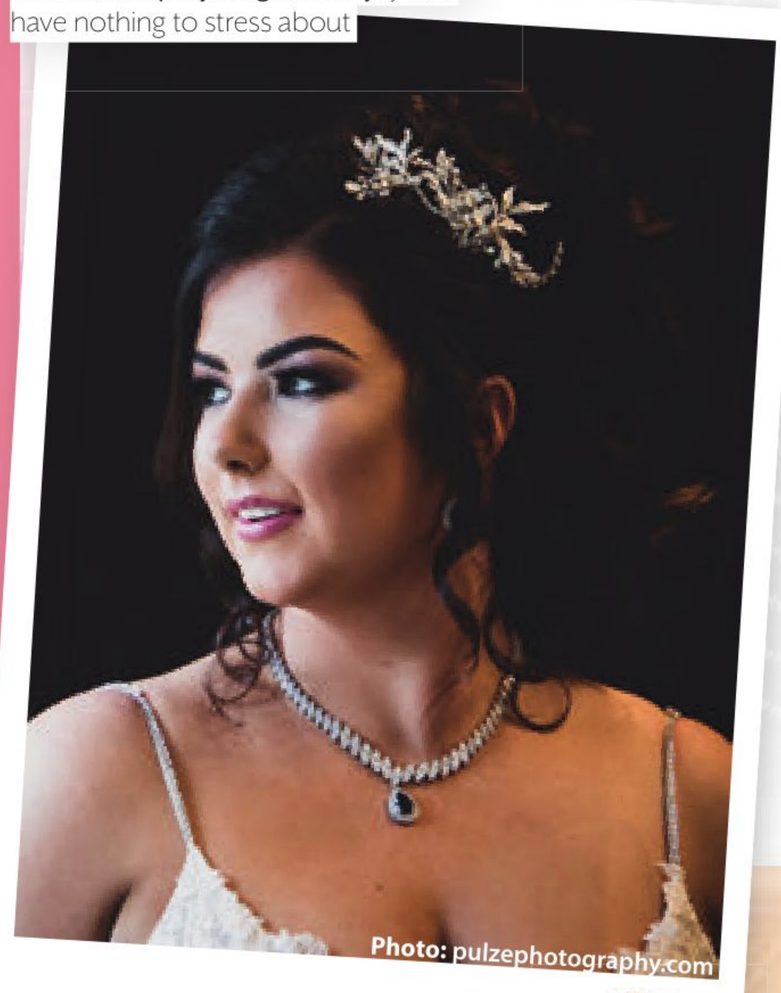


**Photo:** pulzephotography.com

# LAURA DAWSON

## Laura Dawson Makeup

This look is a favourite of mine because my client is actually wearing very little makeup but she still looks flawless and radiant. I believe that wedding skin should appear as natural as possible, yet fresher than it usually would.

I started by using a very light veil of MAC Studio Face and Body Foundation on her skin, having already prepped it with Charlotte Tilbury's Hollywood Flawless Filter. I really don't like a heavy base on brides, preferring the skin to look naturally flawless with little product.

I followed this with a Bobbi Brown cream blush and BECCA pressed highlighter in Opal to add further radiance to her skin.

When it came to her peepers, my bride only wanted a touch of eyeshadow, so I decided to apply a very neutral-toned shade (Crème Brulée by Makeup Geek) to softly contour, with MAC's gel liner in Blacktrack to add definition to her blue eyes. The look was completed with a bright scarlet lipstick as it's her signature look – my must-have is the Liquid Lipcolour in Fashion Legacy from MAC.

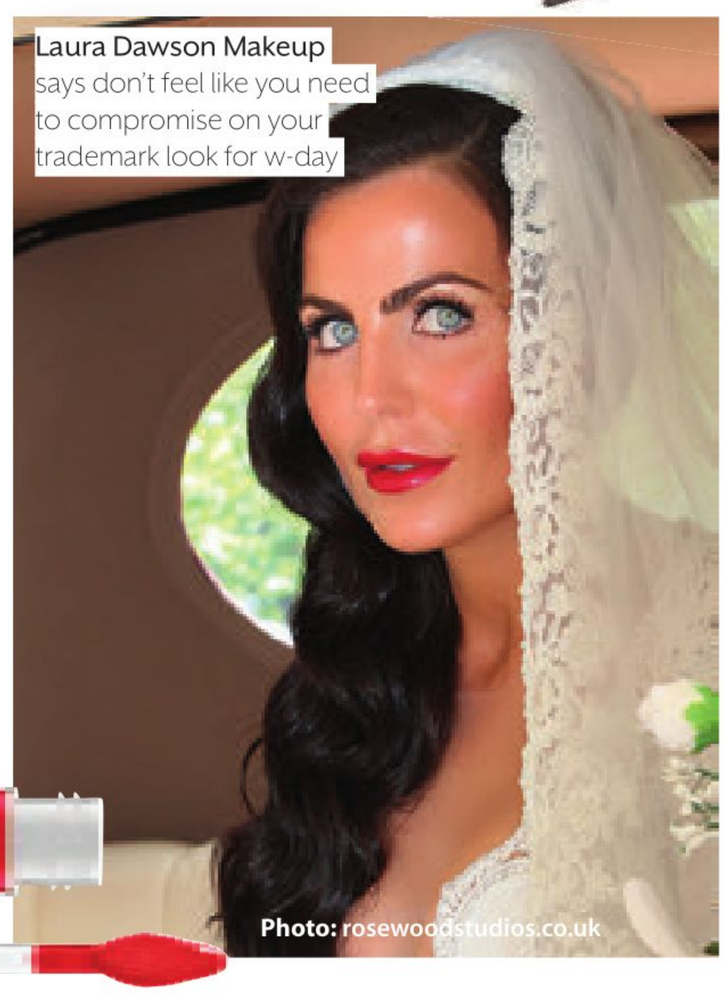
***www.lauradawsonmakeup.com*** ♥




Hollywood Flawless Filter, £34, **Charlotte Tilbury**

BECCA Shimmering Skin Perfector Pressed Highlighter Mini in Opal, £16, **Cult Beauty**

**Laura Dawson Makeup** says don't feel like you need to compromise on your trademark look for w-day



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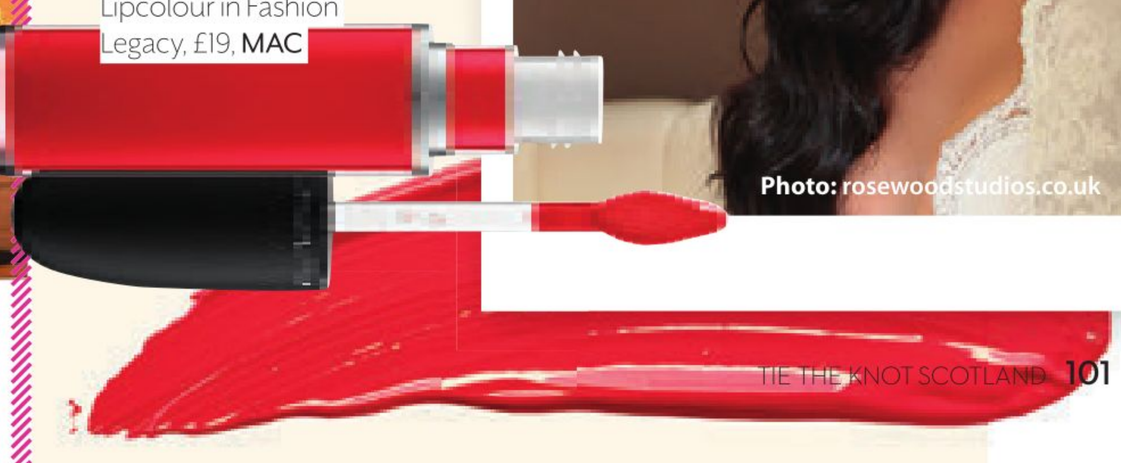

Retro Matte Liquid Lipcolour in Fashion Legacy, £19, **MAC**



An intricate 'do made easy with **The Bride to Be**




L'Oréal Elnett Glam Waves Supreme Hold Hairspray, £6.49, **myhairandbeauty.co.uk**




L'Oréal Professionnel Tecni.Art Pli Shaper, £16.10, **lookfantastic**

# MAUREEN CROLLA

## The Bride to Be

Lucy's locks were first washed with L'Oréal Professionnel's Mythic Oil Shampoo and Conditioner. Prior to drying the hair, some Tecni.Art Pli Shaper, from the same brand, was applied on the mid-lengths to the ends. I then blasted her tresses with my GHD 200 Dryer, before working through a small amount of L'Oréal Professionnel's Argan-infused Mythic Oil, leaving the hair smooth and silky but not too soft for styling. To add a little more volume, a few human-hair extensions from Wildest Dreams were clipped evenly throughout her scalp.

For styling the hair, I used my GHD curling tongs – which I just couldn't live without – to create soft, bouncy curls. Once the 'do was perfected, I sprayed it in place with Glam Waves, the latest addition to L'Oréal's hairspray collection.

I don't believe in overloading the hair with too much hairspray – this is why preparation with the correct products is essential, as it will leave the hairstyle looking polished with a light, classic finish.

***www.thebridetobe.co.uk***




L'Oréal Professionnel Mythic Oil Shampoo, £16.20, **lookfantastic**

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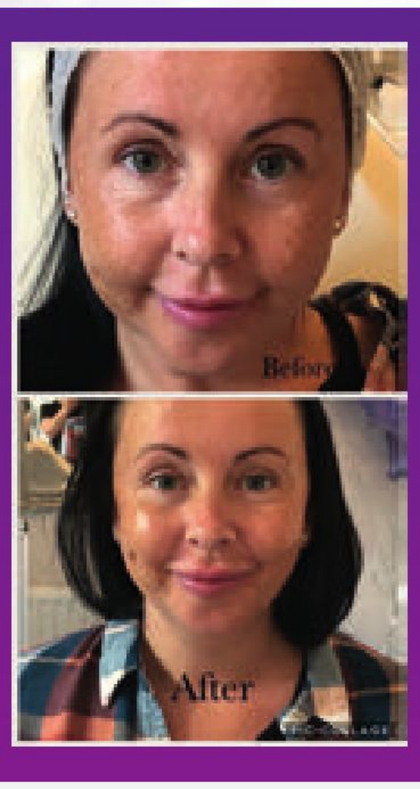


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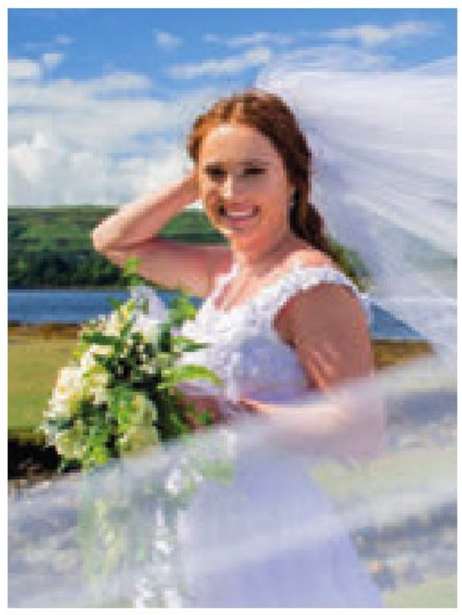

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# The SKIN-PREP seven

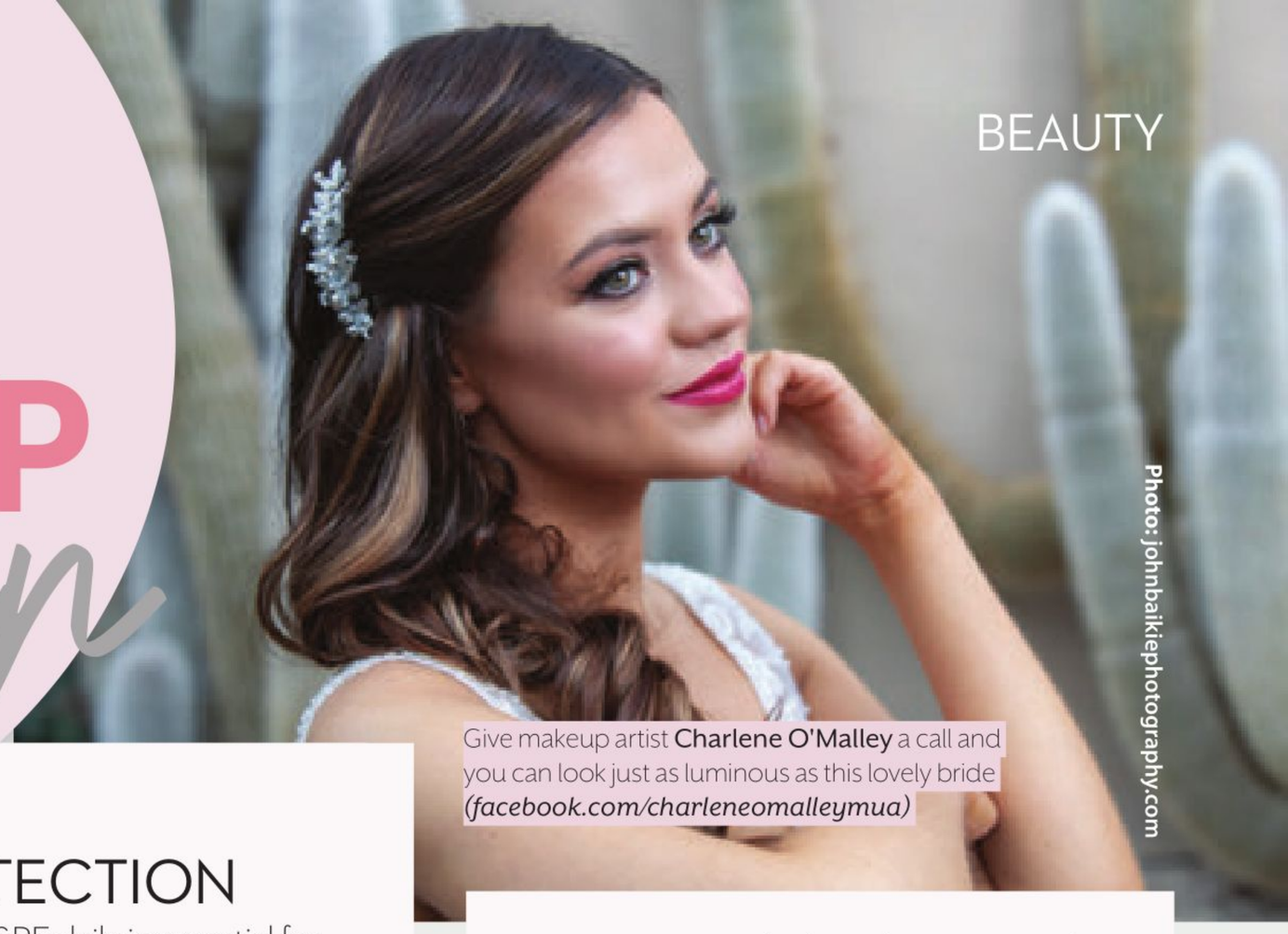

Photo: johnbaikiephotography.com

Give makeup artist **Charlene O'Malley** a call and you can look just as luminous as this lovely bride *(facebook.com/charleneomalleymua)*

It's the basis for any bridal look, so get your complexion looking absolutely banging with these experts' top tips

Compiled by *Zoë Boothby*

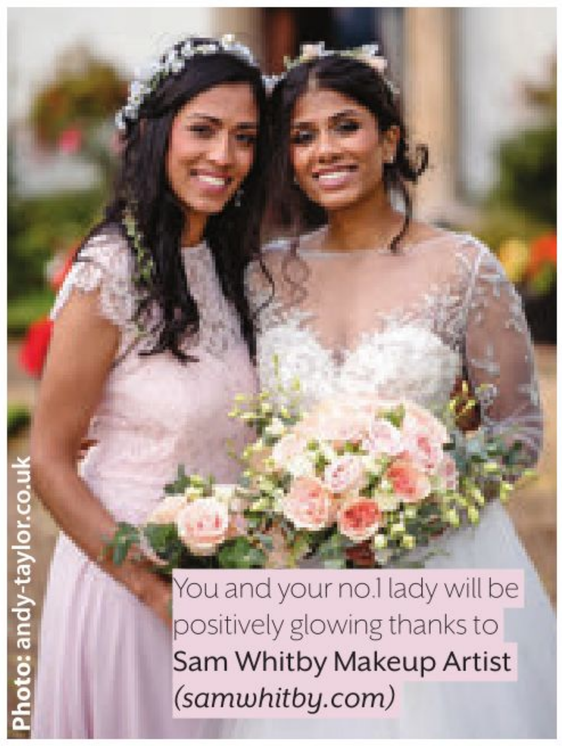

Photo: andy-taylor.co.uk

You and your no.1 lady will be positively glowing thanks to **Sam Whitby Makeup Artist** *(samwhitby.com)*




Vitamin C Sheet Mask, £10, **Pixi Beauty** *(pixibeauty.co.uk)*

[Clockwise from top]: Exfoliating Essence, £22, Oil-Free Moisturiser, £31, and Clay Cleanser, £19, all **bareMinerals** *(bareminerals.co.uk)*

Superfood CICA Calm Hydration Juice, £40, **ELEMIS** *(elemis.com)*

## 1 USE PROTECTION

"Wearing SPF daily is essential for protecting the skin against environmental damage, ageing, and free radicals," considers Charlene O'Malley at Rococo Studios in Inverness. "However, if your SPF contains titanium dioxide then it shouldn't be used on the day itself, as it can cause flashback in your photographs."

## 2 PREVENTION IS EVERYTHING

"To help achieve glowing skin in the lead-up to the main event, avoid too much alcohol, as this can leave your face looking bloated and dehydrated," shares Kim Riley, owner of Riley Aesthetics, which offers a range of facial aesthetic treatments in Glasgow. "You should also aim to eat a healthy, balanced diet, and steer clear of sunbeds, as these can burn and dehydrate your skin."

## 3 KNOW YOUR TYPE

"Invest in skincare that is particular to your own type," advises Inverness-based MUA Sam Whitby. "You may find that with combination skin, you are best using products which correlate to the pairing that you have, like mixing up products targeted at either dry or oily skin, for example." Sensitive types will want to add ELEMIS's recent addition, the Superfood CICA Calm Hydration Juice [left], to their shopping carts.

## 4 ADOPT A ROUTINE

"Having a good skincare regime is vital," says Charlene. "A solid starting point is a gentle cleanse morning and night, and exfoliating once a week, which will help to keep your skin healthy." We rate bareMinerals' new three-step PORELESS Collection, designed to refine the skin's texture and balance hydration levels. "Or, if you want to kick it up a notch, think about incorporating medical-grade serums and products – they are no-nonsense and do exactly what they say on the tin," Charlene adds.

## 5 SCRUB-A-DUB

"I always recommend exfoliating," Sam says. "It removes any dry, dead skin cells lying on the surface of your face, brightening your complexion and allowing products to be absorbed more effectively. It also means that makeup will apply more evenly to the face. There are various options available, so check the instructions before you use."



Photo: andy-taylor.co.uk

Sam Whitby Makeup Artist knows a thing or two about bridal beauty *(samwhitby.com)*

## 6 GO THE EXTRA MILE

"At Riley Aesthetics, we can provide facials which are tailored to your skin's needs," Kim explains. "Dermaplaning is great for removing fine hairs and brightening, or AQUA3 is a five-star facial that really gives your skin the wow factor." Other services at the Clarkston clinic include wrinkle reduction, dermal fillers or even the much-vaunted vampire facial.

## 7 THE MORNING OF

"Your MUA will have their own skin-prep goodies to get you wedding-ready, but I would always recommend gently cleansing the face with a cream cleanser and applying a serum containing hyaluronic acid on to damp skin to help hydrate, before following with moisturiser five minutes later to lock everything in," says Charlene. "A sheet mask will also help you to relax and give your skin extra benefits." We're crushing on Pixi Beauty's Vitamin C offering, which promises to instantly awaken and energise skin. Yes please! ♥
















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# Venues

THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER AND WE'RE ALMOST DITCHING OUR HATS AND SCARVES, WHICH CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING: WEDDING SEASON IS ON ITS WAY. IN ANTICIPATION, WE'VE GOT THE LOWDOWN ON BOOKING A VENUE *PRONTO* AND A BUMPER CROP OF LOCATION INSPIRATION, FROM COSY, INTIMATE SETTINGS TO THOSE WHERE YOU CAN THROW A PARTY TO END ALL PARTIES....

**104 PAGES OF *spellbinding* SCOTTISH VENUES**

START HERE



**[From top]** The five-star resort's views across Loch Lomond make for glorious photo ops; a CAD-generated bird's-eye view of how the new extension will look; an artist's impression of the spacious ballroom

## THE COMEBACK KID

When **Cameron House** burned down back in 2017, it was a devastating loss for, not only the Scottish wedding industry, but the country: the five-star resort offered unparalleled luxury in the west, whether that be in the hotel, spa or on the golf course.

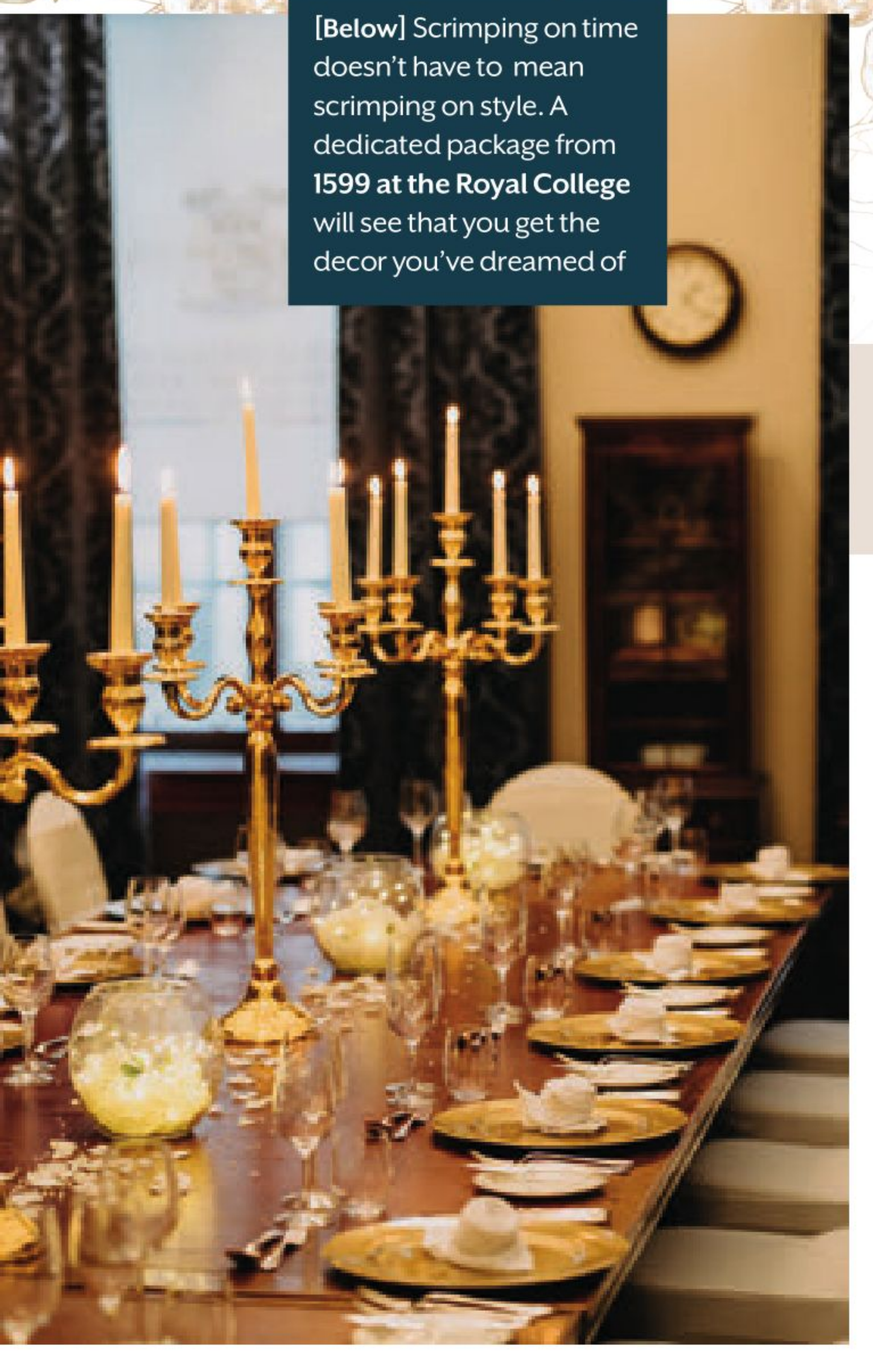
How exciting, then, that the venue has announced its imminent opening in late 2020, with function bookings being taken from January next year. And, as if that wasn't enough, future couples will also have an extension to look forward to from summer 2021.

With 68 extra bedrooms, the majority of which will feature balconies with loch-facing views, you'll have oodles of room to host your nearest and dearest in tandem with the existing 140 rooms. The jewel in the crown, however, will be the brand-new ballroom, which will boast vistas across Loch Lomond. The expansive function space will be able to accommodate up to 400 people for the most extravagant of big days. We're already nailing down our guest list – everybody gets a plus-one!

And if you're planning on making a weekend of it, the news just gets even better, as the hotel will be able to facilitate exciting extras such as high-end speedboat trips, champagne cruises on the loch or even seaplane flights. Well, good things come to those who wait...

***www.cameronhouse.co.uk*** ♥





[Below] Scrimping on time doesn't have to mean scrimping on style. A dedicated package from **1599 at the Royal College** will see that you get the decor you've dreamed of

# *CUT to the* CHASE

A long engagement isn't for everyone, so *Zoë Boothby* has laced up her Nikes, ready to sprint into the world of whirlwind weddings

**I am a notoriously slow human being.** A 30-minute recipe will take me an hour (at least). My propensity for strolling slowly has threatened to destroy most, if not all, my personal relationships. At home I'm always made to shower last so I don't use up all the hot water. And my dawdling pace doesn't just have implications in my day-to-day life: my friends' drunk nickname for me is 'sloth Zoë', owing to my lagging, sluggish movements when inebriated. (It's character building, I'm told.)

That's why I find the idea of planning a wedding without the luxury of time completely incomprehensible. How could anyone ever hope to orchestrate their dream day in a limited timeframe? Where's the leeway in case you make a mistake, change your mind or simply, you know, can't stop procrastinating? Besides, why would someone even *want* to?

Well, there's actually a whole bunch of reasons. "A lot of couples feel overwhelmed by the prospect of organising a 'big' event, and booking a whirlwind wedding takes away that pressure," suggests Val Spencer, wedding co-ordinator at Glen Clova Hotel & Lodges. "Or maybe the day itself isn't the be all and end all for them, and they just want to be married without the fuss. The most emotional instances, however, are when a quicker turnaround is required due to illness."

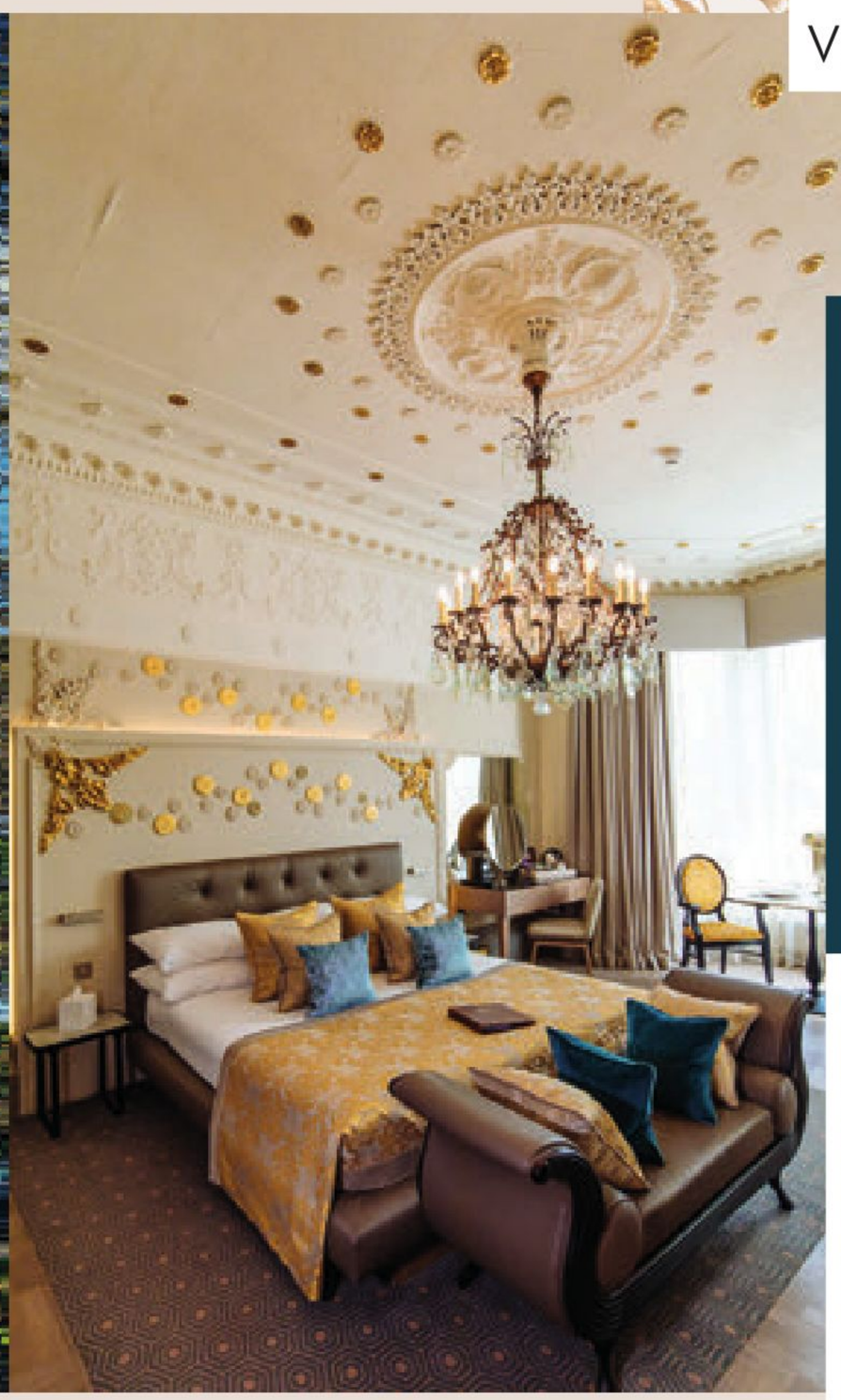
Whatever the reason, if you're up against the clock when it comes to your nuptials, you



**Photo: photosbyzoe.co.uk**

[Left] A huge guest list is overrated – keep it intimate and enjoy the peace that surrounds **Glen Clova Hotel & Lodges**





**[Far left] Lynnhurst Hotel**'s imposing exterior has cemented it as a favourite with couples in the west **[Left]** And with such plush rooms, the inside of the hotel is equally stunning **[Below] Macdonald Crutherland House Hotel** can suit any colour scheme **[Bottom] 1599 at the Royal College** is fit to host the ceremony you've been planning



should be grateful that I'm not the one who'll be helping you realise your vision. That'll be down to your chosen venue's co-ordinator, who will have a wealth of experience and know-how to keep you right.

## LIFE IN THE FAST LANE

If you're nervously considering taking the plunge and going for a short engagement, rest assured that you're not the only ones doing so. "We've definitely noticed a rise in the number of short-lead weddings," shares Danielle Fabian over at Macdonald Crutherland House Hotel in East Kilbride. She should know: the hotel, along with the chain's other outposts, offers flexible packages for those who are thinking short-term. "In this day and age you can get almost anything instantaneously, and more and more couples want to reduce the time between 'yes' and 'I do'. There are certain advantages in doing so: the less time spent planning, the more likely brides and grooms are to prioritise exactly what they want and avoid making extravagant purchases."

That may be the case, but superfluous extras aside, even the nippiest of nuptials still requires a venue. How do you know that the one you've got your eye on is the right fit for you? "Easy! It's all about first impressions and trusting your instinct," says the Lynnhurst Hotel's Lisa McIntyre. "You should feel a rapport with the staff and a sense of trust: for us, we want all our couples to feel confident in the service we provide. On top of this, opting for a venue which offers packages that include items such as the cake, floral arrangements, centrepieces, DJs, and so on, can make the planning process much smoother."

Sound too good to be true? Well, before you proceed any further, you might want to cast a glance at your bank balance. "Most weddings with a one- or two-year turnaround require an initial deposit, with the remainder due just prior to the main event, giving couples the opportunity to save or set out a payment plan," explains Val. "With a shorter run-up, on the other hand, many of the costs will be due upfront, so although it may work out cheaper, you won't have the same opportunity to budget."



## QUICK OFF THE MARK

Got cash in the bank and a partner, co-ordinator and cohort of family and friends willing to turn your dashing dream into reality? Then it's time to make your way to the starting line – the race is about to begin.

Every big day has its own unique hurdles to overcome, but swift wedding planning can throw any number of curveballs your way. Thankfully, your point of contact at the venue will be on hand to guide you. "One of the most important tasks with any celebration is to create a realistic timeline for the jobs that need to be completed, and being organised is crucial if you don't have a long time to plan," cautions Danielle. "A →

dedicated co-ordinator will take some of the stress away, leaving the couple free to focus more on the small creative details that give a wedding the personal touch."

If time is tight, you might also have to compromise on your ideal date. "The most common challenge, certainly, is availability," Lisa agrees. "At our hotel, we very rarely have any weekends free at short notice, which is why we urge couples who are not flexible on dates to book well in advance. People who are organising a wedding over a short timeframe need to be aware of this."

There's one thing you don't have to worry about corners being cut on, and that's the level of support you'll receive from your venue. "At 1599, we have two co-ordinators who will put everything else aside to guarantee that your day is exactly how you want it," promises Fiona Hainey, wedding and events co-ordinator at 1599 at the Royal College. The venue, in Glasgow's city centre, offers a dedicated 'Whirlwind Wedding' package starting from just – you guessed it – £1,599.

And, all things being equal, Fiona wants to reassure you that the venue will try its utmost to personalise its service as far as possible: "A bespoke big day is exactly that, and as long as we have the items in stock there should be no problems – it's the outside suppliers who are the question. However, the ones we work with regularly will always try their best."



**[Right]** The green surroundings of the **Macdonald Crutherland House Hotel** will keep your w-day photography feeling fresh

"LAST-MINUTE WEDDINGS CAN BE FRAUGHT, BUT THE ENERGY FROM THE COUPLE IS INFECTIOUS AND IT'S NEARLY ALWAYS AN ENJOYABLE PROCESS"

While we're on the subject, setting achievable goals for your suppliers is essential when they are working under the pressure of such a short turnaround. Managing your expectations from the start will mean you avoid disappointment further down the line. "For example, maybe that designer gown takes 16 weeks to arrive, but an off-the-peg dress could be altered to fit in just a week," Val posits.

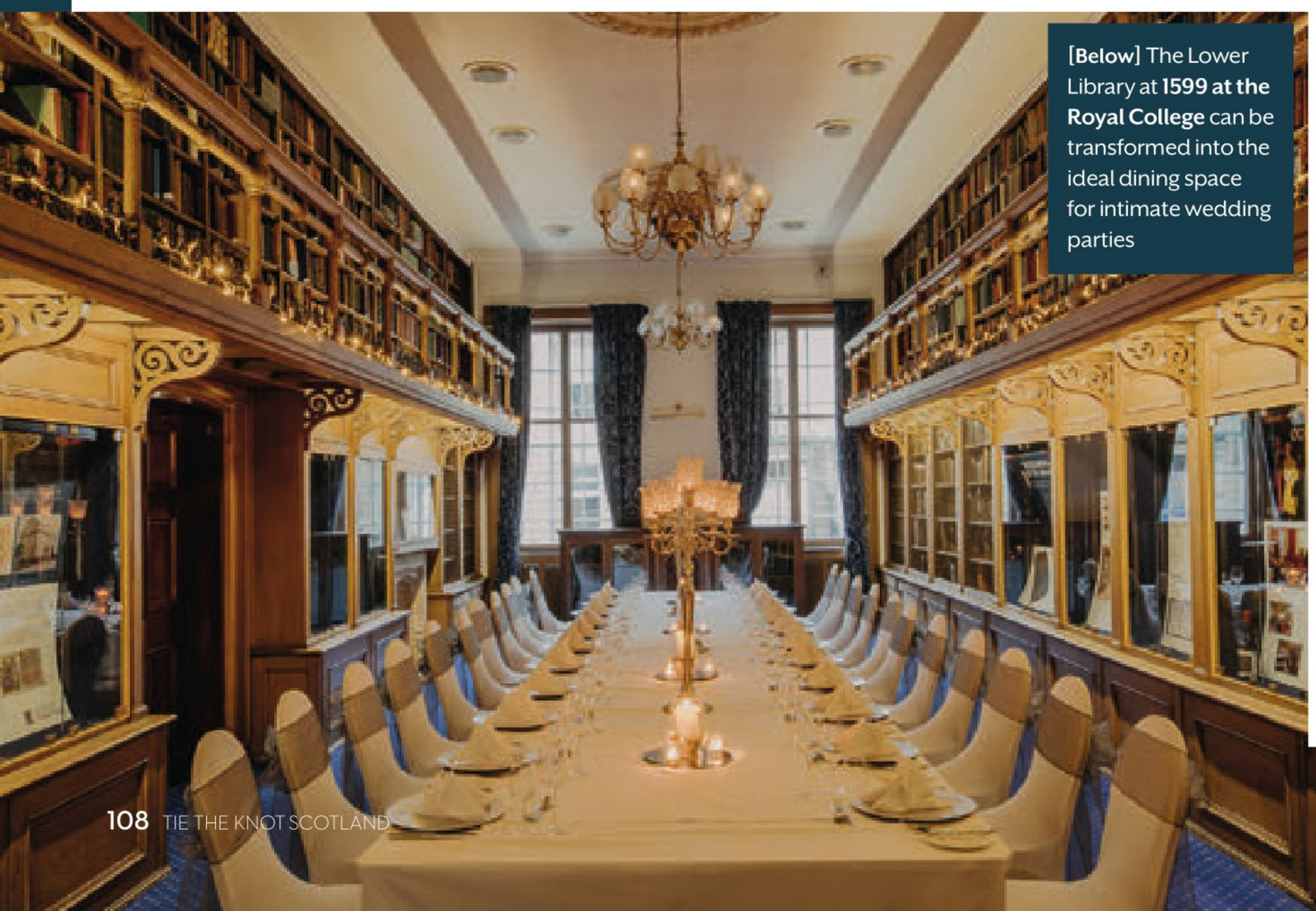
"Or, for instance, if an intricate wedding cake cannot realistically be made in a limited period, opting for a sponge version or an off-the-shelf iced bake might have to be the answer."

## GET A WIGGLE ON

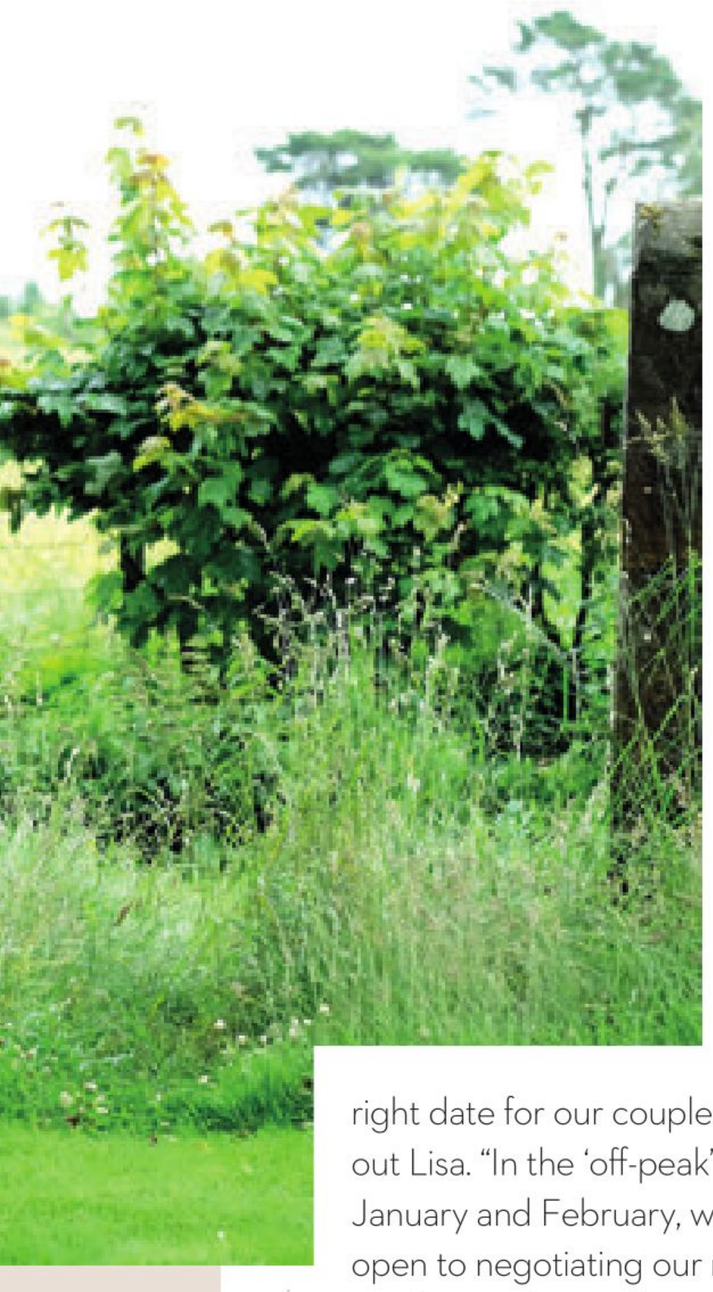
Yet within the space itself your choices needn't be restricted: it's all about opening up a dialogue between you and the venue to see what is feasible for your day. "We have a variety of spaces that can cater for different guest numbers – our popular conservatory, for example, holds up to 40, while the grand ballroom caters for parties of 60 and above," says Danielle. "And, weather permitting, we also have a lovely garden, so you can exchange vows out there among the trees."

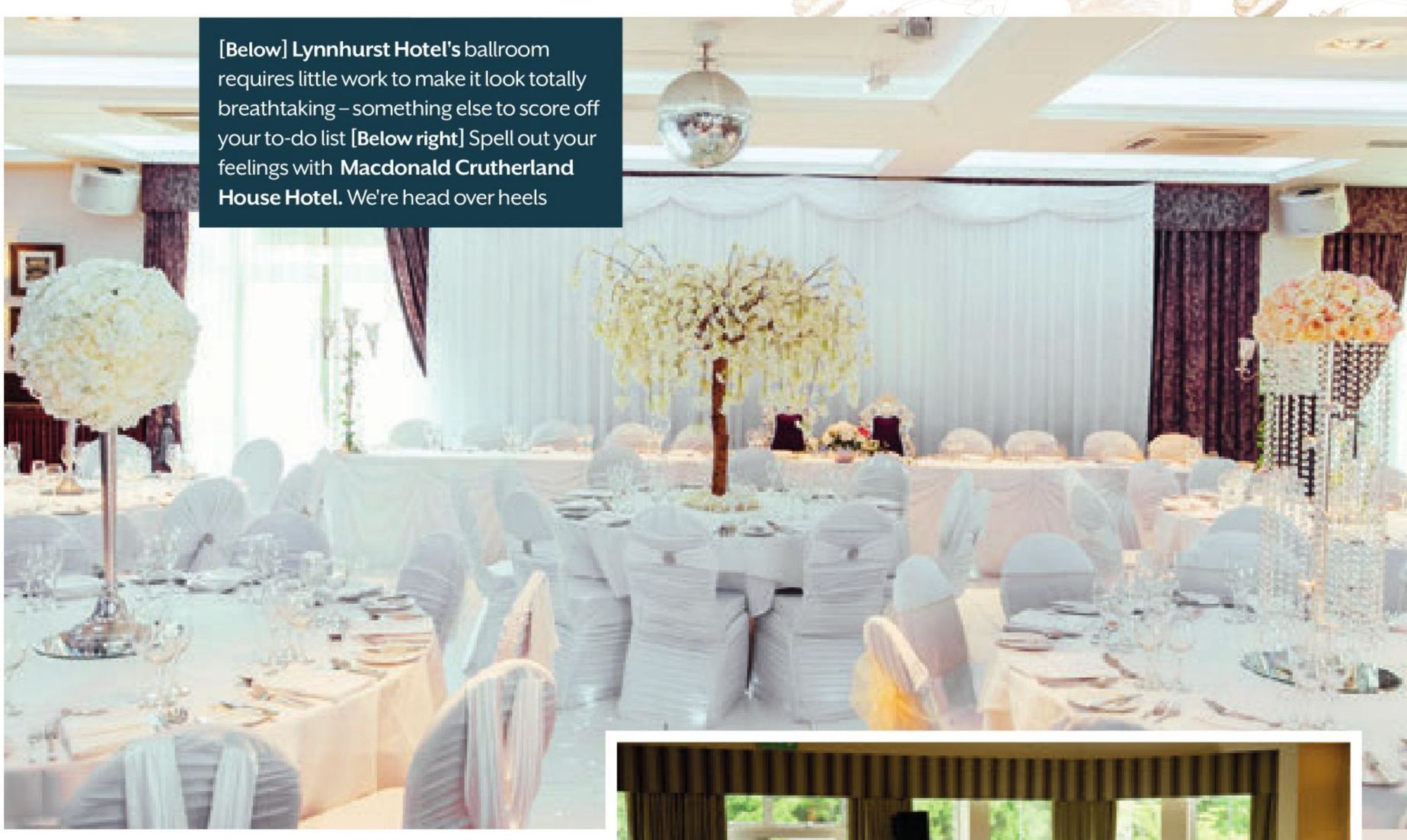
Foodies may struggle to believe that their high standards will be attainable within the timeframe, but this is where venues' experience can come in handy. "Our chefs are experts at what they do," stresses Lisa. "They are fantastic at accommodating late bookings and are always prepared. We have hosted weddings with just a few weeks' notice that have been of the same quality as a shindig organised years in advance, and with the same wonderful locally sourced produce."

But before you sign on the dotted line, it's worth bearing in mind that different times of year will be more suited to hosting last-minute celebrations than others. Query your venue about what it can do for you and when. "We don't work with seasons; it's more about finding the



**[Below]** The Lower Library at **1599 at the Royal College** can be transformed into the ideal dining space for intimate wedding parties





[Below] **Lynnhurst Hotel's** ballroom requires little work to make it look totally breathtaking – something else to score off your to-do list [**Below right**] Spell out your feelings with **Macdonald Crutherland House Hotel.** We're head over heels



right date for our couples," points out Lisa. "In the 'off-peak' months, like January and February, we would be open to negotiating our minimum-numbers policy and more inclined to be flexible about what our packages include, although this isn't the case in all circumstances."

## RACE THE CLOCK

Okay, so you've made your decision and committed to walk down the aisle in just a few weeks' time: what next? "As soon as the couple have confirmed their date they should send out word by mail or social media to give guests a chance to get time off work," Fiona advises. "Accommodation at such short notice is always a problem – at 1599, though, we have special rates with selected hotels and bus companies we use regularly, and are always happy to share this with the couple."

You might be feeling guilty about such a big ask, but there are ways around this too. "You could reduce the pressure to buy a present by insisting on no gifts," Val says. "If they're determined to get you something, you could suggest they offer to dog-sit for a week, or provide their services if they're a skilled DIY-er."

Despite loved ones' best intentions, there will always be a few unable to attend at short notice. "What about a small whirlwind wedding but with a live feed, so that friends and family who don't live nearby can experience your ceremony remotely?" asks Val. Get ready for your close-up.

It's going to be difficult, but that doesn't mean you can't still create a day to remember; in fact, the time pressure could even work in your favour. "Last-minute weddings can be fraught, but the energy from the couple is infectious and it's nearly always a thoroughly enjoyable process for us," smiles Val. "Yes, there will be stress, but overall our clients are more excited, with so much to do in such a short period. Our challenge is just to make sure that they take some time to relax within the intensity and actually enjoy the whole build-up to the big event."

So what are you doing still reading this? On your marks, get set... GO! ♥

**Photo:** barryrobbphotography.com

[Below] Enjoy a post-dinner breather at **Glen Clova Hotel & Lodges** to celebrate your love beneath the stars. Just don't forget your photographer

WEDDINGS

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# Go hard or GO HOME

Photo: mclellanphotography.co.uk

Missing out – does it bring you joy or fill you with fear? *Zoë Boothby* goes in search of wedding venues tailored to suit your FOMO or JOMO

[Above] The party's just getting started when you say 'I do' at **Fairmont St Andrews**

**Where can you be found on a Saturday night?** Out at a club, dropping it like it's hot? Or are you a regular on your own sofa, treating yourself to a takeaway pizza and a face mask? Whichever one it is, these are the kind of preferences you should be taking into consideration when visualising your big day. With that in mind, we've pulled together a list of lustworthy venues for both party animals *and* homebirds. Don't say we're not good to you.

## FAIRMONT ST ANDREWS

One of the most spectacular spots on the east coast, Fairmont St Andrews is a must-visit for those craving a little luxury in their lives. So if you believe that less is more, this mightn't be the place for you: this is one hotel that doesn't do things by halves. "As our venue is so versatile, there's a lot of scope for big party-style weddings," confides head of events Sarah Schlereth. "We've had flower walls, three different bands playing one celebration, celebrity DJs and even a bride arriving by helicopter!" Prep for the main event with a trip to the swanky spa – we'll have a seaweed scrub with a side of the hot-stone massage, please.
***www.standrewsbay.com***

## GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL

"Here at the Grand Central we're suckers for a love story," says the hotel's Laura McAulay. "We pride ourselves on delivering exceptional service throughout your journey, from the proposal to the big day. Since our relaunch in 2010, we've hosted over 300 weddings in our splendid function rooms." The venue's capacity

[Below] Opulent dining for all awaits at **Grand Central Hotel**



## FOMO

### HAUNTED BY THE 'FEAR OF MISSING OUT'? HERE'S NINE VENUES TO LET YOUR HAIR DOWN AT

[Below] **29 Glasgow** is the perfect venue to let loose in

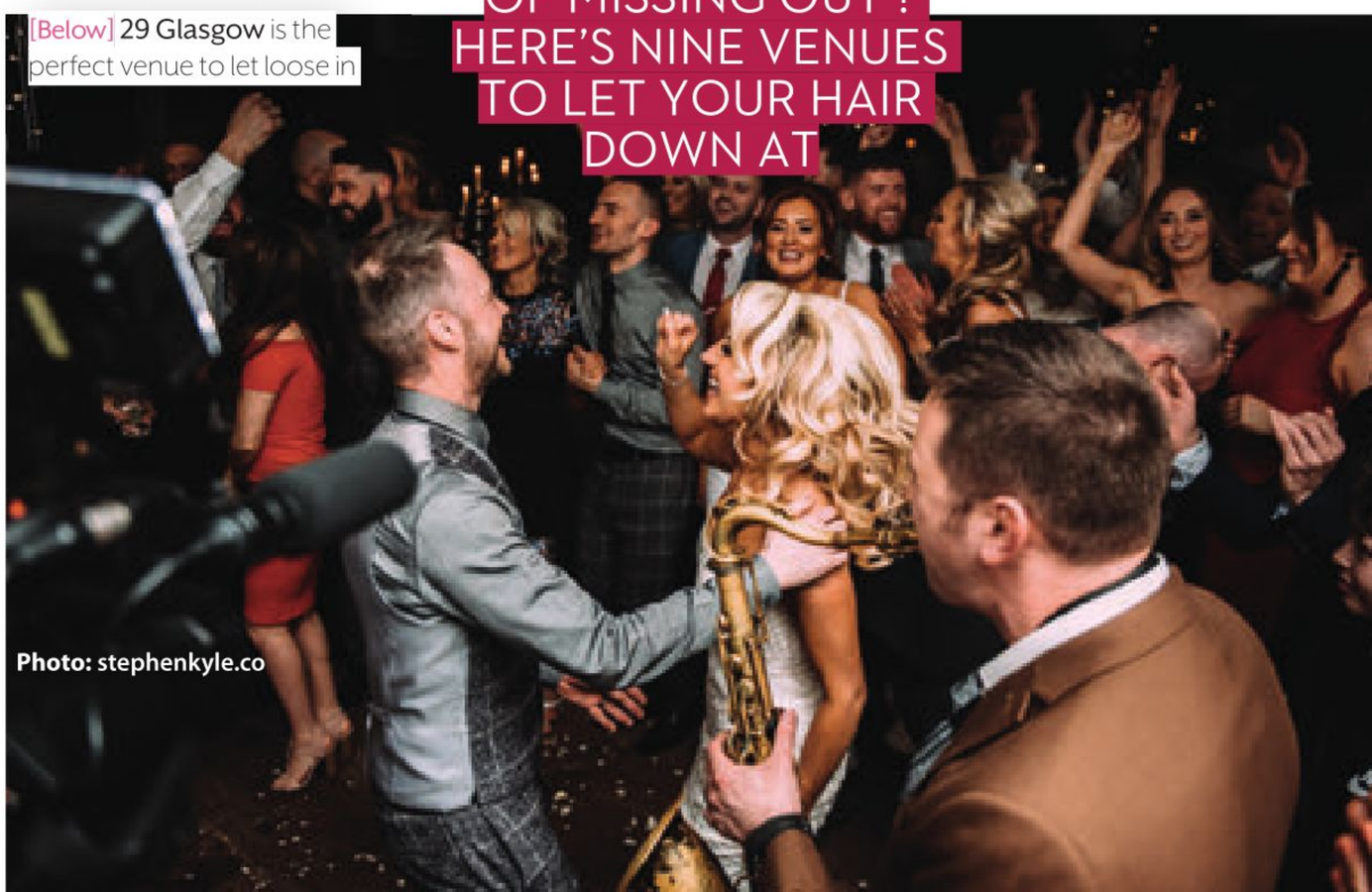


Photo: stephenkyle.co



[Below] We'd be looking similarly overjoyed if we'd been given the keys to **The Corinthian**

Photo: 1500photography.co.uk

is certainly impressive – if there's up to 400 of you, we can't think of a more fitting setting in Glasgow city centre. And when the evening begins to wind down, you can settle in for a nightcap in the Champagne Bar, or there's a multitude of clubs and pubs on the doorstep.
***www.grandcentralhotel.co.uk***

## 29 GLASGOW

Tucked away in the twinkling expanse of Royal Exchange Square is 29 Glasgow, the city's best-kept secret. It has long been a draw for trendy, party-loving couples, and it isn't difficult to see why when you consider its array of sleek, modern spaces. "We're the ideal venue for a big bash," promises co-ordinator Louize Hollywood. "Your wedding could be hosted in our rustic Supper Club with its superb mood lighting; we also have a stylish rooftop terrace for your drinks reception; and our vibrant Network bar with its light-up dancefloor will get you and your guests in the mood." We'll have a Baby Yoda cocktail (see page 175) to get the night started.
***29glasgow.co.uk***

## THE CORINTHIAN

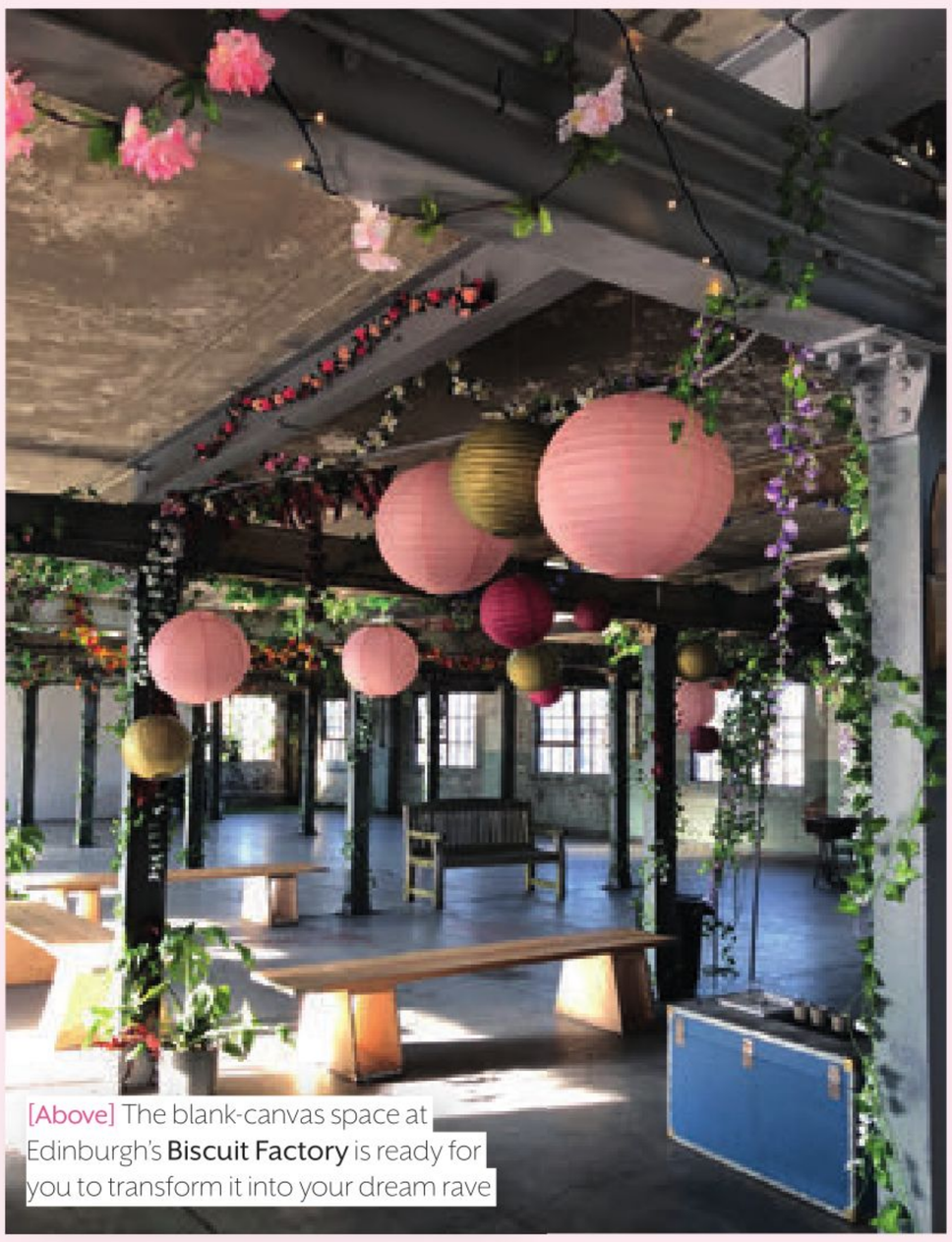
Does the phrase 'carriages at midnight' break your heart a wee bit every time you get an invite in the post? If the only way to stay true to yourself is to put on a hell-raising all-nighter then you've come to the right place. At the Corinthian not only can you dance until the wee hours in the fabulous Flying Scotsman Suite, but you can dodge the dreaded last orders by camping out downstairs in the casino until 6am – just like our real-life bride Leigh did, as she describes on page 176. And if you're a lover of the finer things in life, be sure to sign up for the Corinthian's specially created, top-level bespoke Moët drinks package, which includes a weekend trip to the champagne house's vineyards in France, as well as use of the champagne tower or personalised mini bottles for all guests. It's just what you deserve, dahling. ***www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk***

## THE BISCUIT FACTORY

The pair of you can pay homage to your raving days by making tracks to The Biscuit Factory in Edinburgh, a warehouse-style space with ample opportunity to personalise the industrial-looking interior. There's space for more than 500 people, so you'll be able to invite everyone you've ever met. "Here at The Biscuit Factory, we are happy to be as hands-on or as hands-off as you wish," explains wedding co-ordinator Mairead Mirrlees. "Additionally, we cater to brides and grooms who are after a DIY day and want to transform the space themselves to suit their style. We have a roster of recommended suppliers who we work with regularly to help put on big blowouts that keep guests dancing all night long."
***www.instagram.com/biscuitfactoryedin***

## ÒRAN MÓR

We admit that we can sometimes be guilty of exaggeration (we're a wedding magazine, okay? We deal in hyperbole), but in our eyes this institution in Glasgow's west end is nothing short of iconic. First opened back in 2004, the converted church is now one of the city's foremost cultural hubs, as well as being a leading w-day setting. It's easy to see what persuades couples to choose Òran Mór: with stunning stained-glass windows and impressive architectural features, this space sings in photographs. And that's before the night has even begun. "With in-house uplighting, the room completely transforms



[Above] The blank-canvas space at Edinburgh's **Biscuit Factory** is ready for you to transform it into your dream rave



Photo: imacimages.com

[Above] Everybody get low, low, low at **Òran Mór**

in the evening, creating a colourful party atmosphere," says the venue's Pauline Muir. "The high ceilings offer exceptional acoustics for wedding bands, and there's a large dancefloor." We'd get everyone to tap into their Scottish roots with a traditional ceilidh band to kick things off, followed by some scrummy scran, such as dedicated stations serving up mac and cheese or cones of fish and chips. Yum.
***oran-mor.co.uk***

Photo: craigsandersphotography.co.uk



[Above] Exchange vows surrounded by family and friends and (weather permitting) the sun at **Eden Leisure Village**

"EDEN LEISURE VILLAGE MAKES THROWING A BIG BASH STRESS-FREE. WE BELIEVE OUR ATTENTION TO DETAIL IS WHAT REALLY MAKES US STAND OUT"

## EDEN LEISURE VILLAGE

If you and bae were T in the Park regulars until its unfortunate demise (RIP), keep the spirit of the festival alive with a right knees-up at Eden Leisure Village, near Cumbernauld. With a variety of spaces available, this gorgeous glamping site is perfectly poised for boogeying the night away. "Eden Leisure Village makes throwing a big bash stress-free," promises wedding manager Janet Gracey. "We believe that our attention to detail is what makes us stand out, as well as our beautiful venue. It has the best of both worlds: a lovely, traditional-style marquee and a barn that truly takes your breath away."

***www.edenleisurevillage.co.uk***

## EDNAM HOUSE HOTEL

Considering making the move down south? No, not to England – we'd never go *that* far. Just to the Borders, of course. If so, scope out Ednam House Hotel, an early-Georgian townhouse in the heart of Kelso, for its spectacular neoclassical ballroom, one of the largest of its kind in the area. "We adore organising celebrations here at Ednam," smiles the venue's Louise Taylor. "The ballroom makes it ideal for those who love to party, and you can't beat the gardens and their river frontage for photo opportunities. It's always a surprise to couples that we have all of this to offer from our relatively unassuming front entrance in town." We'd suggest taking advantage of all that space with games on the lawn followed by a dance-off indoors. Cha-cha now, y'all!

***www.ednamhouse.com***

Photo: jasmineskyephotography.com



[Above] Take advantage of a warm summer's day with lawn games at **Ednam House Hotel**

## CAMBO HOUSE

Be warned: even if you throw a legendary soirée, it won't be the most infamous in Cambo's history. "When it comes to parties, we have an ancient reputation to uphold: it was because of a big blowout that the original house burned to the ground in 1879, and we've been hosting our fair share of shindigs ever since!" laughs Emma Aspinall-Bailey, events and marketing manager. Riotous brides and grooms will want to camp out in the venue's Party Woodland, with no curfew. Just maybe have a fire extinguisher to hand...

***www.camboestate.com***

Photo: dukestudios.co.uk



[Above] **Cambo House** has been the site of many a rip-roaring party

# JOMO

## REVEL IN THE 'JOY OF MISSING OUT' AT THESE INTIMATE W-DAY SETTINGS



[Above] Surround yourself with those who mean the most at **Ballogie House**

**Photo:** donnamurrayphotography.com

## BALLOGIE HOUSE

Accommodating up to 56 guests (of whom 14 can stay the night), the recently refurbished Ballogie House in Aberdeenshire is ideally suited to those who believe that less is more when it comes to a wedding. Celebrate with loved ones in total privacy, enjoying the cosy interiors, the games room and the hot tub. "Unusually, we don't have preferred suppliers, as we feel it is incredibly important that our clients choose companies that reflect their own personal preferences," shares Ballogie's Helen Knowles. "This ensures that their low-key event is unique in every single way."

***www.ballogie-estate.co.uk***

## ABERCAIRNY

Steal away to the Strathearn Valley with only your nearest and dearest to get hitched at these converted stables near Crieff. "Perfect for a Highland hero and heroine wishing to walk through the pages of their own romantic novel, Abercairny is a secluded haven which the red squirrels enjoy as much as our happy wedding guests," says manager Daniel Parker. "This is an exclusive-use venue for you to decorate, celebrate and call the place your own." Don't mind if we do – Jeeves, prepare the carriage.

***www.abercairny.com***



**Photo:** Lynn Duke Photography

[Above] A smaller guest list means more to splash on decorations at **Abercairny**

## NORTON HOUSE HOTEL

"Norton House Hotel really comes into its own during intimate weddings," says Kirsten King of the Edinburgh venue. "We have an array of function rooms ideal for relaxed and cosy celebrations, such as our drawing room, verandah and patio suites." There's even a dedicated package for couples thinking small, with an appropriately tiny price tag attached: arrangements start from just £1,650. And when that includes canapés and a bespoke three-course menu, you'd be daft not to keep the guest list to a minimum.

***www.handpickedhotels.co.uk*** →



[Above] **Norton House Hotel** can create a welcoming atmosphere for your cosy nuptials

**[Right]** Hold hands while you declare your love outside at **Rufflets** and lose yourself in the romance of the day **[Below right]** It'll be all smiles should you choose to take over the cosy **Mabie House Hotel**. Cheese! **[Bottom] Glamis House** looks stunning in the early evening light


Photo: victoria-photography.co.uk

## RUFFLETS ST ANDREWS

This family-owned country-house hotel on the outskirts of St Andrews has long been a hit with brides and grooms keen to cultivate a snug and relaxed vibe. "The homely feel at Rufflets is so important to our couples, who are often after a more intimate wedding day," divulges the venue's Louise Turner. "As a former private residence, the hotel isn't intimidating in scale. Groups of two to 24 can enjoy its award-winning service, but with a greater degree of choice and flexibility than larger parties would be entitled to." You'll still definitely get the best of both worlds, however: with ten acres of grounds to play with, including award-winning gardens which grow produce for Rufflets' fine dining, you can celebrate with only those closest to you while also enjoying the luxury of space. It's worth noting that the hotel can cater for up to 170 in the evening if a small do just ain't for you. ***www.rufflets.co.uk***

## MABIE HOUSE HOTEL

Hidden in a majestic forest near Dumfries is Mabie House Hotel, an adorable bolthole which has your intimate nuptials all stitched up. Acquaint yourself with the 17th-century country house and its sensational gardens and manicured lawns, and you'll be feeling like the real world is a million miles away. And with a limited number of guests, you can curate a bespoke menu they're guaranteed to savour. All those in favour of a wedding where you can actually talk to everyone in attendance? Aye.
***www.mabiehousehotel.co.uk***


Photo: hemeravisuals.co.uk

## GLAMIS HOUSE

Your wedding is the one day of your life when you can act like a princess (or prince), so rise to the occasion with the inimitable Glamis House. Dating back to 1800, this charming property was once home to the great-granny of HM the Queen Mother, who herself grew up in the castle nearby. On top of that, the in-demand address has only recently made itself available for weddings – yes, this exclusive-use venue just got *that* bit more exclusive. "Within the house, there's capacity for 25 for an evening reception, 12 of whom can sleep over; or a marquee in the orchard would hold 50," offers general manager Helen Buchanan. "You'll have views across the picturesque Angus farmland, and direct access to the rose garden, a beautiful setting for a summer celebration." With catering provided by the esteemed Wild Thyme Catering, which specialises in creating personalised menus tailored to taste and budget, we doubt you'd be able to get your fill of this gorgeous space.
***www.glamis-castle.co.uk/glamis-house***

## KINGSHOUSE HOTEL

Big fan of Scandi-style interiors? It doesn't get much more hygge than the Kingshouse Hotel in Glencoe, at the foot of the mighty Buachaille Etive Mòr. Snuggle up by the roaring fire, take in mountain views, or get your fill of posh nosh in the candlelit restaurant – we promise this spot will take your breath away. "They say the best things come in small packages, and it's true – sometimes it's the elopement nuptials that make the biggest impact," considers wedding co-ordinator Lorna Scott. "The Kingshouse is a fantastic place for you to declare your love for each other. When you've already gathered your nearest and dearest, you don't need anything else." For extra Insta points, why not tie the knot on the balcony in one of the Signature suites with the local deer as witnesses.
***www.kingshousehotel.co.uk***


Photo: Jack Mitchell

Photo: neilthomasdouglas.com

[Above] Pad out your guest list with some welcome crashers at the **Kingshouse Hotel**

## INTERCONTINENTAL EDINBURGH THE GEORGE

The George's reputation precedes it: it has been welcoming guests since 1881. Even before it was a hotel, though, it was a magnet for famous faces: none other than Scottish literary giants Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott hung out here. But this, and the fact that it occupies a prime spot in classy George Street, doesn't mean you'll find it intimidating; Harriet Wood, senior wedding and special events planner, is keen to hammer home just how adaptable this renowned city-centre hotspot is. "Our library, with ample room for up to 50 guests, is an ideal place to start the next chapter of your life together," she suggests. "It has all the grandeur of the rest of the building, only scaled down to a more digestible size. It's full of period details such as wooden panelling and nods to Scottish tradition, and there's a gorgeous contemporary chandelier. The fireplace, adorned with twinkling candlelight, creates a beautiful feature for photographs."

***www.ihg.com***

[Below] **InterContinental Edinburgh The George's** cosy library is a beautifully intimate place to exchange vows



## THE BONHAM HOTEL

We totally rate Edinburgh's west end, with its cobbled streets, leafy squares and upmarket eateries. Squeezed into the mix is the unassuming Bonham Hotel, a chic destination for wee weddings in the capital. "We are made for intimate dos," says event co-ordinator Melanie Shields. "The welcoming library is a prime backdrop for post-ceremony drinks, while the Dean Suite can accommodate up to 33 people for dinner. The Snug works for even cosier celebrations – it can hold up to eight. This, plus the fact that we're in a townhouse, helps to create the feeling that this is someone's home rather than some anonymous venue." Sounds like the foolproof w-day solution for those who don't like leaving the house...

***www.thebonham.com*** ♥

> "THE FACT THAT WE'RE IN A TOWNHOUSE HELPS TO CREATE THE FEELING THAT THIS IS SOMEONE'S HOME, RATHER THAN JUST SOME ANONYMOUS VENUE"

Photo: Lee Walker

[Below] Descend on **The Bonham Hotel** and make the refined Dean Suite yours for the day



# ANIMAL *magic* 4 ways

Inspired by furry friends, *Rosie Patrick* styles up four pet-friendly venues

## Hello kitty



### at MacLeod House & Lodge

[Left] **MacLeod House & Lodge's** secluded location, five-star luxury and access to world-class golf aren't the only selling points this sumptuous Aberdeenshire spot has to offer. Its Lodge, a lovely converted steading, welcomes pets, so the fur baby won't have to miss out. ***www.trumpgolfscotland.com***



Wedding card by Dandy Sloth, £2.50, **Etsy**




Tulle A-line gown with sequinned, beaded appliqué (style 11068), £POA, **Sweetheart**

Lying tabby cat necklace, £30, **And Mary**






Cat of Honour bandana by Hello Hazel, £18.57, **Etsy**



Smitten Kitten heels, £165, **Irregular Choice**

*Stockists on page 288*

## Horsing around



### at Cardney Steading

[Left] Where else can you bring your horse to your big day? **Cardney Steading** really is one-of-a-kind. The versatile, family-run venue can be hired out exclusively, meaning you and your guests will have the run of the place. And what a place – you've got a choice of lochside, woodland and barn locations for your ceremony, all surrounded by stunning Perthshire countryside. Bliss. ***www.cardneyestate.co.uk***



Oakley cami and Cassidy skirt, £POA, **Belle & Bunty**




Personalised grey feathered lucky wedding horseshoe by Silver Sixpence in her Shoe, £35, **NotOnTheHighStreet.com**



Hay bale seating, styled by **Through the Looking Glass Events**



Croc white leather cowboy boots, £99.50, **Oliver Bonas**




Lucky horseshoe tattoo wedding invitation by Vicklicious Designs, £12.50, **Etsy**

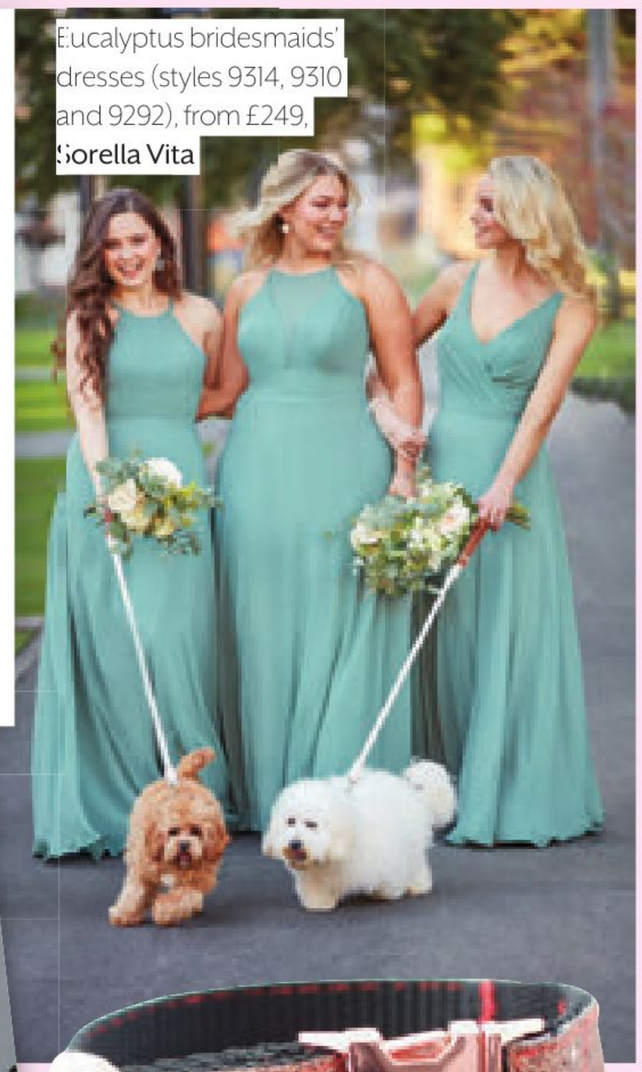
# Puppy love



## at Prestonfield

[Left] On first glance, you might not imagine that five-star **Prestonfield** could be dog friendly, but make no mistake, this grand venue is very welcoming to pooches (albeit well-behaved ones, so no chewing the furniture, Fido). The 23 acres of gardens are wonderfully private, and if you let the team know you're taking your pup along when you book, they'll provide a bed for them (only the best for your wee one). Once here, they can explore all of the plush public areas too.

***www.prestonfield.com***



Eucalyptus bridesmaids' dresses (styles 9314, 9310 and 9292), from £249, **Sorella Vita**



Bespoke Ted the dog cake, made to order, **Happyhills Cakes**




Dachshund engagement card by Sweet William Designs, £2.95, **NotOnTheHighStreet.com**



Pursuits Bulldog cufflinks, £60, **Simon Carter**



Blaze dog collar collection, £13, **Pet Pooch Boutique**

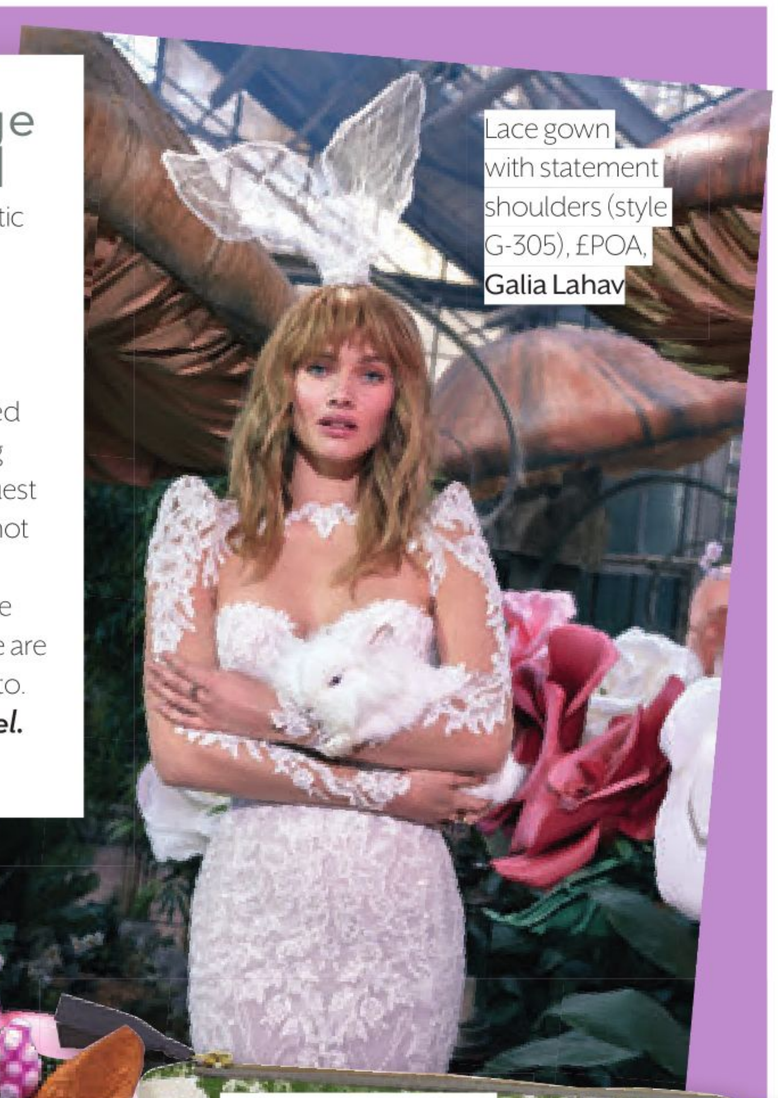
# Easter bunny



## at Coylumbridge Aviemore Hotel

[Left] In the midst of the majestic Cairngorms National Park and a 65-acre forest you'll find **Coylumbridge Aviemore,** a spacious leisure hotel that can cater for up to 400 of your loved ones during the day – including pets, who are allowed in the guest rooms. The riverside setting is not only ideal for walkies, but also for your photographs, and if the weather's not playing ball, there are two function spaces to retreat to.

***coylumbridgeaviemorehotel.co.uk***



Lace gown with statement shoulders (style G-305), £POA, **Galia Lahav**



Easter floral rabbit headdress, £20, **Ella James**



White wooden Easter bunny micro lights, £7.99, **Lights4fun**



Rabbit & Cabbage large cosmetic bag, £28, **Thornback & Peel**

Rabbit cake topper, made to order, **Cake Topper Animals**

# TTKS VISITS DALHOUSIE CASTLE

Genuine heritage, delectable food and an on-site falconry – this castle is pure escapist fantasy. *Rosie Patrick* ventures just outside Edinburgh, but feels a million miles away…

Photo: makula.co.uk

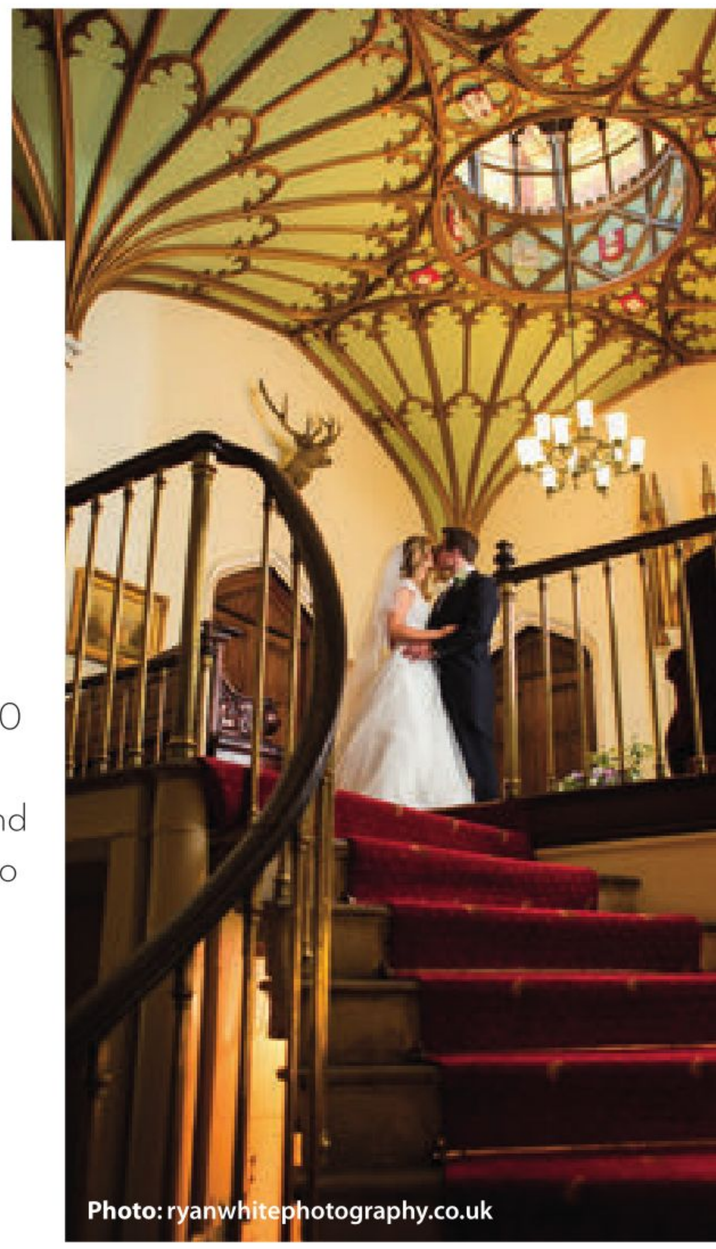


Photo: ryanwhitephotography.co.uk

**The world is a pretty scary place right now.** We don't need to go into specifics (although melting glaciers, virus outbreaks and messy politics spring to mind), but it's bleak. The urge to run away from it all is tempting – hence my delight when the editor asked if I fancied escaping for a night to Dalhousie Castle. I packed my bags at lightning speed.

So when I pulled up to the castle's towering stone façade to be greeted by a piper, you can probably understand why I felt like I'd entered another dimension. I stepped out the car and glanced around, expecting to see some decorated dignitary right behind me. Nope, it was for me. "We wanted you to have the authentic experience!" laughed weddings and events manager Kym Mundy when she saw my face. This is the kind of regal treatment you can expect here, whether you're an aristocrat or a commoner.

The feeling that hits you once you're inside is like being enveloped in a warm embrace – Kym describes it as being 'taken under our wing', which is apt given one of the venue's many star attractions is its falconry. It's astonishing that a castle can seem so homely. Maybe that says more about me and my champagne taste and delusions of grandeur, but I'm not convinced. I have another theory: the welcoming vibes are down to the people working tirelessly behind the scenes.

## LAP OF LUXURY

One such person is Kym herself, who led me on a tour of the venue's rooms in order of how a 'typical' wedding might unfold at Dalhousie, if such a thing existed. Her dedication was immediately obvious as she regaled me with tales of her career to date: she's fairly new to Dalhousie, having been with the team for a year, but she has been in the hotel business for most of her working life. She had me cackling at a story of a grandfather who was desperate to dance with his granddaughter on her big day and insisted that he couldn't manage – unless Kym fetched him some WD40 for his knee. Wondering if he was perhaps part robot, she nevertheless got the goods, no questions asked, and the pair waltzed into the night. No request, clearly, is too extreme for this place.

First up, she introduced me to my piper. Meeting Andrew Sharp, pipe sergeant and castle steward of almost 40 years, is quite something. The man is the heart and soul of Dalhousie, and what he doesn't know about its history isn't worth knowing. He shook my





**[Top]** The grand façade is an ideal spot for friends and family to gather for the group shot **[Above]** The entrance hall boasts an unusual and elaborate ceiling, adorned with the Ramsay family crest, providing yet more photo opportunities **[Left]** The plush, comfortable castle bedrooms are fit for royalty and a thrill to spend time in. Now, where's my crown at?



## "DINNER WAS SERVED IN THE DUNGEON. YOU HEARD ME. THIS CASTLE IS THE REAL DEAL"

hand firmly (a 'piper's handshake', I'm told), before sharing stories of the Ramsay clan, who once occupied the castle. He has an enigmatic charm that's hard to describe, but is without doubt the reason the castle attracts so many couples, especially from overseas. He embodies traditional Scottish generosity, and brides and grooms are mesmerised by the ancient rituals and customs he keeps alive at Dalhousie, such as his popular blessing of the cake.

Tearing ourselves away, Kym and I popped into the chapel, an atmospheric, domed space with pews and glorious stained-glass windows that can host up to 100 for a ceremony. Next, we climbed the double staircase (admiring the opulent ceiling) and checked out the Sir Alexander Suite – drinks and evening receptions tend to take place here, since it has its own bar and dancefloor. Along the corridor, you'll come to the Dalwolsey Lounge, a decadent room in which couples can escape for a bit of a breather. Then, finally, there's the sensational Ramsay Room, the main ballroom, dripping in glittering chandeliers and gleaming with gilded detailing.

After our adventure indoors, it was time to venture back outside and down to the estate's falconry. As we approached I saw the birds were sitting out ready. It was *beyond* adorable. I wanted to make friends with them all – the kestrels, the eagles, the very talkative raven – but it was Bonnie the barn owl and resident ring bearer who would be gracing me with her presence. I slid my hand into the glove and, like my very own Hedwig, Bonnie perched proudly on my index finger. I stroked her silken wings and tried my best not to freak out. What a hoot.

### CAPTURE THE CASTLE

Our room for the night was the Mary Queen of Scots Suite, a decadent honeymoon option with a plush, intricately carved four-poster and a turreted dining space (asking for breakfast to be laid out in 'my turret' the next morning ranks as my most lush venue visit moment to date). When I was done playing princess, I padded down to the spa for some pampering in the hydro pool, Roman-style sauna and Turkish-inspired steam bath.

Later, we were invited to the Library for drinks and exquisite canapés (the Parmesan crisp will stay with me forever). Dinner was served in the Dungeon. You heard me. This castle is the real deal. Overlooked by a suit of armour and imposing brickwork, my husband and I tucked into succulent pheasant, braised beef, raspberry panna cotta and moreish carrot cake, like a true king and queen. We'd entered a new realm – and it was all ours. ♥

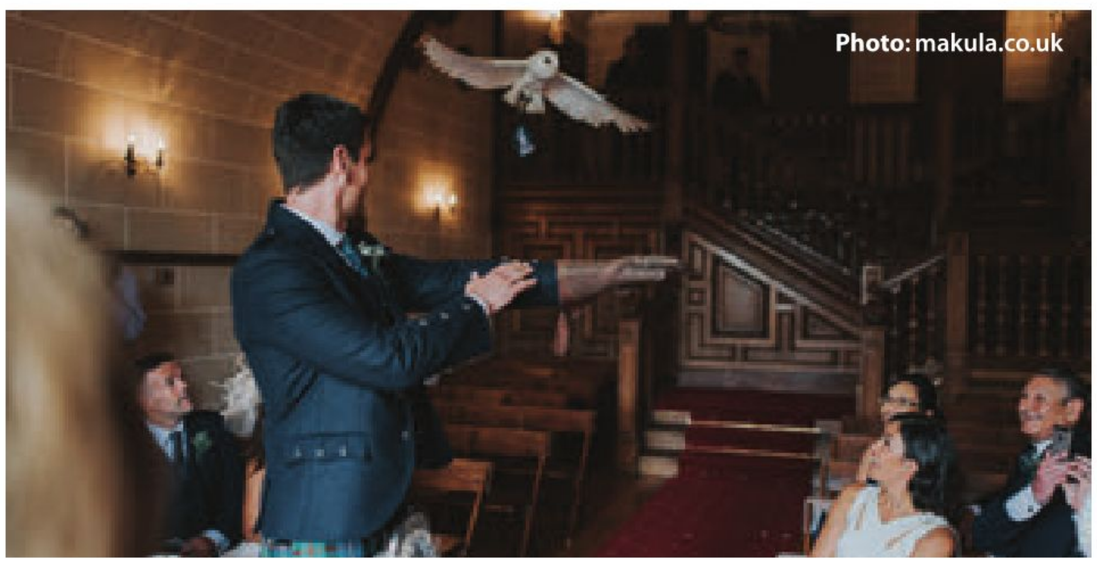


Photo: makula.co.uk




Photo: emmalawsonphotography.com

**[Top]** The on-site falconry is such an asset to the venue. Where else can you find a barn owl on standby to deliver your rings? The fact the castle also has its own chapel just adds to the magic **[Above left]** The blissful spa has a stress-busting hydro pool (pictured) and toasty laconium **[Left]** The Ramsay Room is the venue's main function space, and can entertain up to 100 of your nearest and dearest. Those chandeliers are even more astounding IRL, if you can believe it

## NEED TO KNOW

Don't be fooled: yes, old-school hospitality comes as standard, but this classic Scottish castle still has its finger firmly on the pulse

### THE NUMBERS

With a chapel at your disposal, you can invite up to 100 guests to share in a cosy indoor ceremony that feels both lavish and intimate, thanks to its deceptively large size. You can tie the knot outdoors too, and I was shown a cute little tree in the grounds under which many choose to get hitched. The castle can be hired out exclusively, so you'll have the run of the place – the Ramsay Room, the Dalwolsey Lounge and the Sir Alexander Suite included, all of which can also cater for 100.

### THE PACKAGES

Despite the fact that Dalhousie treats every wedding as a completely bespoke event, you're not exactly left to fend for yourselves. There are a range of packages you can use as a springboard. Deals for just the two of you, starting from £1,500, are tempting for elopements, and there are three standard outlines to build on, from £99pp. There are even falconry packages, covering your owl ring delivery and a guest meet-and-greet.

### THE FOOD AND DRINK

The 2AA Rosette-awarded cuisine is as outstanding as you'd expect, with a focus on locally sourced ingredients and attentive service. Each wedding package has a corresponding menu option, with downright heavenly sounding dishes (truffle risotto, come to mamma), but you can mix and match.

### THE ACCOMMODATION

The estate sleeps up to 72 across its 29 castle bedrooms and the additional six rooms of Castle Rocks, Dalhousie's refurbished lodge house, all with Egyptian cotton bedlinen and Molton Brown bath products to enjoy.

Dalhousie Castle, Bonnyrigg
***www.dalhousiecastle.co.uk***

TTKS VISITS

# PEEBLES HYDRO

It's all about the people at Peebles, says *Zoë Boothby*, as this mammoth resort promises to make everyone feel special

Photo: chicphoto.co.uk

**I'm always sceptical when a company describes itself as a 'family'.** It's probably because I've worked for too many of them (pre-*TTKS*, of course – these ladies are like my sisters) who welcome you in with open arms, gushing about how you're one of their own, before taking every opportunity to undermine you, underpay you and generally treat you like an ungrateful child. And so I raised a wary eyebrow when, during my recent stay at Peebles Hydro, a resort-style hotel in the Borders, we were checked in by a young man whose name badge signalled that he was 'new to the family'. Hmm.

But it wasn't long before this place began chipping away at my cynicism. I hadn't even left the reception when I was greeted by manager Caroline Raeburn, food and beverage manager Colin Grieve and events and sales manager Lisa Anderson, three smiling faces who came over specially to introduce themselves and reiterate that they were on hand should I require anything at all. This, plus the handwritten card waiting for me in my room from general manager Patrick Diack, left me feeling like perhaps my initial suspicions were unfounded.

Before I could think too much about it, however, I was distracted by the eye-catching balcony at the far end of our room, which opened to the most gorgeous panorama of the Tweed valley. My best pal and I exchanged glances, instantly reading each other's minds: G&T at sunset? (We've been friends a long time.)

After a sweat in the sauna followed by a quick dip in the pool, I turned up to meet Lisa rocking the wet-hair-and-no-makeup look – she laughed off my apologies, just glad I'd been able to make use

Photo: siobhanstewart.com



**[Above]** The Ballroom can be set up in various configurations, potentially seating more than 200 people, and there's ample scope for you to decorate it. We're crushing on this bridal-meets-carnival mash-up **[Below]** The Tweed valley makes a splendid backdrop for wedding pics (if you can take your own eyes off it, of course)

Photo: siobhanstewart.com

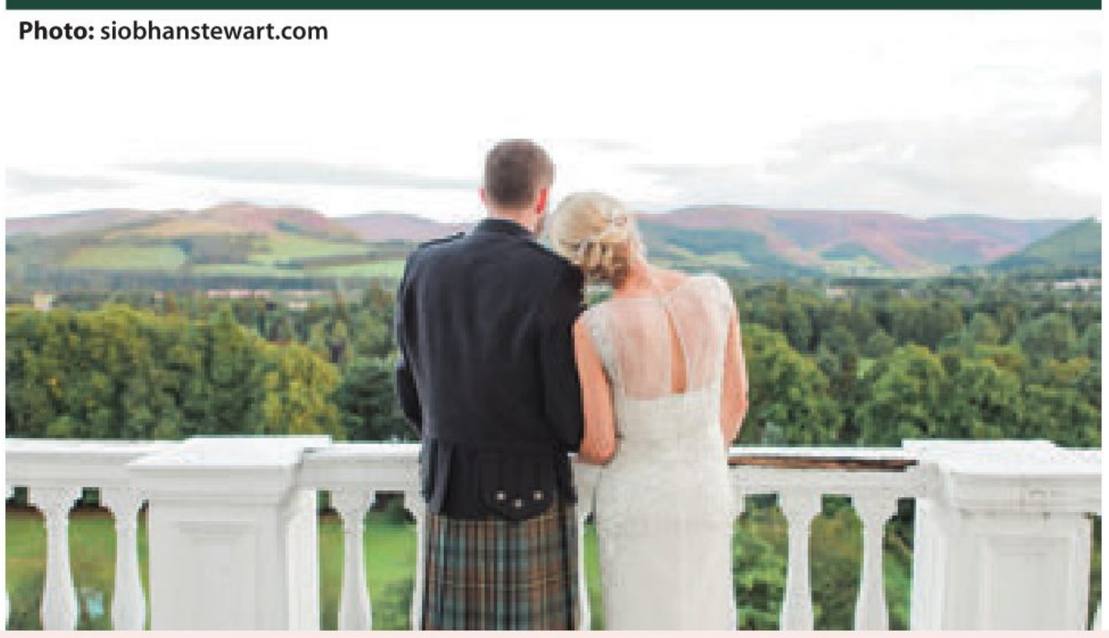
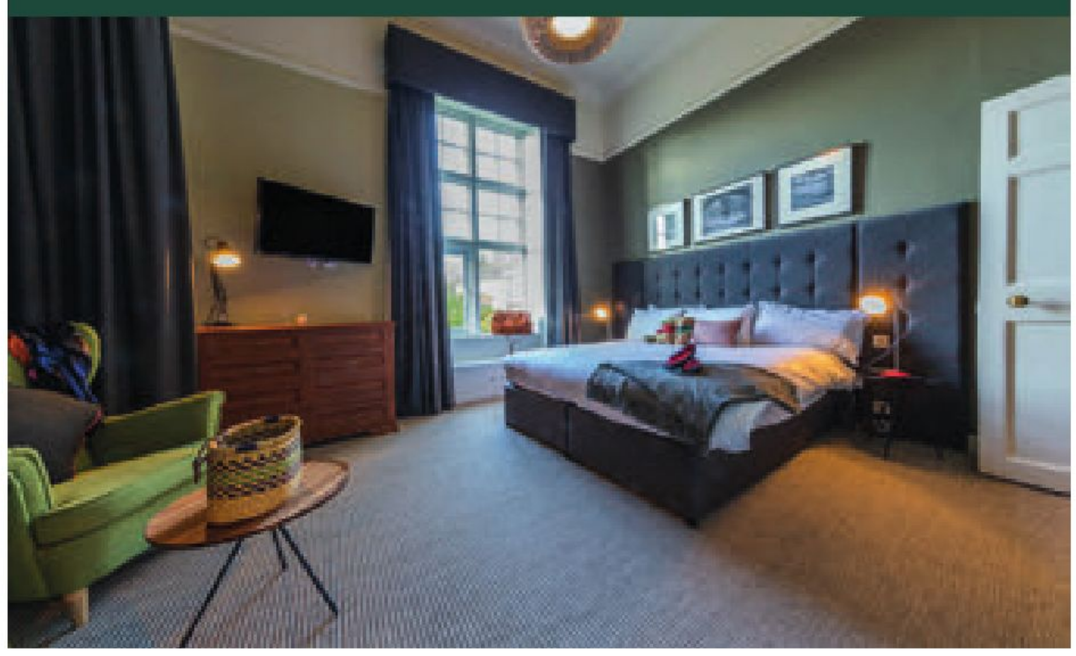






Photo: makula.co.uk

**[Left]** The hotel's commanding exterior dominates the local landscape. We likey **[Above]** Steal away to the sweet pea-green pavilion for a post-ceremony breather with your new spouse. Oh, sorry, photographer – we didn't see you there! **[Below]** Spacious, cosy bedrooms are the name of the game at the resort hotel



of the facilities. She has worked in hotels for almost 30 years, so it's fair to say she knows a thing or two about events – and, after an hour with her, I can safely say that her couples are in seriously capable hands.

First she pointed out the Regency, the area in which most brides and grooms host their ceremony, although it can also hold smaller parties for the meal. Next up was the Bannockburn, which Lisa described as a 'Marmite' room: its murals of the bloody battle of the same name will appeal to some more than others. She agreed when I suggested it has a certain 'masculine' energy, adding that it makes a good space for the groomsmen to get ready in.

We then came to the altogether more fabulous Ballroom. With Art Deco features and a vaulted glass ceiling, it isn't difficult to see why this is the top pick for receptions. Lisa pointed out the bar in the corner, which gives the wedding party a cosy, self-contained space in which to celebrate the night away. Plus there's a stage for your band and a dancefloor. What more could you need?

My tour was over, but I wasn't done yet. I had another *very* important appointment to attend to: a tasting at the recently opened 1881 Distillery & Gin School. The delightful Brad talked us through Peebles Hydro's home-grown gins, which could certainly stand their ground against more expensive, established brands. And when so many modern-day brides and grooms describe themselves as 'gin-thusiasts' (their words, not mine), how excellent that you can get into the spirit at your wedding. All couples who book with the venue receive a complimentary lesson at the gin school, where they can create their own unique flavour. Peebles will record it and can later distil it in larger batches to be used as favours for the big day. Quite 'in-gin-ious', we'd say.

Goat's cheese salad and steak were served for dinner in the lofty dining room, with sticky toffee pudding to finish (my bestie, a serious STP connoisseur, proclaimed herself impressed). A nightcap and a game of Scrabble in Not The Cocktail Bar rounded off what had been a very enjoyable evening.

We reluctantly checked out the following morning, but not before bumping into Caroline again, who asked us about the quality of our stay (fantastic, I reported), and wished us luck for our final activity – air rifles. Sitting in the crisp mid-morning light, laughing with our instructor Rachel, my icy exterior finally cracked: Peebles, would you consider adopting me into the family? ♥

"IT ISN'T HARD TO SEE WHY THE BALLROOM, WITH ITS ART DECO FEATURES AND VAULTED GLASS CEILING, IS COUPLES' TOP PICK"

## NEED TO KNOW

If you need to impress a diverse contingent, read on – there's something to keep all ages entertained at this Borders hotel

### THE NUMBERS

The variety of spaces has made this one of the most popular venues in the Borders: the Regency takes up to 90 for a ceremony or 50 for a meal, while the Ballroom is good for big parties of up to 200. Plus there's also the Bannockburn and Edinburgh rooms, should either take your fancy.

### THE PACKAGES

From April to October 2020, package prices start from £77pp (rising to £80pp in 2021), including three-course meal, canapés and evening buffet. We're holding out for the Winter Wedding package, with prices starting from £3,900, including a £500 bar tab to be spent as you wish – we'd recommend upgrading to a half-bottle of wine per guest.

### THE ACCOMMODATION

Peebles' bumper size rules out exclusive use, but who cares when you've got space to invite every man and his dog (yup, this is a pup-friendly space) in over 130 rooms. For you and bae, only the Kailzie Suite, with deluxe four-poster bed, will do. Plus, as part of the standard package, you'll get two complimentary rooms both the night before *and* the night of the wedding – that's the MOH and best man sorted.

### THE FOOD AND DRINK

With the venue's extensive menu selector, you'll have plenty of choice for your w-day grub, but the chefs can go bespoke should you so desire. Our steak was perfectly cooked, and the next morning's breakfast buffet deserves a special mention. Seconds?

Peebles Hydro, Peebles
***www.peebleshydro.co.uk***

Photo: lifetimephotography.co.uk

1





Escape the chaos of w-day by curling up with a good book in one of these lovely libraries, suggests *Zoë Boothby*. Because reading is what? Fundamental!

TAKE YOUR PICK

# Libraries

## 1 BALBIRNIE HOUSE

We like our Dickens washed down with a bracing glass of the hard stuff, so during weddings at this Fife favourite you'll always find us in the Library Bar. What a perfect way to toast this new chapter of your lives together.

***balbirnie.co.uk***

## 2 BLAIRQUHAN CASTLE

As much as we love to boogie, we understand that busting a move isn't everyone's idea of a good time. Enjoy a break from the action by chilling out in Blairquhan's cosy *bibliothèque*. Who said you had to play it by the book?

***www.blairquhan.co.uk***

## 3 1599 AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE

The Lower Library is a hotspot for all manner of ceremonies, drinks receptions and wedding breakfasts. Take a leaf out of this central Glasgow venue's book and gather your nearest and dearest for a snug dinner. Hear, hear!

***1599.co.uk***

## 4 BROXMOUTH PARK

Broxmouth's library, complete with marble fireplace, would be an appropriate setting for a grand affair: Queen Victoria is said to have used the space during her visit to the Dunbar stately home way back in 1878. Sold? Of course you are – we can read you like a book.

***www.broxmouth.com***

## 5 THE SIGNET LIBRARY

Hold the front page: though libraries are usually reserved for intimate occasions, at this Edinburgh institution you can invite up to a staggering 200 pals for the big event. And if the rare collections don't convince you, the elegant columns, galleries and balustrades should do the trick.

***www.thesignetlibrary.co.uk***

12



11



10

"WE CAN ALREADY SEE OURSELVES EXCHANGING VOWS WITH OUR BELOVED IN THIS STATELY SETTING. NOW THAT'S WHAT WE CALL HAPPILY EVER AFTER"




## 6 WINTON CASTLE

They say you should never judge a book by its cover, but thankfully the cosy spaces inside Winton are just as impressive as its imposing exterior. We heart this charming blue library, decked out with cheerful furniture, which can serve as a break-out area throughout the day.

***www.wintoncastle.co.uk***



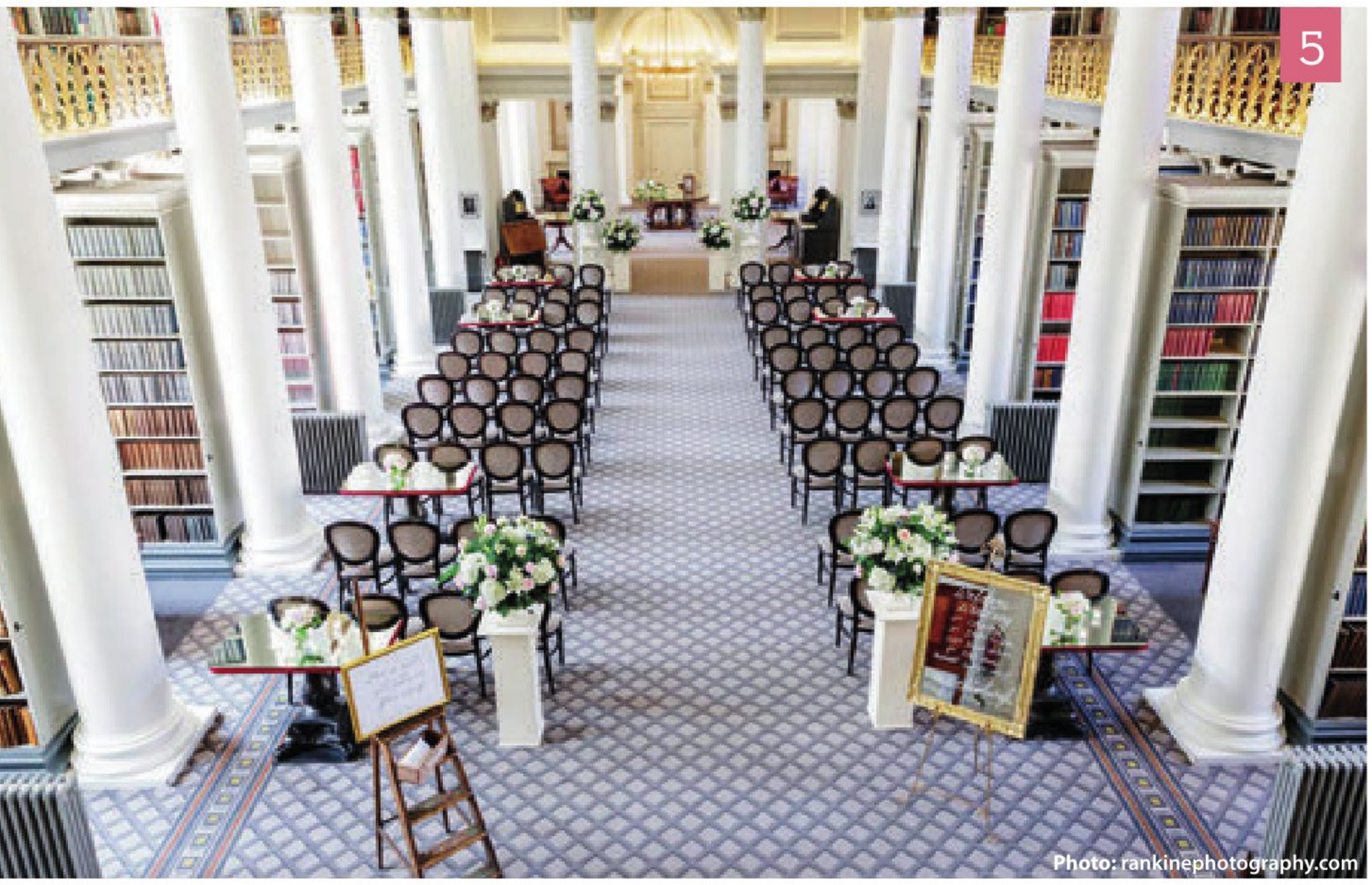




## 7 ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

Make tracks to check out the New Library, which is commonly used as a backdrop for photographs by couples who get hitched at the Royal College. The book-lined space would be ideal for the ceremony, as its shape naturally lends itself to an aisle, and for an elegant wedding breakfast.

***venue.rcpe.co.uk***




## 8 BARNBOUGLE CASTLE

Proud of your own collection of tomes? Well, prepare to read it and weep: the library walls at east-coast bolthole Barnbougle are lined with no fewer than *10,000* gilt-edged volumes, ideal for any bookworm brides or grooms. We'll be adding them all to our TBR list...

***roseberyvenues.co.uk***

## 9 THE BONHAM HOTEL

We thought we knew every trick in the book, but then this Edinburgh hotel just had to go and knock us sideways with this cracker. Utilise it for your cosy ceremony, drinks reception or evening meal, and your guests will feel like you've hosted them in (a rather fancier version of) your home.

***www.thebonham.com***

## 10 HADDO HOUSE

It's hardly surprising that this stunning room, its cedar bookcases inlaid with ebony, has hosted any number of monarchs and VIPs over the centuries. Why not sit down to dinner with loved ones and give your celebration the royal seal of approval? We know you're on the same page.

***www.nts.org.uk/weddings***







## 11 POLLOK HOUSE

With French windows that open out onto the parterre garden, Pollok's offering is possibly the finest 20th-century private library in Scotland. From our point of view, this magnum opus is a textbook example of why a study is such a worthwhile space for all manner of big days.

***www.nts.org.uk/weddings***







## 12 BRODIE CASTLE

The library at this Moray haunt dates back to 1846, and was constructed from imported American oak. We can already see ourselves exchanging vows with our beloved in this stately setting. Now that's what we call happily ever after.

***www.nts.org.uk/weddings*** ♥

# DREAM *makers*

Every issue, we meet the brains behind the big days. This edition, *Rosie Patrick* catches up with four talented venue co-ordinators to find out what drives and excites them



[Below] The country mansion makes a striking impression through the trees

Photo: hamishirvine.com



## OSKAR GILCHRIST-GRODNICKI

Weddings and events manager, Broxmouth Park, Dunbar

**How long have you been in this job?** I've only been at Broxmouth Park for three months, but I have over ten years' experience in planning and delivering weddings at four- and five-star venues. I'm looking after 30 nuptials per year at the moment – in some former roles, it was over 100! I was attracted to Broxmouth because it has so much character. It offers complete exclusivity and loads of picturesque spots for photos in its 150 acres. We've got woodland, parkland, a private loch and access to the beach – it's a dream location.

**What motivates you?** I take a lot of pride in researching and learning about new trends so I always stay ahead of the curve in my role. Weddings are my biggest passion.

**If you were to marry at Broxmouth, how would you go about it?** I'd want to work with our award-winning chef to give the dining an informal feel. I'd ask for grazing-station starters, followed by a seated main course and a family-style dessert. The ceremony would be outdoors, either by the 500-year-old cedar tree or on Queen Victoria's staircase. We'd go on to a ceilidh in the marquee, and end with fireworks.

**How does the average wedding schedule run?** A lot of our celebrations take place across a weekend, starting with a rehearsal dinner in the beautiful Georgian dining room. On the wedding morning, we set aside a dedicated prep room equipped with freestanding mirrors and multiple bathrooms. This is while our staff ensure perfect and smooth set-up of the ceremony (there's always a wet-weather contingency plan!). Most services begin at 2pm and are followed by a relaxed drinks reception with canapés, giving the couple a chance to nip away for photos before the meal and speeches. Once the official part of the day ends, we invite the newlyweds to cut the cake, then they have their first dance. Happy guests can then party the night away in the comfort of the marquee.

**How does your job differ from that of a wedding planner?** I focus on all the important elements of the day such as the logistical planning, the set-up and the catering. I can only guide you to my recommended suppliers, though, rather than booking them on your behalf.

**What do guests enjoy most and how can the couple prioritise this?** Guests look forward to the dinner and the evening entertainment. So I always advise couples to consider their loved ones when choosing the menu and to book their band early to avoid disappointment. And little touches throughout the day can work wonders in guests' perception of your wedding.

**What has been the high point of your career so far?** I'm proud to have been recognised over the years at the VOWS Awards and the Scottish Hotel Awards.

**Any unusual requests?** One groom wanted to surprise his bride with a horse and carriage that would take them away for their photos after the ceremony. Problem was that it was a city-centre hotel – thus a real challenge to keep the horses out of sight! But the bride was so delighted. It was very rewarding for me.

***www.broxmouth.com***



[Below] Broxmouth is set within 150 acres of luscious private parkland

Photo: hamishirvine.com



[Below] An aisle framed by fallen leaves makes this epic ceremony location even more spectacular

"AT BROXMOUTH, WE'VE GOT WOODLAND, PARKLAND, A PRIVATE LOCH AND ACCESS TO THE BEACH. IT'S A DREAM LOCATION"



[Below] Dazzling pyrotechnics are a popular way to round off the evening at Broxmouth





[Left and above] Surrounded by 25 acres of grounds, **Barony Castle Hotel** would work well for an outdoor ceremony in front of the gleaming white castle, under the forest canopy or at the 16th-century altar



## KAYLEIGH McALLISTER

Wedding and events manager, Barony Castle Hotel, Borders

**Tell us about your job** I've been here for three years now, and work alongside my fellow co-ordinators Shannon and Vikki, managing weddings at our beautiful venue in Eddleston, near Peebles in the Borders. I guide couples from the enquiry stage all the way to the wedding itself. On the big day, I'm there from morning until night to ensure everything runs smoothly.

**What does an average working day look like for you?** Every day is different. I could be doing wedding show-rounds back to back or hosting a final-details meeting in the morning, and answering enquiries and writing reports all afternoon. It's never the same two days in a row, which I really enjoy.

**Roughly how long do you work with each couple?** It varies so much. I have planned weddings in two months but had up to three years for others. I always let couples know that I am there as much as they need me, whether they're keen to meet monthly or only during the final stages. On your wedding day, I'll be there from 9am until 9pm to see you through the full event.



[Below] Several different spaces, including a marquee, can accommodate the party

**What have you seen in the way of exciting entertainment at Barony Castle Hotel?** We've had an incredible mix – caricaturists and magicians during the day and some really amazing bands in the evening. My list of recommended suppliers grows with every wedding held here – it's a privilege working with them.

**How can couples make the most of their co-ordinator without going overboard?** I don't think there is an 'overboard'! We are here to assist as much as we possibly can. The venue is one of the biggest elements of the day and it needs to be right for the couple's vision. I feel much more at ease when people give me an exact idea of the layout they want, with pictures of potential set-ups. As much as I love the freedom to arrange props where I think they look good, being given guidance ahead of time really reassures me that the day will be perfect.

**What sort of questions should a newly engaged couple be asking you at the first meeting?** What is the venue's maximum capacity? What are the contract terms when booking? What are the costings, based on the guest numbers? What extras are included? This last one is especially important, as having little things supplied like the cake stand and knife, and the linens and so on makes a big difference to your workload.

**Any advice for future brides and grooms?** The advice I give to all couples is to set a budget and stick to it! Do your research and create spreadsheets. Note down every bit of information you can to allow you to make the right choice, not just in terms of your venue but for all your suppliers. In the world of weddings, the 'vision' can take over, but you need to be realistic about what you can afford. Lastly, embrace how you're feeling. If you're stressed, tackle it head on and overcome it rather than procrastinate.

***www.baronycastle.com***



[Below] Light floods into the newly refurbished Elibank Suite through floor-to-ceiling windows



[Below] The light and airy marquee opens up a world of styling possibilities



## TRICIA SUTHERLAND

Events co-ordinator, Duntarvie Castle, Broxburn

**How did you get started in this role?** I held my wedding here just as Duntarvie was being launched as a venue. The owners were so impressed with what I did with the place that they offered me a job! It has been so helpful to have experienced the castle as a client.

**What surprises you?** People's imagination! We are a blank canvas and I'm always blown away by what couples can achieve here. I get inspired by the unusual, personal touches and seeing how the space is adapted to each couple. I love hearing their story and seeing how that translates to their big day.

**Any memorable weddings?** One favourite was festival-themed, complete with a well-known DJ who was a friend of the family. They had food trucks – the fish and chips were out of this world! We have some crackers coming up this year too, ranging from pagan ceremonies to Mela-influenced days.

**What made you pick Duntarvie for your wedding?** We wanted somewhere we could really make our own. We have a large family and a whole host of friends, so having space for over 200 people was essential. Our focus was great food – being able to bring in our chosen caterers was a big plus. Our bar suppliers created signature cocktails, we brought in a proper pizza oven for the evening, and we had a killer band that kept us all on the dancefloor.

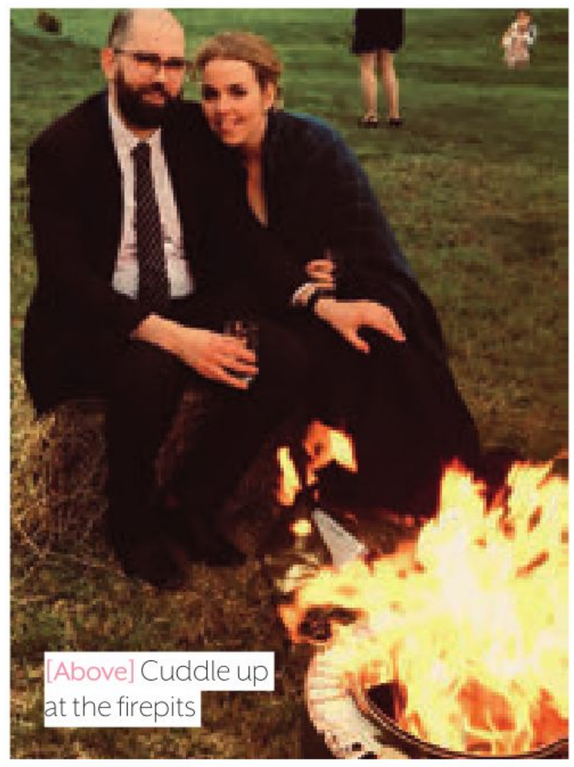
**How does the average wedding play out?** Some couples get married off-site and then arrive for the reception, and others will spend all day with us. We've had some requests for outdoor sunset ceremonies too. If it's an all-day affair, we normally recommend a 1pm service with a 4pm sit-down. This gives the couple time to take pictures, mingle, get through the speeches and cut the cake before any evening guests arrive.

**What do guests enjoy most?** The best weddings are always the ones where people mix and new friendships are made. We have created spaces to facilitate this. Our indoor/outdoor area brings people together, not only on the dancefloor but also around our firepits. It's lovely to coorie in as the night goes on and have a chat.

**Most unusual request?** Our weddings tend to lean more towards the quirky, due to the nature of what we do. The circus and carnival themes probably stand out as being the most different. Animals are popular too – we always welcome furry friends at Duntarvie.

**Anything you've been particularly proud of doing in your time at the venue?** Introducing the new summerhouse-style marquee has meant that we can offer dates all year round in a comfortable setting. Just seeing Duntarvie develop has been exciting. All events held here fund the ongoing restoration project, which aims to bring our beautiful castle back to life. We can't wait to eventually host our first ceremony in the Great Hall.

***www.duntarviecastle.com***



[Above] Cuddle up at the firepits




**[Above]** Bringing in your own catering is encouraged at Duntarvie, so get creative! **[Below]** Picturesque scenery, wooden thrones and your love beside you – what more could you want?



**Photo:** momentsbyalexandra.zenfolio.com

"I HELD MY WEDDING HERE WHEN DUNTARVIE WAS JUST STARTING AS A VENUE. THE OWNERS WERE SO IMPRESSED WITH WHAT I DID, THEY OFFERED ME A JOB!"



## RACHEL MUIR

Event manager, Dalswinton Estate Weddings, Dumfriesshire



Photo: duncanirelandphotography.com

"ONE COUPLE WANTED TO HOLD THEIR CEREMONY ON THE ISLAND IN DALSWINTON LOCH. MANY HOURS WERE SPENT ON THE LOGISTICS, BUT THE SPECTACULAR SETTING MADE IT WELL WORTH IT"





Photo: duncanirelandphotography.com

**Tell us about your job** This is my second season at Dalswinton, where we hold a maximum of 35 weddings per year. Keeping to this limit allows us to provide exceptional service, ensuring each day is completely unique.

**Talk us through an average day at work** You'll normally find me meeting newly engaged couples and showing them around our beautiful venue in the grounds of the Dumfriesshire estate. I'll be chatting to clients who have already booked too, planning their day and figuring out how we can accommodate their ideas.

**Roughly how long will you work with the average couple?** From as little as six months all the way up to two years or more. Some people prefer to keep in touch regularly, while others are more independent. I am happy with either approach, but I'll be there for you from the very beginning until your wedding day, and I am always available to answer any questions.

**What's the most memorable wedding you've seen?** One couple wanted to hold their ceremony beneath the tower on the island in the middle of Dalswinton Loch. Many hours were spent working out the logistics, transporting 200 chairs, guiding guests and planning a special entrance for the bride. The spectacular setting made it well worth it.

**Have you seen any great entertainment?** Music is always a highlight for me, and I love ceilidh bands. A dancing saxophone player and surprise pipe band were fun, but my favourite has to be the singing waiters. They got right into serving food and drinks to the guests for about two hours before their true talents were revealed!

**How can couples make the most of their co-ordinator?** I feel you should always be able to ask the co-ordinator what they think works best. We know what will look fantastic in our own venue. Most people haven't planned a wedding before, so I like to make the whole experience as easy as possible for them.

**What should a couple be asking the co-ordinator at the first meeting?** I would ask what they admire about their own venue. Dalswinton is outstandingly beautiful and you are completely immersed in the place with your guests – that is why I adore it.

**A last piece of advice?** Remember what a wedding is all about – loving someone so much you want to spend the rest of your lives together. You have built this day of celebrations with your friends and family from the bottom up. Enjoy every moment.

***www.dalswintonestateweddings.co.uk*** ♥

**[Top]** Dalswinton Estate Weddings' grounds are so idyllic. This little bridge is couple-portrait heaven **[Above left]** The quaint red Barony Church is two minutes' drive from the marquee in the estate's walled garden and can seat 150 **[Above]** The venue shines brightly in the autumn **[Bottom]** The island on the loch, where one lucky couple staged their breathtaking ceremony. The weddings team are open to any suggestions, so don't hold back



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- Experienced events team and dedicated Wedding-Coordinator

Packages available from £2,520

For more information, call 01738 583771

**www.leonardo-hotels.com**

# Castle Menzies



**This stunning castle is 16th Century, with the most recent additions in 1840. Weddings can be held in our Georgian Drawing room, Victorian Ballroom or 16th Century kitchen as well as our walled garden with outstanding views of Strathtay. With its spectacular scenery and stunning interiors, the 16th Century Castle Menzies offers a beautiful backdrop for your special day.**

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**01887 820 982 www.menzies.org**

Atholl
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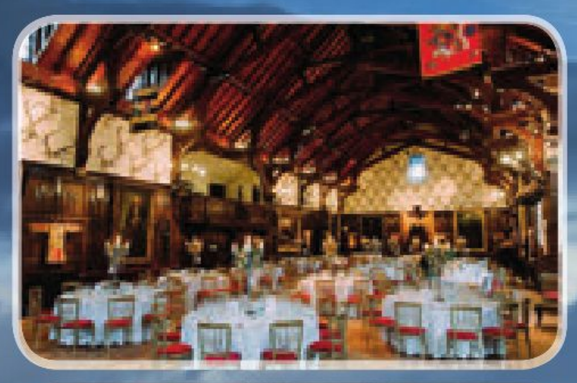
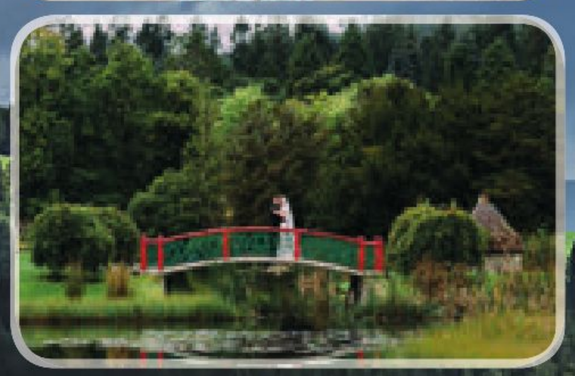
Blair Castle

# Blair Castle

## *A sensational setting for your day*







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- **Grand Ballroom for larger parties**
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- **Tailored menus and drinks packages to suit all tastes and budgets**
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***To discuss your special day please contact Jackie our Wedding and Events co-ordinator on 01796 481207, jackies@blair-castle.co.uk or visit our website www.blair-castle.co.uk***

# CENTRAL

STIRLINGSHIRE | FIFE | ANGUS | PERTHSHIRE



## *Upcoming events*

MARCH

8th Wedding showcase, Balbirnie House, 12pm-4pm, ***balbirnie.co.uk***

15th Spring wedding show, Fingask Castle, 11am-3pm, ***www.fingaskcastle.co.uk***

22nd Wedding fair, DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh Queensferry Crossing, 12pm-4pm, ***www.doubletree-queensferry.co.uk***

APRIL

5th Wedding open day, Fairmont St Andrews, 12pm-4pm, ***www.standrewsbay.com***

12th WedFest, Cambo House, 1pm-4pm, ***www.camboestate.com***

26th Sustainable wedding fair, The Ecology Centre, 10am-12pm, ***www.theecologycentre.org***



Photo: ellis-gibsonphotography.com



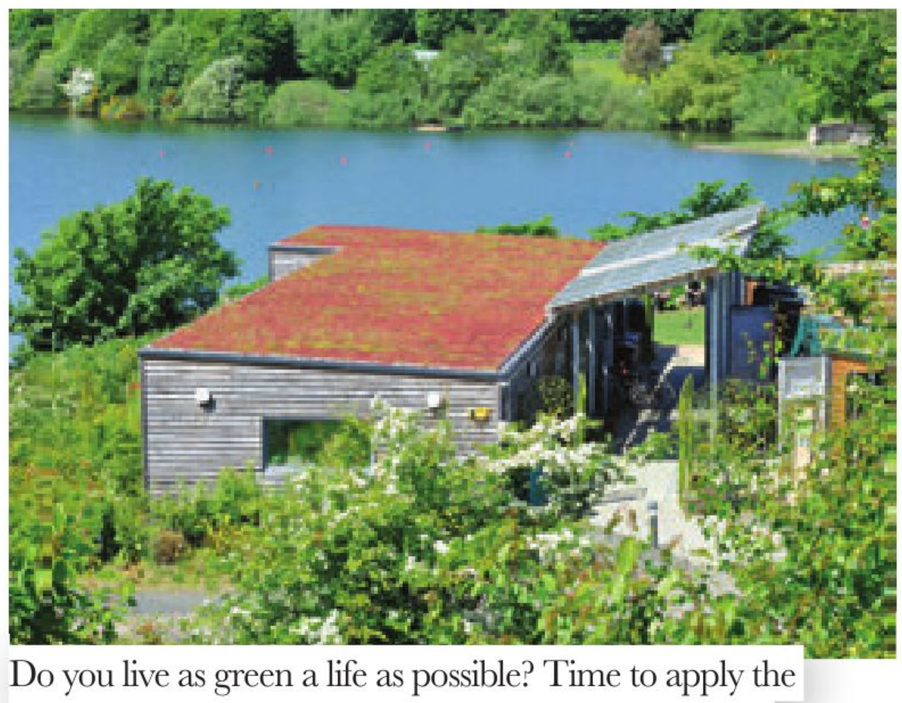
## CHILD'S PLAY

Is your w-day guest list currently reading like a class register? If you've got hordes of young 'uns to keep entertained, consider hosting celebrations at the iconic **Crieff Hydro**, which has just opened a brand-new £250,000 Adventure Park, complete with zipline, climbing wall and toddler's play park. Admission costs £9.50 for children between the ages of 2 and 12, and should they get peckish from all the action, there's even an on-site eatery serving up hearty grub. It might be designed for kids, but we're sharpening our elbows ready to push to the front of the queue. Move! ***www.crieffhydro.com***



## CHOOSE **FIFE**

The peerless **Balbirnie House** was recently named the world's 'Best Destination Wedding Hotel', and has won the coveted 'Scottish Wedding Venue of the Year' at the Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards an incredible *thirteen* times. Now, to celebrate this monumental achievement, Balbirnie is offering Fife residents the chance to get hitched with 70 of their loved ones for the special price of £4,336, about £2,500 cheaper than usual. Interested? Get on it – only a select few dates are available. Go, go, go! ***balbirnie.co.uk***



Do you live as green a life as possible? Time to apply the same values to your big day. **The Ecology Centre** in Kinghorn has announced that it will be hosting Fife's first eco-friendly wedding fair on 26th April, from 10am-12pm. The venue, which boasts its own impressive eco credentials, will be bringing together a range of local suppliers who specialise in sustainable practice so that the road to 'I do' can be as guilt-free as possible. ***www.theecologycentre.org***



Photo: brucemackenziephotography.squarespace.com

## LIFE'S A BEACH

Our warmest congratulations to **Cambo House**, which was shortlisted in the 'Best Coastal Venue' category at the UK Wedding Awards earlier this year, one of only three Scottish venues to be included in the nominations. Although Cambo unfortunately wasn't victorious on the night, we were nevertheless super-proud to see this fab venue flying the flag for our bonnie wee nation. And who knows – there's always next year! ***www.camboestate.com***



# *We married at*

## DOUBLETREE BY HILTON EDINBURGH QUEENSFERRY CROSSING

## *North Queensferry*





**'Marriage is all about compromise.'**

No doubt you've heard this sentiment echoed ad infinitum by mums, aunties and grannies ever since you got engaged. And if they're right, then it sounds like newlyweds Bethany and Gregor have already mastered the whole matrimony thing. "I was keen for a barn-style wedding, and I liked a lot of venues that would have been great for such a day," the bride recalls. "But Gregor wasn't quite so sure, and I really wanted to find somewhere that he loved too."

Their search for a place they'd both be happy with led them to DoubleTree by Hilton Edinburgh Queensferry Crossing, which perfectly married the couple's opposing visions. "When I walked in and saw the indoor trees I just felt like it was the right balance of rustic and classy, and seemed to fit what both Gregor and I were after," agreed Bethany. "I adored the balcony, too, and the views were stunning. I'm also really glad we picked a hotel, as quite a lot of our guests stayed over and we all had breakfast together."

Convenience was high on the pair's list of priorities, as some of their 102 day and 70 evening guests would be joining from as far afield as Shetland and Texas, which put them off several other less well-connected venues. Yet, the DoubleTree nevertheless suited the style of this couple's nuptials down to the ground: "I had a Pinterest board and was following lots of Instagram accounts, so I had plenty of ideas before it was time to plan,"

she explains. "Mind you, I think my vision definitely shifted a bit once we saw the hotel. But the overall feel was still very relaxed and fun, which is what I'd always intended it to be."

The pair held their ceremony at Culross Abbey, near the pier where Gregor had proposed, before the wedding party descended on the North Queensferry venue. With the drinks reception on the balcony and the meal in the Hope View Suite, their day was guaranteed to be a winner – and that was before the extraordinary lengths the staff were willing to go to. "I have coeliac disease so I need to eat gluten-free, but I didn't want to feel I was missing out on anything," says the bride. "Our co-ordinator, Chloe, informed the kitchen and they were very accommodating, providing a great selection for us to choose from."

And the bride's praise for Chloe doesn't stop there: "I'm an organised individual so it was very important to have somebody at the venue I could trust to do a good job. Chloe was exactly the kind of person I needed."

On the day itself, the couple felt undeniably special. "Although it has two function suites, the hotel only hosts one wedding at a time, so the space is exclusively yours, bar any other guests staying," she says.

Having had almost a year to reflect, does our bride have any words of advice for those hoping to follow in her footsteps? "Use the balcony!" she stresses. "One of my favourite parts of the day was arriving at the hotel, getting out of the car and seeing all our guests cheering and waving from the platform!"

***www.doubletree-queensferry.co.uk***

Photography by ***mcookphotography.co.uk*** ♥

## Bethany Rollo and Gregor McKay, 21st June 2019

Words by ***Zoë Boothby***

Photography by ***Mike Cook Photography***



"I FELT IT WAS THE RIGHT BALANCE OF RUSTIC AND CLASSY, AND SEEMED TO FIT WHAT BOTH GREGOR AND I WERE AFTER"

# CENTRAL *Venue finder*

STIRLINGSHIRE | FIFE | ANGUS | PERTHSHIRE




## ABERCAIRNY
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Abercairny is a secluded and exclusive new venue in the Strathearn Valley. At the heart of romantic gardens, parklands, and woods stands the magnificent Gothic Stables, which make a stunning backdrop to your wedding. Abercairny is an exclusive-hire venue that gives you the opportunity to personalise every aspect of your day.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 120 **night** 150
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 200 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 8 (in off-site accommodation)
**Price per head from** n/a
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** tailored to suit your wishes

**Tel: 01764 652706, www.abercairny.com**



## BEST WESTERN SCORES HOTEL
ST ANDREWS

With panoramic views across West Sands and St Andrews Bay, Best Western Scores Hotel is perfectly placed for your special day. Your wedding will be one of the biggest events of your life, and the experienced team at the Best Western Scores Hotel is committed to getting every detail just right. Enquiries to events@scoreshotel.co.uk.

**Capacity min** 4 **max day** 140 **night** 200
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 80 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 72
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** varied, including venue hire and accommodation

**Tel: 01334 472451, www.bw-scoreshotel.co.uk**



## BLAIR CASTLE
PITLOCHRY

Located in the stunning grounds of Atholl Estates, Perthshire, Blair Castle is a dream fairytale wedding destination for your big day. From the opulent rooms, romantic interiors and regal decor inside, through to the spectacular gardens complete with picture-perfect backdrops surrounding the castle, it caters to both indoor and outdoor weddings for up to 220 guests.

**Capacity min** 4 **max day** 220 **night** 300
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 150 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 40
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔ (from October to March)
**Package offers** all weddings bespoke

**Tel: 01796 481207, www.blair-castle.co.uk**

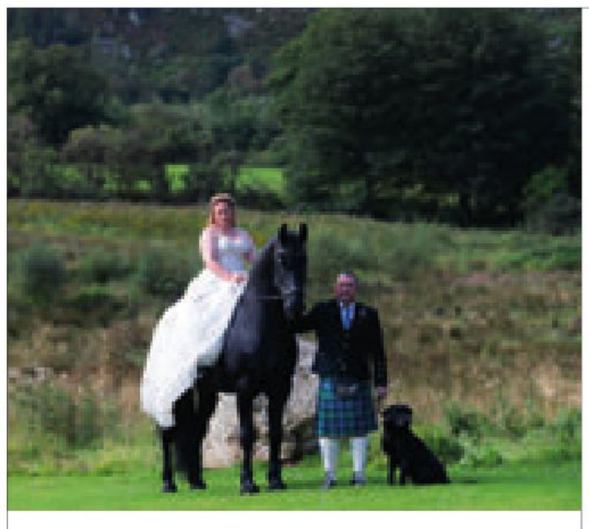


## CAMBO HOUSE
ST ANDREWS

Nestled amongst grassy parkland, Cambo House is protected from the elements by enchanting woodlands leading down to a beautiful beach. From elegant Victorian entertaining rooms to the rustic party woodland, Cambo has a vast range of spaces to choose from. An exquisite venue to bring people together for an unforgettable wedding experience.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 120 **night** 150
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 200 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 45+
**Price per head from** £45
**Self-catered option** ✔ (finger food only)
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** all packages individually tailored

**Tel: 01333 450054, www.camboestate.com**



## CARDNEY STEADING EVENTS
DUNKELD

Cardney Steading is a family-run, exclusive-use, barn-style venue. Lochside, woodland and barn ceremony areas are available, with stunning views of the surrounding Highland Perthshire scenery. The barns are full of character with original features but with plenty of scope to let your creative imagination run wild – you can even bring your dog or horse.

**Capacity min** 20 **max day** 180 **night** 250
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 300 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 18
**Price per head from** n/a
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** all weddings bespoke

**Tel: 07764 168897, www.cardneyestate.co.uk**



## CASTLE MENZIES
WEEM

Enjoy your wedding party at this traditional 16th-century castle filled with Scottish history. Situated in the village of Weem, Castle Menzies was the seat of the Chiefs of Clan Menzies for over 400 years. Hosting a maximum of only 15 weddings a year gives the team time and space to help make your day as romantic, memorable and as unique as you would wish.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 110 **night** 150
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 100 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** n/a
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** please enquire for more information

**Tel: 01887 820982, www.castlemenzies.org/weddings**

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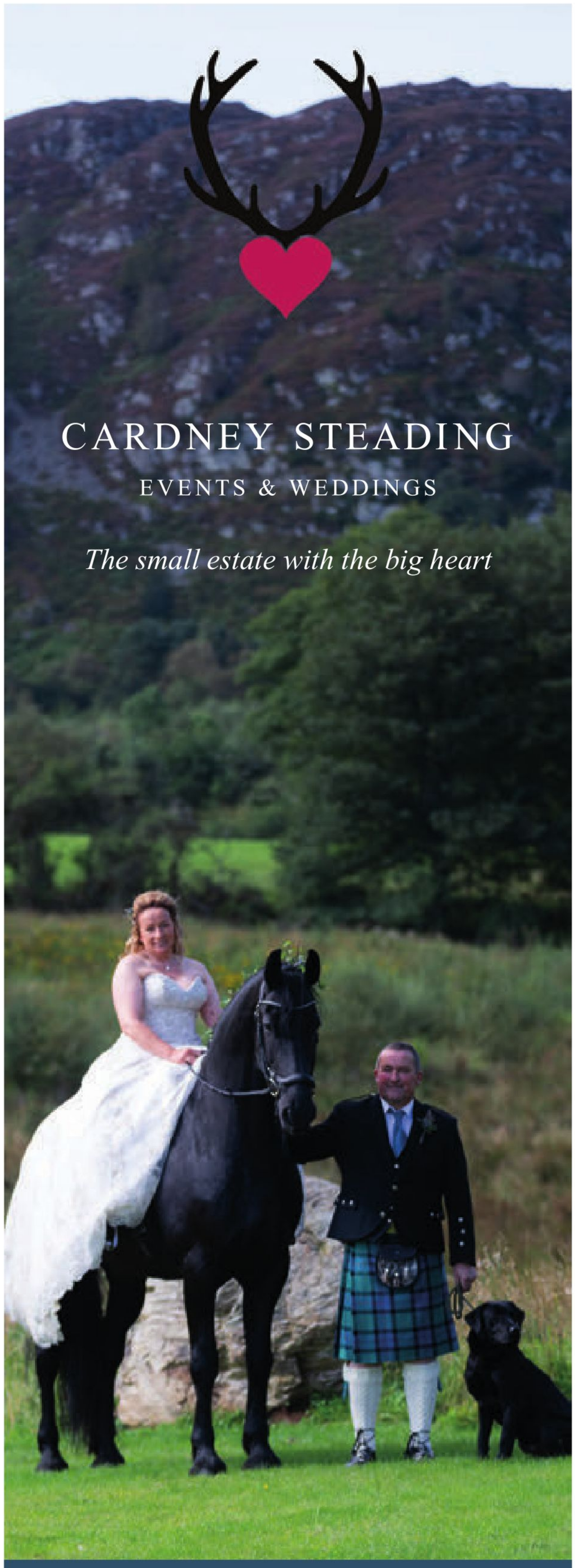


www.cardneyestate.co.uk

Image: **Crieff Photography**

CRIEFF HYDRO

01764 651 680 | weddings@crieffhydro.com | crieffhydro.com/weddings



# Murthly
ESTATE





Romantic, 15th-century castle near Dunkeld, hidden amidst some of the country's tallest trees. Richly decorated chapel with exquisite frescoes.

For receptions, parties have the use of the ballroom and music room, while larger groups can hire a marquee in the 17th-century walled garden.

Murthly Castle is a private family home, making this venue exclusively yours.

**Murthly Castle, Perthshire**
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**Email: weddings@murthly-estate.com**
**www.murthly-estate.com**



Image: pexel.com



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# SCONE PALACE

Perfectly located in the heart of the picturesque Perthshire countryside, Scone Palace has a unique place in Scottish history and is today, an incredibly special venue for the most important occasion of your lives.

The wonderful woodland gardens offer a picture perfect backdrop for memorable wedding photographs and beautifully romantic, guest accommodation is available in the Balvaird Wing of the Palace.

Scone Palace, Perth PH2 6BD
***t:*** +44 (**0)1738 552300**
***e:*** heather@scone-palace.co.uk
**www.scone-palace.co.uk**



## CRIEFF HYDRO
PERTHSHIRE

For glamour and grandeur, Crieff Hydro meets all expectations, but it's the things you might not expect that really set it apart – like seriously good food, and lots of it! There's woodlands, mountains, an on-site spa for pre-wedding prep, Victorian gardens for photos, and Action Glen, the outdoor activity centre, for a little post-wedding hilarity.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 400 **night** 400
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 400
**Price per head from** £72
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** 15% off Sunday weddings; winter wedding package from £3,400 (including £500 bar tab)

**Tel: 01764 651680, www.crieffhydro.com/love**



## DOUBLETREE BY HILTON EDINBURGH QUEENSFERRY CROSSING
NORTH QUEENSFERRY

With spectacular views over the Forth and its iconic bridges, it's hard to imagine a more stunning setting for your special day. The beautiful Hope View suite has a fabulous private terrace, with captivating views of the Queensferry Crossing, whilst The Caledonian offers panoramic vistas of all three bridges, providing the perfect backdrop for your photographs.

**Capacity min** 10 **max day** 150 **night** 180
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 294
**Price per head from** £60
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** winter wedding package from £3,499

**Tel: 01383 410000, www.doubletree-queensferry.co.uk**



## FAIRMONT ST ANDREWS
ST ANDREWS

Set on a majestic coastal landscape, Fairmont St Andrews encompasses the finest in local culture with luxury and elegance. With panoramic views over St Andrews Bay and a striking sweeping staircase in a magnificent atrium, it is the perfect location for creating a glamorous ambience for your wedding party, be it an intimate gathering or a grand affair.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 400 **night** 400
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 600 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 435
**Price per head from** £85
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** a bespoke service tailored to any budget

**Tel: 01334 837000, www.standrewsbay.com**



## FINGASK CASTLE
PERTHSHIRE

*Alice in Wonderland* is often the first thought visitors have when they lay eyes on Fingask Castle. Couples are drawn by its amazing facilities: the ancient, traditionally furnished castle; the flexible, modern pavilion; and accommodation for over 70 people within an easy stroll of this extraordinary place. Smaller weddings pitch up in the castle, with larger ones in the castle and pavilion.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 300 **night** 300
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 300 **provided** ✔
**Sleeps** 70
**Price per head from** n/a
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** are available, including off-peak and midweek deals

**Tel: 01821 670777, www.fingaskcastle.co.uk**



## GLAMIS HOUSE
FORFAR

Glamis House is set within the stunning Angus countryside, as part of the wider estate of the historic Glamis Castle, the childhood home of HM The Queen Mother. Whatever the season, the private grounds provide the ideal setting for an intimate wedding celebration that offers privacy, as well as flexibility in how you tailor the available space to your requirements.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 12 **night** 25
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 50 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 12
**Price per head from** £95
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** starting from £10,200 for exclusive use for 50 day guests

**Tel: 01307 840393, www.glamis-castle.co.uk/glamis-house**



## GLENSKIRLIE CASTLE
BANKNOCK

Scotland's premier wedding venue has impressive, commanding architecture, sumptuous, sprawling lawns and four-poster suites fit for royalty, as well as a great reputation for fine dining. Exchange your vows in the stunning contemporary castle. Glenskirlie has now introduced fantastically affordable wedding packages.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 126 **night** 170
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 30
**Price per head from** £42.99
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** from £3,699

**Tel: 01324 840201, www.glenskirliehouse.com**

# Samuel Solley Hotels

# Weddings

at
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Dunfermline



## Romantic...

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E-mail: info@pitbauchlie.com
www.pitbauchlie.com

at
Best Western Balgeddie House Hotel
Glenrothes



## Beautiful...

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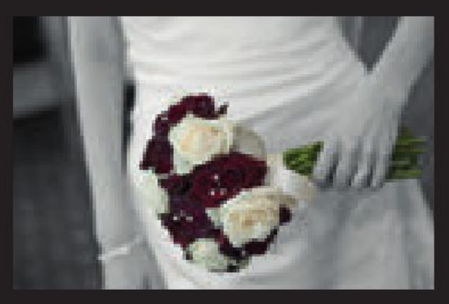
E-mail: info@balgeddiehouse.com
www.balgeddiehouse.com

at
Best Western Kings Manor Hotel
Edinburgh



## Special...

**Best Western Kings Manor Hotel**
100 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH15 2NP
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E-mail: info@kingsmanor.com
www.kingsmanor.com

16 68

# CAMBO

COUNTRY HOUSE & ESTATE

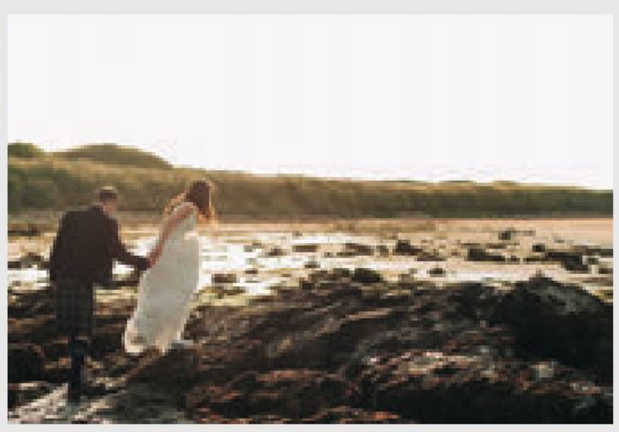
Cambo House is an excellent choice to bring people together for an unforgettable wedding experience. From the elegant Victorian entertaining rooms to the rustic Tattie barn and magical Party Woodland, every moment of your wedding weekend will be tailor-made to you. The house is nestled amongst grassy parkland and protected from the elements on all sides by enchanting woodlands that lead down to one of the most stunning beaches in Fife. With 18 bedrooms within the house and three farm cottages at your disposal, there is more than enough accommodation to keep your nearest and dearest close.

Contact the Wedding team at
weddings@camboestate.com to find out more!

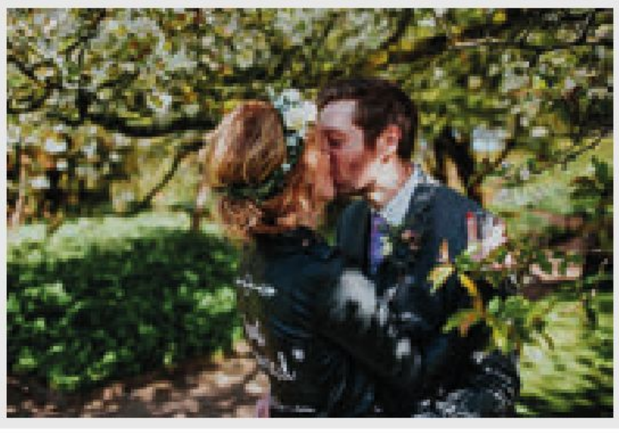
**www.camboestate.com**
**Tel: 01333 450054**

Kingsbarns, St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 8QD













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*- 5th April 2020 -*

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***Terms and conditions apply**

Fairmont
ST ANDREWS

**01334 837000**
**sab.weddings@Fairmont.com**



## HILL OF TARVIT MANSION

CUPAR

Hill of Tarvit Mansion, two miles from Cupar, is an elegant Edwardian country house. Exchange your vows in the Great Hall surrounded by rich wood panelling. From here, wander out of the French windows onto the terrace and enjoy uninterrupted views of the estate. There is also excellent self-catering accommodation for the bridal party available on the estate.

**Capacity** min n/a max day 70 night 70
**Marquee** ✔ capacity 300 provided ✘
**Sleeps** 18
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** on enquiry

**Tel: 01334 653127, www.nts.org.uk/weddings**



## HUNTINGTOWER HOTEL

PERTH

One of Perth's top wedding venues, Huntingtower Hotel is a beautiful country house hotel nestled in picturesque countryside. This hotel offers not only an abundance of traditional Scottish character, but provides the dream backdrop for your special day. All-inclusive packages for your wedding start from just £2,520.

**Capacity** min n/a max day 160 night 200
**Marquee** ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
**Sleeps** 76
**Price per head from** £59
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** all-inclusive package offers from £2,520

**Tel: 01738 583771, www.huntingtowerhotel.co.uk**



## MURTHLY ESTATE

PERTHSHIRE

Holding only 12 weddings a year, Murthly Estate is probably the most exclusive venue in Scotland. The stunning chapel, castle reception rooms and delightful walled garden can host religious, humanist and civil weddings. An open-minded approach allows you to feel that Murthly is your own home. It even allows access two days ahead of the wedding to ensure a relaxed build-up.

**Capacity** min n/a max day 220 night 250
**Marquee** ✔ capacity n/a provided ✘
**Sleeps** n/a
**Price per head from** £70
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** packages start from around £1,600

**Tel: 01738 630666, www.murthly-estate.com**



## OLD COURSE HOTEL, GOLF RESORT & SPA

ST ANDREWS

St Andrews is the ultimate romantic destination. The Old Course Hotel offers a truly iconic setting overlooking Swilcan Bridge and West Sands Beach. Its dedicated planners will help you create your perfect wedding day against this legendary backdrop, whether that's a fairytale event for hundreds or an intimate vow exchange for just your closest friends.

**Capacity** min 10 max day 180 night 250
**Marquee** ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
**Sleeps** 288
**Price per head from** £115
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** are available

**Tel: 01334 468181, www.oldcoursehotelweddings.co.uk**



## PIPERDAM LEISURE RESORT

DUNDEE

Step into over 650 acres of idyllic surroundings and discover Piperdam Leisure Resort, with its stunning lochside views. A unique Scottish experience awaits as the wedding team share with you their wealth of experience, ensuring that the official celebration of your love and commitment will be all that you dreamed of.

**Capacity** min n/a max day 150 night 220
**Marquee** ✔ capacity n/a provided ✘
**Sleeps** 600
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** packages start from £3,495

**Tel: 01382 585000, www.piperdam.com**



## PITBAUCHLIE HOUSE HOTEL

DUNFERMLINE

Enjoy canapés and bubbly with your guests in Pitbauchlie House Hotel's romantic gardens, while the Elgin Suite is perfect for your wedding breakfast and reception. Bespoke packages are available and can be tailored to suit your individual requirements. On top of all this, the experienced team is also on hand to ensure that you have the wedding day of your dreams.

**Capacity** min n/a max day 120 night 150
**Marquee** ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
**Sleeps** 90
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** all packages bespoke

**Tel: 01383 722282, www.pitbauchlie.com**



## RUFFLETS ST ANDREWS

ST ANDREWS

In an enviable location on the outskirts of St Andrews, set amid 10 acres of beautiful gardens, Rufflets provides a gorgeous backdrop for special photographs of your big day. The Garden Suite, an impressive, purpose-built wedding space, can accommodate up to 150 guests exclusively for a ceremony, reception and wedding banquet.

Capacity min 2 max day 156 night 170
Marquee ✗ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 65
Price per head from £70
Self-catered option ✗
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers special late-availability offers for summer 2020

**Tel: 01334 472594, www.rufflets.co.uk**



## SALUTATION HOTEL

PERTH

Reputed to be one of the oldest hotels in Scotland, the Salutation has been welcoming guests through its doors since 1699. It is the perfect venue for a traditional wedding, providing the best Scottish hospitality. Located in the 'Fair City of Perth', it is ideally situated for friends and family to come together, with transport links to Scotland's major cities and airports.

Capacity min 2 max day 230 night 280
Marquee ✗ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 161
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✗
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers various seasonal packages

**Tel: 01738 630066, www.strathmorehotels.com**



## SCONE PALACE

PERTHSHIRE

Situated two miles north of Perth, the splendour of Scone Palace is the perfect venue for your big day. Enjoy exclusive use of the elegant State Rooms, or a marquee in the palace grounds – a contemporary and relaxed option. 100 acres of stunning woodland gardens offer a picturesque backdrop for your wedding photographs. Guest accommodation is available.

Capacity min 40 max day 110 night 230
Marquee ✔ capacity 500 provided ✗
Sleeps 6
Price per head from £76
Self-catered option ✗
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers individually tailored

**Tel: 01738 552300, www.scone-palace.co.uk**




Situated in the heart of Perth, ancient capital of Scotland, the Salutation Hotel offers a mix of tradition and modernity, making it the ideal wedding venue.

• Catering for 2-250 guests • Civil Marriage approval

Book your wedding for more than 50 guests at your meal and receive an upgrade to our 4-Poster Bridal Suite, Top Table flowers, a Piper and 1st Anniversary Dinner with a bottle of wine all with our compliments.



STRATHMORE HOTELS

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**events@oldcoursehotel.co.uk**

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# EDINBURGH

## EDINBURGH | LOTHIANS AND BORDERS



### *Upcoming events*

MARCH

1st Wedding fair, InterContinental Edinburgh The George, 12pm-4pm, ***ihg.com***

1st Wedding fair, Norton House Hotel, 12pm-3pm, ***www.handpickedhotels.co.uk***

19th Wedding showcase evening, Norton House Hotel, 6pm-9pm, ***www.handpickedhotels.co.uk***

29th Open day, Village Hotel Edinburgh, 11am-3pm, ***www.village-hotels.co.uk***

29th Wedding fair, Barony Castle Hotel, 12pm-3.30pm, ***www.baronycastle.com***

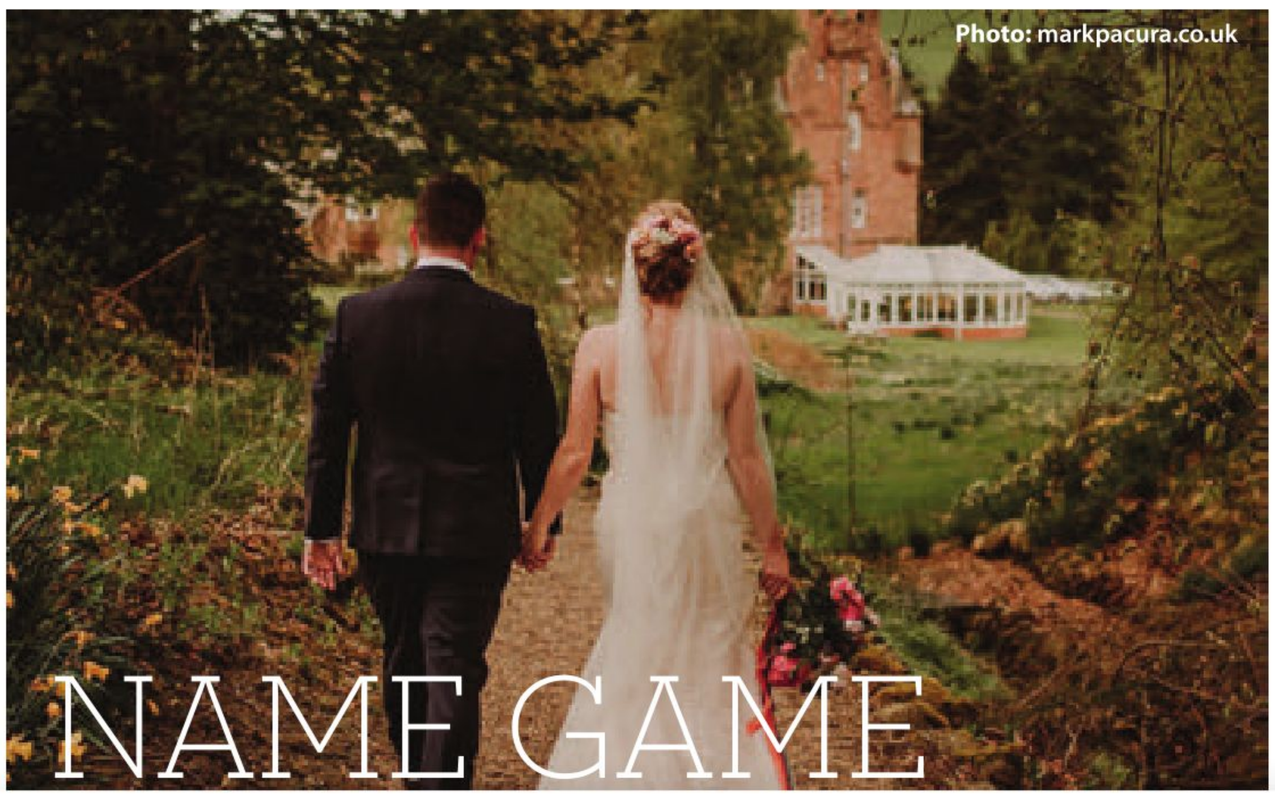
29th Wedding open day, The Biscuit Factory, 12pm-5pm, ***biscuitfactory.co.uk***

APRIL

5th Open day, Leonardo Hotel Edinburgh Murrayfield, 1pm-4pm, ***www.leonardo-hotels.com***

19th Wedding fair, Kingsfield Barn, 11am-3pm, ***kingsfieldgolfandleisure.co.uk***

19th Wedding open day, Norton House Hotel, by appointment only, 9.30am-4pm, ***www.handpickedhotels.co.uk***




## NAME GAME

What's in a name? Plenty, as it turns out. The re-branded **Cringletie,** formerly Cringletie House, has simplified and streamlined its identity but, much like Prince or Madonna, that doesn't make it any less fit for (pop) royalty. The Sutherland Restaurant, for a start, was crowned 'Hotel Dining Experience of the Year' at 2019's Hotel Awards, plus has two AA Rosettes in the bag. Elsewhere, there are 13 rooms in the main house, as well as a cottage, sleeping up to 30 guests. For you and your love, there are a selection of suites, including our favourite, the Selkirk, a decadent space, decorated in plush sapphire tones. Its bathroom is enormous (you could practically hold your ceremony in there), with a jacuzzi whirlpool bath and built-in TV, and the lounge is pretty generous too, with acres of space for bridal preparations if you book the suite the night before. Outside, there's also a picturesque walled garden – exceptional photos, coming right up. ***www.cringletie.com***




Will barns ever wane in popularity? Don't count on it happening any time soon, especially when they are as vibrant and versatile as **Kingsfield**. The West Lothian dry-hire venue is new to the scene, and kicking off its first season with a wedding fair on Sunday 19th April from 11am-3pm. Set on a working farm, Kingsfield Barn is a blank canvas in every sense, with space to accommodate up to a whopping 400 guests. It won't just be left to you and your imagination though – you'll meet a selection of local suppliers on the day too. ***kingsfieldgolfandleisure.co.uk***




Who doesn't love a secret garden? Molly and Jamie Robinson, above, were the first to take advantage of **Ednam House Hotel's** recently developed hideaway in its grounds. "The Secret Garden was simply lovely, giving us a peaceful corner in which to hold our private ceremony, surrounded by our nearest and dearest," says the bride. "Walking down the river afterwards for photographs was just heavenly. It's a gorgeous venue." Where do we sign? ***www.ednamhouse.com***



We may be inching ever closer to spring, but that doesn't mean you're off the hook with your winter wedding plans. Trust **Aikwood Tower** and its dedicated package, developed in partnership with the talented venue stylists and florists at nearby Get Knotted. The deal can be tailored for 40, 50 or 60 guests, costing from £8,500, and includes tables, chairs and linens, a seasonal feast, a bridal bouquet, lighting and more. Bargain! ***www.aikwoodtower.com*** →


Photo: kkotkiewicz.co.uk

Noticing a growing trend for intimate nuptials, **Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club** got straight to work, and has now launched its Wee Winter Weddings package. "Dalmahoy is well known for larger, quintessentially Scottish fairytale celebrations," notes senior co-ordinator Hannah Wood. "But more and more people are looking to organise quieter weddings, which seem to be more popular in winter, due to our roaring fireplaces and historic charm. The package will be helpful for any couple planning a cosier, informal day." From £4,495, you can invite up to 50 guests to enjoy festive-themed canapés, a flambeaux torch welcome and preferential room rates. ***www.dalmahoy.co.uk***


Photo: kkotkiewicz.co.uk

# Small *packages*

Intrigued by the **Village Hotel Edinburgh**? Now's your opportunity to scope it out as a wedding venue. The fresh, contemporary venue, based around the corner from the verdant Royal Botanic Garden and a stone's throw away from Edinburgh Zoo, is hosting its open day on Sunday 29th March from 11am-3pm, where you'll be treated to a glass of fizz, canapés and a goody bag on arrival, before meeting up with the hotel's recommended suppliers and dedicated co-ordinators. With packages from just £2,750, we expect this will be a busy event, so make sure you give them a ring ahead of time to reserve your space.
***www.village-hotels.co.uk***





Diamonds are a girl's best friend – and so is **Winton Castle,** which lately welcomed East Lothian jeweller Clare Blatherwick for a special afternoon tea, and the first of its inaugural series of talks on jewellery. "I'm delighted to say that 'Diamonds & Darjeeling' was a roaring success, with 40 guests filling Winton's drawing room," says Fay Hardwick, who oversaw the event. "Clare was an absolutely fantastic speaker, with her talk covering the stories of Evalyn Walsh McLean, who owned the Hope Diamond and the Star of the East Diamond, Elizabeth Taylor and Madeleine Albright, Secretary of State under President Clinton, who used her brooches to pass messages during political meetings." How fascinating! Being such a gem itself, it makes sense for Winton to explore the wonderful world of fine jewellery, which goes hand in hand (literally) with big days. We can't wait for the next glittering event!
***www.wintoncastle.co.uk***



# TROPHY LIFE

**The Merchants' Hall** has many boast-worthy strings to its bow, (a staggering, A-listed building with capacity for up to 150 of your friends and family and superlative views of the city immediately spring to mind) but, more than these, it's the people that make the place, and we're thrilled to hear that Erin Gardiner is up for 'Wedding Co-ordinator of the Year' at the Scottish Wedding Awards. We wish her all the luck in the world!
***www.mcoe.org.uk***


Photo: ianmitchellphotography.com

# WEDDINGS AT
# Ingliston



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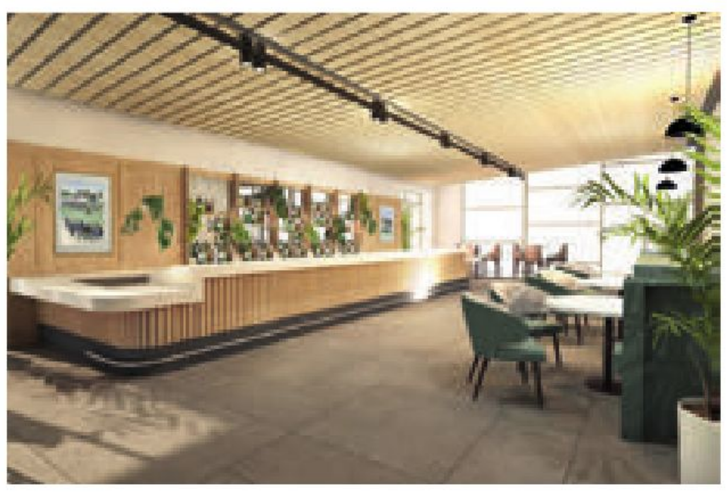



## THE PERFECT VENUE FOR THE PERFECT DAY

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# *We married at* INTERCONTINENTAL EDINBURGH THE GEORGE

## *Edinburgh*



Megan Jankowski and Jamie Maxwell, 6th September 2019

Words by ***Rosie Patrick***

Photography by ***Mike Cook Photography***

**"We weren't at all sure** what we were looking for at the start," admits Megan. (Hear that? That's the sound of a thousand brides and grooms breathing a collective sigh of relief: #relatable) "We flicked through magazines and went to wedding fairs, trying to find inspiration. Eventually, we worked out that we needed somewhere with easy access that would be able to cater for our numbers and have a stunning room to base our day in. We then visited five venues, all with different settings, and shortlisted two – one rural and one urban."

That urban option happened to be the InterContinental Edinburgh The George, a star of the capital's New Town, with a long and fascinating history and lavish, modern interiors. It was the latter that clinched it for the couple. "We fell in love with the hotel's King's Hall – it was the most breathtaking ballroom we'd ever seen," says the bride. "It blew us away. The George's central location was a major plus, as our guests were coming from far and wide to celebrate with us, and, being from Edinburgh, I'd always dreamed of getting married in the city. The service we received from the get-go was second to none, which only made our decision clearer."

With no specific date in mind, Megan and Jamie could be more flexible; they chose to get hitched on a Friday so they could spend the rest of the weekend partying and catching up with family and friends. It was quite the guest list, but the hotel took it in its stride: just over 100 guests travelled from Wales, Perth and Kinross, Inverness and West Lothian for the daytime celebrations, with another 50 joining them at night.

After a service at the Canongate Kirk, Jamie and Megan's nearest and dearest were bused along to the hotel for a welcome reception, complete with harpist and prosecco-pimping station. "The aim was to have a traditional, elegant





wedding," explains Megan. "We didn't have a theme as such, nor did we need to do much in terms of dressing the King's Hall – it was already so jaw-dropping. We only wanted to make the most of its features. We especially loved the spectacular chandelier, and the lighting scheme in general, which we were able to customise. The staff had the place looking unbelievable when we first entered as husband and wife."

**"WE DIDN'T NEED TO DO MUCH IN TERMS OF DRESSING THE KING'S HALL – IT WAS ALREADY SO JAW-DROPPING. IT LOOKED UNBELIEVABLE WHEN WE FIRST ENTERED AS HUSBAND AND WIFE"**

Speaking of which, the InterContinental team deserve a round of applause. "Senior wedding and special events planner Harriet Wood was so supportive as the wedding approached," Megan points out. "Jamie and I both work long hours, and arranging our big day at times felt almost like another job on top of that. The team went out of their way to ease our stress. Harriet contacted many of our suppliers to organise deliveries and logistics. When I was feeling anxious, she factored in extra meetings to run through everything. She wasn't afraid to put her ideas across either. She'd stay late to fit into our busy schedules, and sometimes she'd phone just to check in, which showed how much she cared. She alleviated all our concerns to the point that, when the wedding day finally arrived, we were shocked at how relaxed we felt. "

Another special mention goes to chef Jamie Turberfield. "We had the opportunity to come in and sample our favourite dishes and the wine list before we finalised our menu," says Megan. "Jamie bent over backwards, allowing us to select options from different menus, arranging for us to have a soup that wasn't on any menu at all, and introducing chips into our evening buffet, which was brilliant – the guests loved it. He delivered such a delicious three-course dinner for us."

The hotel's King's Hall package, covering everything from the red-carpet arrival and piper to the accommodation, also turned out to be invaluable. "We could personalise anything we wanted, but, honestly, there was very little we needed to do outwith the package," recalls the bride. "We took on our table plan and place settings ourselves, so they'd match our invitations, and the hotel laid these out for us on the day. We used the venue's candelabras and asked our florist to create garlands for some of them. Harriet let us drop off our props the week before, and took care of them for us. It was magical."

The bride and groom even got themselves a cheeky upgrade that made them feel like royalty. "On the wedding night, the staff managed to book us into a beautiful suite, which we'll never forget," Megan smiles. "They really did move mountains to give us the best day of our lives."

***www.ihg.com***

Photography by ***www.mcookphotography.co.uk*** ♥



# EDINBURGH *Venue finder*

EDINBURGH | LOTHIANS AND BORDERS



## AIKWOOD TOWER

NEAR SELKIRK

Totally private and 500 years old, Aikwood Tower is steeped in history and romance. It is a perfect marriage of ancient and modern – offering an intimate Scottish castle experience, country woodland surroundings, five-star luxury interiors and boutique accommodation that you and your guests will remember forever.

Capacity min 2 max day 60 night 60
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 10
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers see website for most up-to-date packages

Tel: 01750 700500, www.aikwoodtower.com



## ARCHERFIELD HOUSE

EAST LOTHIAN

At Archerfield, your wedding can be whatever you want it to be: there are endless options. The events team consider nothing too much trouble and are on hand to accompany you through your planning journey, offering as much or as little guidance as you need. Archerfield can design beautiful settings, both in the House for up to 70 people or at the Waterfront for 200 guests.

Capacity min 50 max day 200 night 200
Marquee ✔ capacity 200 provided ✘
Sleeps 136
Price per head from £120
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers special winter rate in the Waterfront at £105pp

Tel: 01620 897050, www.archerfieldhouse.com



## BARNBOUGLE CASTLE

SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

Barnbougle is a spectacular 13th-century castle located just seven miles from the city centre on the Dalmeny Estate, with sweeping coastal views over the Firth of Forth. New to the market, the castle is one of Edinburgh's hidden treasures, accommodating weddings of up to 140 within the castle itself or 450 in a marquee in the grounds.

Capacity min n/a max day 140 night 140
Marquee ✔ capacity 450 provided ✘
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £100
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers packages start from £100pp

Tel: 0131 357 9870, www.roseberyvenues.co.uk



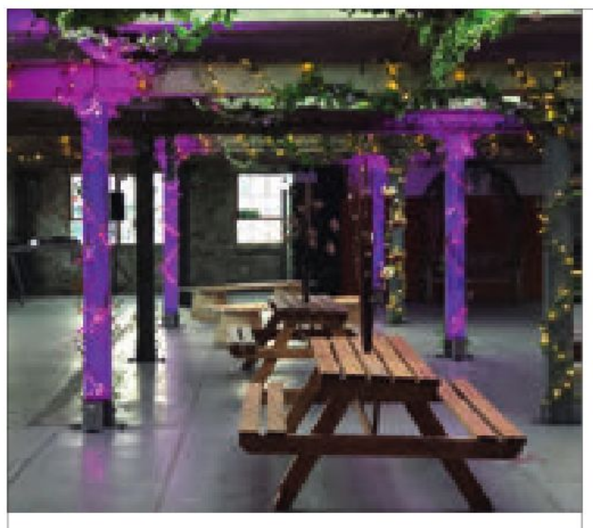
## BARONY CASTLE HOTEL

PEEBLES

From the minute you fall in love with Barony Castle, your wedding organiser will ensure every moment is perfect. Barony Castle has both unique character and flair. Whether it's an intimate gathering or full wedding party, the hotel's attention to detail will assure a dream wedding day, from ceremony to reception, so you and your guests can relax and celebrate.

Capacity min 4 max day 110 night 150
Marquee ✔ capacity 300 provided ✘
Sleeps 180
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all-inclusive and winter packages available

Tel: 01721 730395, www.baronycastle.com



## THE BISCUIT FACTORY (EDIN)

EDINBURGH

A creative and versatile space, The Biscuit Factory wants to give couples free rein over their big day. This blank-canvas, dry-hire venue has a number of options available: the light-filled upstairs space can accommodate up to 150; the industrial-chic downstairs area can carry up to 550; or there's the option to close nearby Bonnington Road Lane for a marquee celebration.

Capacity min n/a max day 150 night 550
Marquee ✔ capacity n/a provided ✘
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers available on request

Tel: 0131 629 1300, @biscuitfactoryedin




## BROXMOUTH PARK

DUNBAR

Broxmouth Park is a sophisticated, unique and luxurious country estate, surrounded by 150 acres of private parkland, loch and woodland, only 30 minutes from Edinburgh. Designed in 1775 for 3rd Duke of Roxburghe, the venue offers full exclusivity. Enjoy breathtaking views of swans gliding across the lake or catch a lucky glimpse of deer roaming amongst the trees.

Capacity min 80 max day 180 night 180
Marquee ✔ capacity 180 provided ✔
Sleeps 40
Price per head from £160
Self-catered option ✔ (Asian, Kosher and African)
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers off-peak all-inclusive package from £160pp

Tel: 01368 865846, www.broxmouth.com

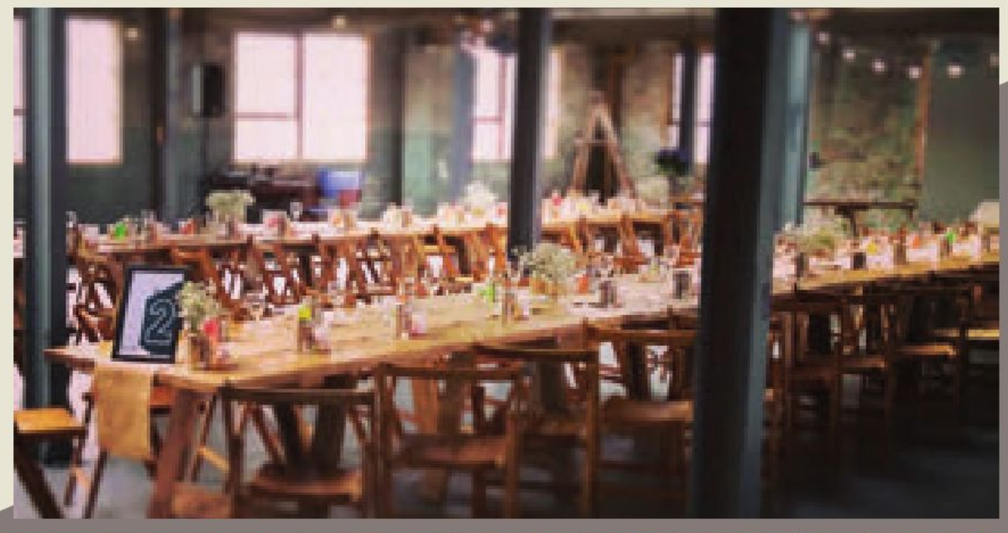
BARNBOUGLE CASTLE

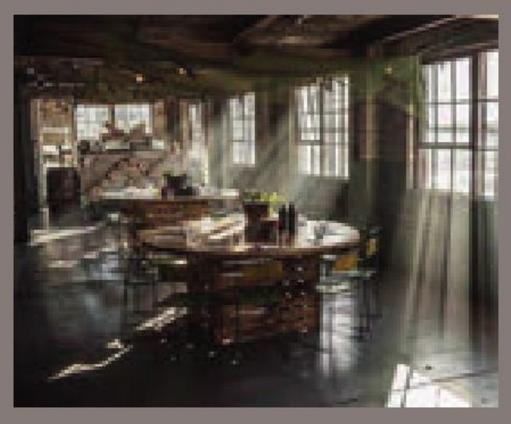



A hidden gem, just seven miles from the heart of Scotland's capital, this one-time beach house, family home, pirates' hideaway and scholarly retreat has opened its doors for the first time in almost a century.

Rosebery Estates | Dalmeny | South Queensferry
Edinburgh | EH30 9TQ
roseberyvenues.co.uk
events@roseberyestates.co.uk

THE BISCUIT FACTORY







*Your Big Day* *Your Own Way*

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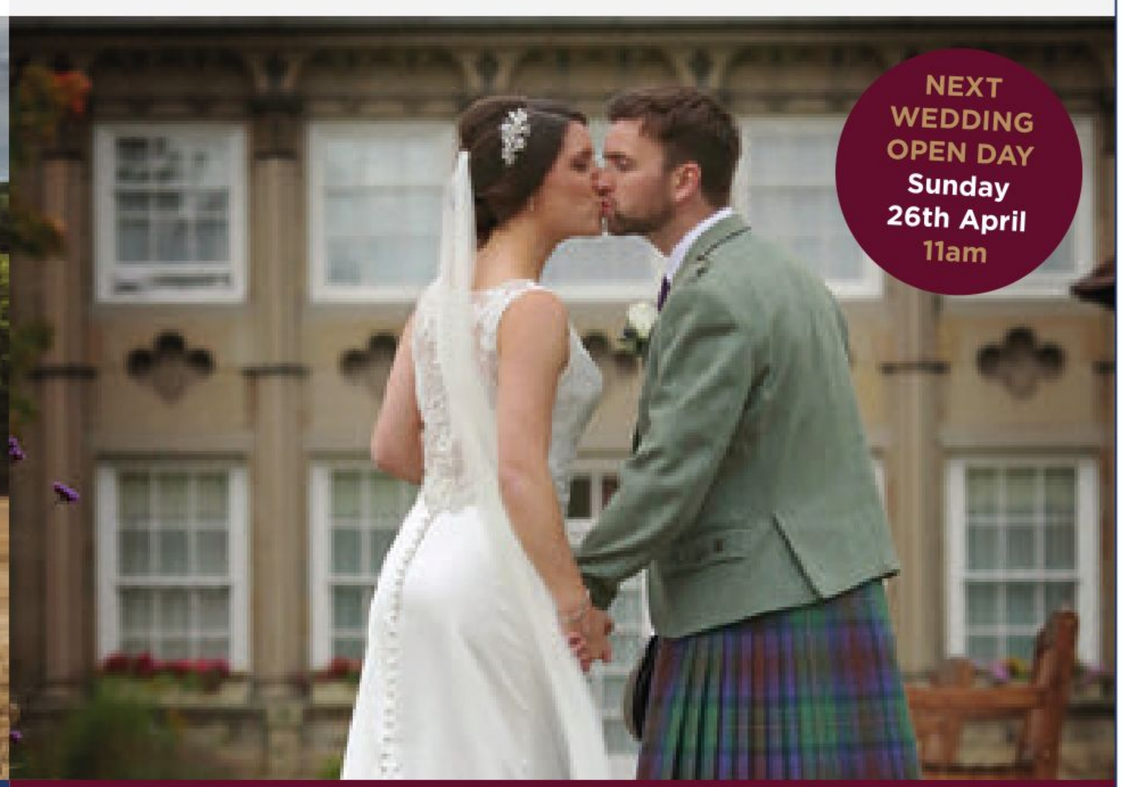
EDNAM HOUSE HOTEL




A Riverside Romance

The perfect canvas to your wedding day, on the banks of the River Tweed.

Ednam House Hotel, Bridge Street, Kelso, Roxburghshire TD5 7HT

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www.ednamhouse.com

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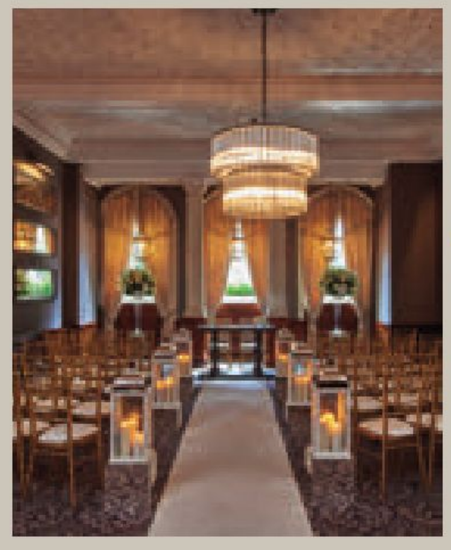
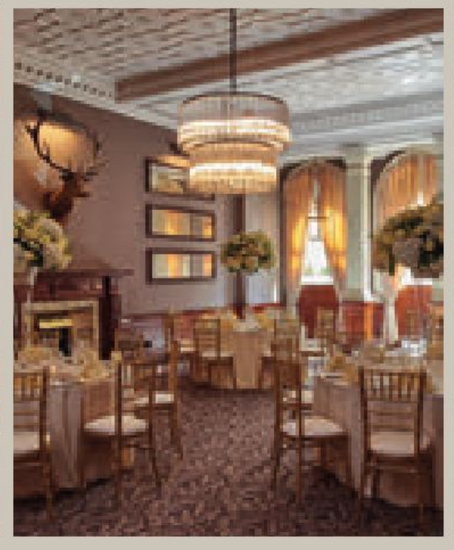










# THE BEST ADDRESS IN EDINBURGH'S NEW TOWN

Spectacular 18th century architecture and stunning details come together to set the stage for a beautiful wedding day. From elaborate gatherings with plenty of tradition in the King's Hall to smaller celebrations in our Library Suite, our wedding planning team will be there to assist you every step of the way.

For more information or to book an appointment with one of our dedicated wedding planners please call +44 (0)131 225 1251 or email the team at EdinburghTheGeorgeConference@ihg.com

InterContinental Edinburgh The George
19-21 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PB

INTERCONTINENTAL.
EDINBURGH THE GEORGE



DUNTARVIE CASTLE
THE VENUE
*"Where possibilities are endless"*

Our brand-new wedding venue nestled in the West Lothian countryside is now accepting bookings for all events and we are delighted to be offering special prices for early confirmed bookings.

Whether you are looking to have an elegant formal affair or a circus themed extravaganza, our 8.5-acre venue set in the countryside is the ideal setting to create your perfect day.

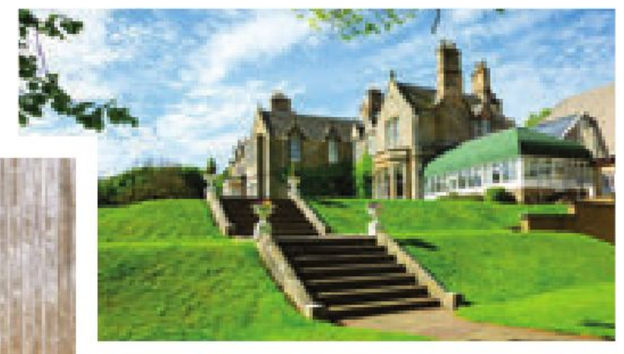
The venue is a stone's throw from Edinburgh airport and set in the grounds of a ruined castle currently undergoing restoration. Our exclusive use, flexible space gives you complete control and creativity over all details of your day allowing it to be a completely unique day!

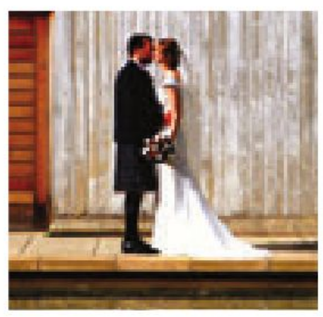
**DUNTARVIE CASTLE**
Winchburgh Rd, Broxburn, EH52 6QA
01506 892930 | www.duntarviecastle.com

NORTON HOUSE
HOTEL & SPA
EDINBURGH

*A special setting*

This magnificent Victorian mansion is where countryside charm meets contemporary comfort.







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Flexible spaces for wedding ceremonies
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nortonhouse@handpicked.co.uk
**handpickedhotels.co.uk**

HandPICKED HOTELS

THE MERCHANTS' HALL



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- Choice of caterers
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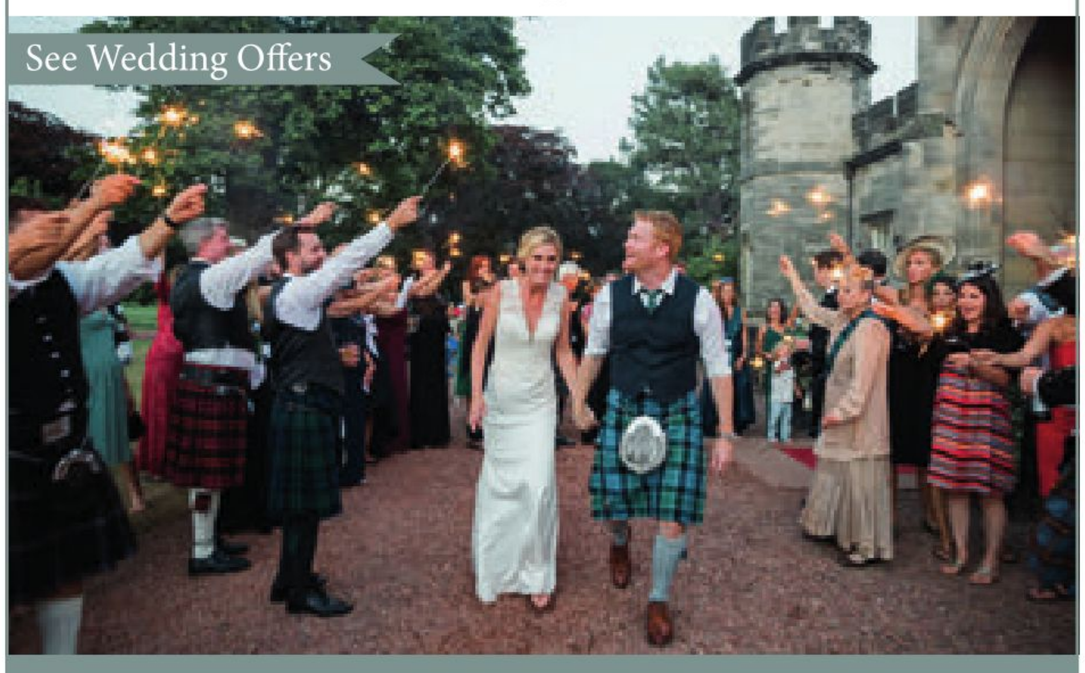
0131 220 9283 | enquiries@mcoe.org.uk | www.mcoe.org.uk

Your own private Scottish castle, near Edinburgh.

WINTON

*Intimacy on a Grand Scale*




*"Happy are those lucky enough to have experienced Winton. Blessed are those of us lucky enough to have shared it with our closest loved ones." (Meg & Scott)*

Winton Castle, Pencaitland, East Lothian EH34 5AT T 01875 340 222
**www.wintoncastle.co.uk**


Photo: tonymarshphotography.com

## DALHOUSIE CASTLE

MIDLOTHIAN

A place like no other, set in its own 11-acre parkland estate, with magnificent interiors, award-winning cuisine and blissful spa facilities, Dalhousie Castle offers an idyllic setting for a wedding or honeymoon. Whether you're after something extravagant or intimate and laid-back, start your journey from 'once upon a time' to 'happily ever after' at Dalhousie Castle.

Capacity min 2 max day 100 night 120
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 72
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all weddings bespoke

Tel: 01875 820153, www.dalhousiecastle.co.uk



## DALMAHOY HOTEL AND COUNTRY CLUB

NEAR EDINBURGH

Nestled amongst 1,000 acres of Scottish countryside and just 20 minutes from Edinburgh, Dalmahoy – with an 18th-century baronial-style manor at its heart – offers stunning views, a rich history and a choice of both modern and period spaces. The venue hosts every type of wedding imaginable, from wee celebrations to big white shebangs!

Capacity min 10 max day 250 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 554
Price per head from £89
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers winter wedding offer available

Tel: 0131 333 1845, www.dalmahoy.co.uk



## DUNTARVIE CASTLE – THE VENUE

WEST LOTHIAN

Whether you are looking to have an elegant, formal affair or a circus-themed extravaganza, The Venue, in the grounds of historic Duntarvie Castle, offers an 8.5-acre, blank-canvas space, putting complete control and creativity over all details of your day in your hands, so your wedding can be as unique as you. The venue's team will be there to support you from start to finish.

Capacity min n/a max day 200 night 400
Marquee ✔ capacity 400 provided ✔
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers tailored packages available from £2,500

Tel: 01506 892930, www.duntarviecastle.com


Photo: hectorinnes.co.uk

## EDNAM HOUSE HOTEL

KELSO

In the heart of Kelso, you'll find Ednam House. Set in three acres of riverside gardens, on the banks of the Tweed, this handsomely proportioned Georgian mansion offers the perfect canvas for your wedding day. It's a place that is as distinctive as it is romantic, where you'll discover AA Rosette-awarded cuisine and an expert team to make sure everything goes exactly as you dreamed it would.

Capacity min 2 max day 120 night 180
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 66
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers winter wedding and midweek packages available

Tel: 01573 224168, www.ednamhouse.com


Photo: teresa-sumerfield.com

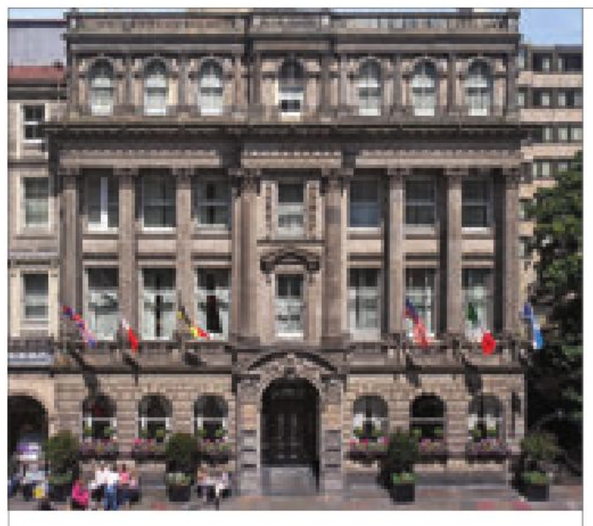
## INCHCOLM WEDDINGS

INCHCOLM

Inchcolm Island is one of the most idyllic and magical venues in Scotland. Located in the Firth of Forth, Inchcolm is accessible by boat from South Queensferry pier between April and October. Its packages include photography, flowers and hire fee, as well as advice and planning support. The dedicated team will guide you through your special day, whether it's grand or intimate in scale.

Capacity min 2 max day 100 night n/a
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers from £2,640

Tel: 07879 017126, www.inchcolmweddings.co.uk



## INTERCONTINENTAL EDINBURGH THE GEORGE

EDINBURGH

The best address in Edinburgh's New Town. Spectacular 18th-century architecture and stunning details come together to set the stage for a beautiful wedding day. From elaborate gatherings with plenty of tradition in the King's Hall to smaller celebrations in the Library Suite, the hotel's wedding planning team will be there to assist you every step of the way.

Capacity min 20 max day 180 night 210
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 480
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers Classic package from £120pp

Tel: 0131 225 1251, www.ihg.com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Our 'Wee' Winter Weddings Package start from £4495.50, based on 50 people
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Call 0131 333 1845 to speak to our Wedding Co-ordinators today
Visit: www.dalmahoy.co.uk Call: 0131 333 1845 Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Kirknewton Near Edinburgh, EH27 8EB



## LEONARDO HOTEL EDINBURGH MURRAYFIELD

EDINBURGH

The perfect wedding is the result of careful organisation and detailed planning. To ensure your wedding is special, the team at Leonardo Hotel Edinburgh Murrayfield will guide you through the planning process and will be with you until your last guest leaves the building on the big day. The venue has recently completed a £2.6-million refurbishment and looks stunning.

Capacity min 25 max day 220 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 222+
Price per head from £45
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers all inclusive from £2,020

Tel: 0131 535 9988, www.leonardohotels.co.uk



## MELVILLE CASTLE

EDINBURGH

Set in an idyllic country estate on the outskirts of Edinburgh, Melville Castle is a unique and enchanting location for your special day. Dating back to 1786, the castle offers an array of beautiful private rooms, a fully equipped marquee, 33 en-suite bedrooms and is nestled within 54 acres of parkland, providing a most romantic backdrop for your wedding photographs.

Capacity min 2 max day 150 night 200
Marquee ✔ capacity 150 provided ✔
Sleeps 70
Price per head from £70
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers individually tailored to suit

Tel: 0131 654 0088, www.melvillecastle.com



## THE MERCHANTS' HALL

EDINBURGH

The Merchants' Hall is a beautiful, A-listed building in the heart of Edinburgh. The Hall is ornately panelled, with a charming Minstrels' Gallery – ideal for musicians or photographs – while the Court Room is an elegant area for receptions, with fantastic city views. Choose from a list of preferred caterers that can create menus for all tastes.

Capacity min 2 max day 150 night 150
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all individually tailored

Tel: 0131 220 9283, www.mcoe.org.uk



## NATIONAL MINING MUSEUM SCOTLAND

NEWTONGRANGE

Victorian architecture marries industrial style to create this authentic wedding venue. The brickwork, vast arched windows and industrialised features contribute to the charm of the Power House, which can host up to 120 guests for ceremonies, drinks receptions, formal dining and dancing. The venue caters to small and intimate days and grand celebrations alike.

Capacity min 40 max day 100 night 150
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £65
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers from £6,000

Tel: 0131 663 7519, nationalminingmuseum.com



## NORTON HOUSE HOTEL AND SPA

EDINBURGH

A tree-lined drive welcomes you to this impressive Victorian mansion tucked into 55 acres of parkland in Ingliston. Grand features of the original house combine beautifully with contemporary furnishings to create a sumptuous retreat. Hold a wedding ceremony on the rhododendron-fringed lawns, before dining under chandeliers in the romantic ballroom.

Capacity min n/a max day 140 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 166
Price per head from £76
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers range available starting from £4,560

Tel: 0131 333 1275, www.handpickedhotels.co.uk



## PEEBLES HYDRO

PEEBLES

Discover what makes this one of the Borders' most popular wedding venues: an iconic design, contemporary spaces, the best views of the Tweed Valley and oodles of space to celebrate with everyone you love. There are four jaw-dropping rooms to choose from and 30 acres of lawns, Victorian gardens and woodland. You'll feel like you're on top of the world – in every way possible.

Capacity min 4 max day 180 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 260
Price per head from £72
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers 15% off Sunday weddings; fully inclusive winter wedding package from £3,800 (including £500 bar tab)

Tel: 01764 651846, www.peebleshydro.co.uk



MELVILLE CASTLE







MELVILLE CASTLE HOTEL
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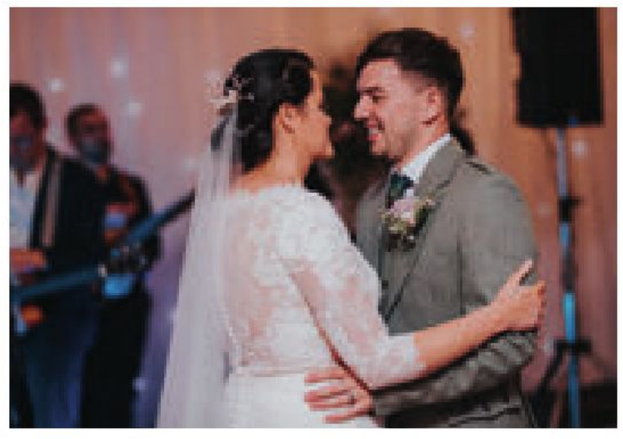
BARONY
CASTLE











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*Located 30 minutes from Edinburgh and set in 25 acres of gardens and woodlands, our 16th century castle offers a stunning venue for your special day.*

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**BARONY CASTLE HOTEL, EDDLESTON, SCOTTISH BORDERS, EH45 8QW**

Peebles Hydro

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# WEDDINGS

at National Mining Museum Scotland



Victorian architecture marries industrial style at National Mining Museum Scotland. Whether you're planning a small and intimate ceremony or a grand celebration, we can make your special day unforgettable. See our website for full details, menus and packages.

Site visits are available by appointment. Contact us on 0131 663 7519 or email **VSO@nationalminingmuseum.com** to book your visit.

NATIONAL MINING MUSEUM SCOTLAND

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www.nationalminingmuseum.com

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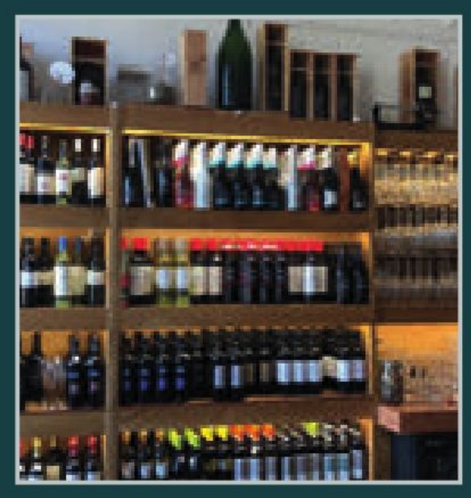
# THE WINE HOUSE 1821





*Georgian grandeur, contemporary design, the most captivating, decadent and dazzling venue in Edinburgh city centre*



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Say I do
to your perfect day

ROYAL COLLEGE of PHYSICIANS of EDINBURGH

Celebrate your dream wedding at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, a beautiful venue with exquisite catering.

The venue's Victorian and Georgian rooms provide stunning backdrops and our variety of packages allow you to create a day that's truly unique. Welcome your guests to an exclusive hidden gem in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town.

**Contact us to arrange your visit:**
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# Dream Wedding









## UNIQUE MULTI AWARD WINNING VENUE

Broxmouth Park, an amazing Georgian mansion set within 150 acres of parkland and woods, is available for your exceptional Wedding Day. It sits in a perfect location on the East Lothian Coast forming a stunning backdrop for photos, including a private loch with honeymoon lodge, 500 year old Cedar of Lebanon Tree, Queen Victoria's staircase and the adjacent beach. Broxmouth is a truly magnificent venue and a magical setting in which to create the Wedding of your dreams.

*"Thank you for hosting the greatest day of our life. Beautiful."*
**Vinny & Sharon**

*"We had so many comments from our guests stating this was the best wedding that they had ever been to."*
**Allan & Diane**

*"Simply outstanding, you made my daughters dreams come true."*
**Anne Cunningham**




For more information please call

**01368 865 846**

e: info@broxmouth.com | w: broxmouth.com

f: facebook.com/broxmouth | i: @broxmouthpark

BROXMOUTH PARK



## ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH

Set in the heart of Edinburgh's grand New Town, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is an awe-inspiring venue. With a number of stylish settings available, you can create a truly unique day. The College's majestic Georgian and Victorian rooms, including the atmospheric New Library, provide the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable celebration.

Capacity min 4 max day 150 night 180
Marquee ✗ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✗
Exclusive use ✗
Package offers ceremony and reception or reception alone

Tel: 0131 247 3603, venue.rcpe.co.uk



## VILLAGE HOTEL EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH

Receive a very warm welcome at this modern hotel, offering everything under one roof, from top-to-toe spa treatments and delicious menu options to bespoke decor, a dedicated planner and a range of packages to suit your needs and budget. Enjoy your ceremony and wedding breakfast in the exclusive Inspiration Suite and dance the night away until 1am.

Capacity min 50 max day 180 night 180
Marquee ✗ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 120
Price per head from £45
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✗
Package offers weddings from £2,750

Tel: 0131 297 7183, www.village-hotels.co.uk



## WALDORF ASTORIA EDINBURGH – THE CALEDONIAN

EDINBURGH

Built in 1903, Waldorf Astoria Edinburgh – The Caledonian is a historic landmark in the heart of the city, with 241 bedrooms and suites. Choose from a range of exquisite function spaces to suit every wedding, including the magnificent Castle Suite for up to 180 guests, which features spectacular chandeliers and A-listed, hand-painted walls.

Capacity min 20 max day 150 night 180
Marquee ✗ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 504
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✗
Package offers all weddings bespoke

Tel: 0131 222 8888, www.thecaledonian.waldorfastoria.com



## WEDDINGS AT INGLISTON

EDINBURGH

Opening summer 2020, Weddings at Ingliston, within the Royal Highland Centre, is set to be the largest wedding venue outwith Edinburgh's city centre. The space will be able to accommodate up to 350 for a sit-down breakfast. And with a covered external terrace, Ingliston offers increased capacity on lush grass grounds – the ideal setting for your day.

Capacity min 60 max day 350 night 350
Marquee ✔ capacity n/a provided ✗
Sleeps n/a (two nearby hotels on-site)
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✗
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers available upon request

Tel: 0131 335 6273, www.royalhighlandcentre.co.uk



## THE WINE HOUSE HOTEL 1821

EDINBURGH

The secret to happily ever after begins with the perfect stage for your big day, with everything tailored to your needs. The picturesque bay windows in Wine House Hotel's spectacular event suite bathe the room in natural light and offer a sublime view of the River Forth, providing a faultless backdrop for you to start your married life together.

Capacity min 30 max day 70 night 100
Marquee ✗ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 10
Price per head from £55
Self-catered option ✗
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers are available, enquire within

Tel: 0131 557 1821, www.winehouse1821.co.uk



Photo: rusticwhite.com

## WINTON CASTLE

EAST LOTHIAN

"Happy are those lucky enough to have experienced Winton," say Meg and Scott Menteith [pictured], and it's not difficult to see why. Blending 15th-century palace and family home, Winton Castle is steeped in Scotland's history, with links to the Setons. Visit the castle to experience Winton's welcoming atmosphere. They call it 'intimacy on a grand scale'.

Capacity min 20 max day 130 night 220
Marquee ✔ capacity 400 provided ✗
Sleeps 42
Price per head from £60
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers seasonal packages available

Tel: 01875 340222, www.wintoncastle.co.uk

# NORTH

## GRAMPIAN | HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS



### *Upcoming events*

MARCH

1st Wedding fair, Muthu Newton Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***weddings.muthuhotels.com***

15th Open day, Cluny Castle, 12pm-4pm, ***www.clunycastle.com***

29th Wedding fair, Isles of Glencoe Hotel, 12pm-3pm, ***www.islesofglencoe.co.uk***




## TO (GLEN) DYE FOR

A new venture from the founders of homeware brand Pedlars, **Glen Dye Cabins and Cottages** offers three deluxe cottages, two woodland cabins, an events space, a riverside sauna (em, yes please!) and several Swedish wood-fired hot tubs. This year, the venue, which launched officially in early 2019, is accepting big day bookings and it sounds like you would be absolutely spoiled. "We have 80 bell tents, 20 of which can be equipped with double beds and armchairs," says Andrea Sexton. "We also have contacts with leading chefs, who specialise in cooking on an open fire (our festival, The Good Life Experience, has been recommended as one of Britain's finest for this very reason). We know the most talented florists and stylists around, and can put you in touch with anyone else you might need to make your wedding exceptional and entirely original." ***glendyecabinsandcottages.com***





## FAIR PLAY

**Isles of Glencoe Hotel** really needs to be seen to be believed – luckily, you can do just that on Sunday 29th March at the idyllic Highland hotel's next wedding fair. From 12pm-3pm, you'll be able to have a wander around the Glencoe Suite and meet up with a few of the venue's recommended local suppliers, including florists, photographers, bakers and pipers, all while sipping a glass of fizz. If you'd prefer not to be left to your own devices, there will also be guided tours, where you'll have a chance to catch up with the venue's co-ordinators, and exclusive on-the-day booking offers to take advantage of. ***www.islesofglencoe.co.uk***

## MIGHTY MUTHU



Photo: andy-taylor.co.uk

It's all go at **Muthu Newton Hotel** in Nairn. Not only do you have a wedding fair to look forward to on 1st March, from 12pm-4pm, but the venue is also breaking new ground. "We're co-hosting the Highlands' first ever pre-loved bridal pop-up shop," reveals Marianne Curran. "We'll be working with Love Preloved, which urgently needs wedding gowns, accessories and mother-of-the-bride/groom outfits for this exciting event." It's encouraging to see venues coming together with the fashion industry to tackle wasteful culture head on, and who knows – maybe you'll return home with a gown *and* your venue booked in one fell swoop! ***weddings.muthuhotels.com***



Macdonald Hotels' venues **Norwood Hall** and **Pittodrie House** have both scored in recent local and national awards. The pair have shared six nominations between them, with Norwood scooping 'Wedding Venue of the Year' at the Top Tier Awards, while Pittodrie saw team member Nicola Daniels collecting 'Wedding Co-ordinator of the Year' on the same night. Elsewhere, they were shortlisted as 'Wedding Venue of the Year (North)' at the Scottish Wedding Awards in February, and Norwood was put forward for 'Local Wedding Exhibition of the Year'. At the time of press, we don't know if they clinched it, but at this rate, they're going to need a bigger trophy cabinet! ***www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk***

# *We married at* ASWANLEY *Huntly*

**It's like house hunting.** You're constantly weighing up interior over exterior, situation versus amenities, all the while clinging on to the dream that you'll uncover a neat little package that somehow bundles up the best of both worlds. Does it even exist? Welcome to the wedding location dilemma.

"We were quite particular about what we wanted in a venue," says bride Hannah of herself and new husband Finlay. "We were picturing a rustic barn that was also exclusive use, with a gorgeous indoor ceremony spot, a space for the wedding breakfast and a separate dancefloor – we didn't want to have to clear away all the tables and chairs after the meal as we had guests of all ages coming, some of whom wouldn't be spending the whole night dancing."

The couple eventually got to the point where some kind of compromise was needed – but that 'compromise' turned out to be anything but. "Originally, we were looking in Fife, the Lothians or Perthshire," says Hannah. "Our families are based in the Central Belt (mine are in Fife and Finlay's are in Blairgowrie), so we figured we'd better set our sights on something local.

"However, the weekend after we got engaged, I was Googling 'barn venues' to see what was out there when Aswanley cropped up. I loved it instantly. It had a cosy fireplace (our favourite detail), and rafters that gave it the feel of an authentic working farm. I liked that there was a paved area in front of the barn where we could have a drinks reception, if the weather allowed. We would have the whole place to ourselves, and the surroundings clearly



## Hannah Perrie and Finlay Page, 1st August 2019

Words by ***Rosie Patrick***

Photography by ***Marc Millar Photography***

VENUES *case study*







made for some amazing photographs. I could really visualise our day there."

As Hannah and Finlay's struggle to find anything that compared further south continued, the case for Aswanley was only getting stronger. It was the excuse they needed to widen their search. "Every time we had to rule out a venue due to some aspect of it not matching up to our vision, we kept circling back to Aswanley and how perfect it was," remembers Hannah. "We eventually came to realise that we had guests who were going to have to travel regardless, and even those who weren't, had we married nearer to home, would likely still have booked a hotel anyway. Ultimately, having the fairytale setting was much more important than how close it was to our families' homes." And so Huntly it was.

A DIY celebration was on the cards from the beginning, so it was a relief for the pair to find that Aswanley was incredibly flexible. "It's the ideal blank canvas," reckons Hannah. "It has a homely feel, and lends itself just as well to minimal styling as it does to being completely decked out. The opportunities to personalise your day are absolutely endless. Since Finlay's parents own a floristry business (Something Special Flowers), we were always going to have abundant flowers at her wedding. We didn't settle on a specific colour scheme, instead opting for jewel tones, weaving in blues and greens in the form of our tablecloths and copious foliage, and using the ballroom for our sprawling floral wall. The venue also has lovely chiavari chairs, a choice of circular or rectangular tables, wooden barrels, fairylights, candelabra and couches."

The distance could have been a source of stress, but with the Aswanley team on their side, the couple had few worries. "Lauren, the events manager and master of ceremonies, couldn't have been more helpful," says Hannah. "She gave us such useful advice and a steer on the running order of the day. We held both our ceremony and reception at the venue, and she managed the transition between the two fabulously. The chairs were swept away quickly to the dining room and replaced with comfortable sofas so our guests could chill out."

The pair were also delighted to find they weren't penalised financially by being based further away. "Just because suppliers aren't nearby doesn't mean they'll be astronomical – and just because they're local doesn't necessarily mean they will be cost effective," says the bride. "Our caterer travelled from Falkirk, our photographer from Edinburgh and our band from Glasgow. I'd say shop around for suppliers."

Things don't always work out the way you think they will – sometimes, they turn out to be better. ***www.aswanley.com***
Photography by
***www.marcmillarphotography.com*** ♥



"EVERY TIME WE HAD TO RULE OUT A VENUE, WE KEPT CIRCLING BACK TO ASWANLEY. ULTIMATELY, HAVING THE FAIRYTALE SETTING WAS MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN HOW CLOSE IT WAS TO OUR FAMILIES' HOMES"

TIE THE KNOT SCOTLAND 165

# NORTH *Venue finder*

GRAMPIAN | HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

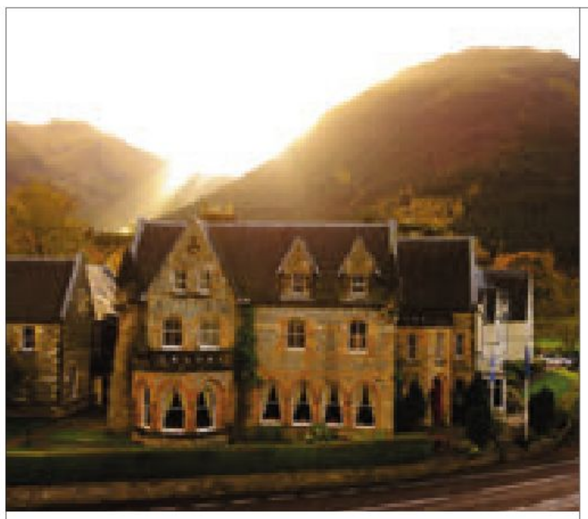



## ASWANLEY
HUNTLY

Capacity min n/a max day 250 night 250
Marquee ✔ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 12
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers midweek and off-season packages available

An unusual venue suitable for sumptuous receptions and intimate gatherings alike, this secluded fortified house and blank-canvas barn with magical gardens sits on the edge of the Highlands. Aswanley can be styled as extensively as you want, and offers the flexibility and space to create your own individual day with the support of its exceptional in-house wedding co-ordinators.

Tel: 01466 700340, www.aswanley.com



## BALLACHULISH HOTEL
GLENCOE

Capacity min 10 max day 110 night 110
Marquee ✔ capacity 150 provided ✘
Sleeps 136
Price per head from £69
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers are available

At Ballachulish, you'll find crackling fires, a cosy lounge and Scottish tradition, all on the stunning lochside. Celebrate your love story with up to 110 of your closest loved ones, tucked away in the Highlands. Throw a house party in a setting as special as your celebration: escape for the weekend and take the whole hotel or share your love story for the day in the heart of Glencoe.

Tel: 01764 651837, www.ballachulish-hotel.co.uk



## BALLOGIE HOUSE
ABERDEENSHIRE

Capacity min n/a max day 150 night 180
Marquee ✔ capacity 180 provided ✔
Sleeps 15
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers £POA

Set in secluded grounds, this beautiful country house is an exclusive-use venue situated in picturesque Royal Deeside. The private drive meanders through mature woodland and both the house and glass-sided marquee have stunning elevated views across the open parkland to the rolling hills. The dedicated events team will be on hand to manage your special day.

Tel: 01339 886497, www.ballogie-estate.co.uk



## BEN NEVIS HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB
FORT WILLIAM

Capacity min 10 max day 160 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 225
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers various seasonal packages

The stunning ballroom floor in the Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club, one of the largest in Fort William, has been lovingly restored to its former glory. Plus, with a new heating system installed, whether you are getting married in summer or winter, you will be guaranteed a warm welcome. Renowned for attentive service, the team will ensure your day is a success.

Tel: 01397 702331, www.strathmorehotels.com



## THE BEN WYVIS HOTEL
STRATHPEFFER

Capacity min 2 max day 60 night 80
Marquee ✔ capacity 200 provided ✘
Sleeps 160
Price per head from £42.85
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers from £2,020

An unforgettable wedding awaits at The Ben Wyvis Hotel, where you'll enjoy beautiful views of landscaped gardens and surrounding woodlands, excellent food made from local ingredients (where possible) and superb customer service from highly trained staff. Personal attention from an in-house master of ceremonies will make your day special.

Tel: 01997 423387, www.strathmorehotels.com



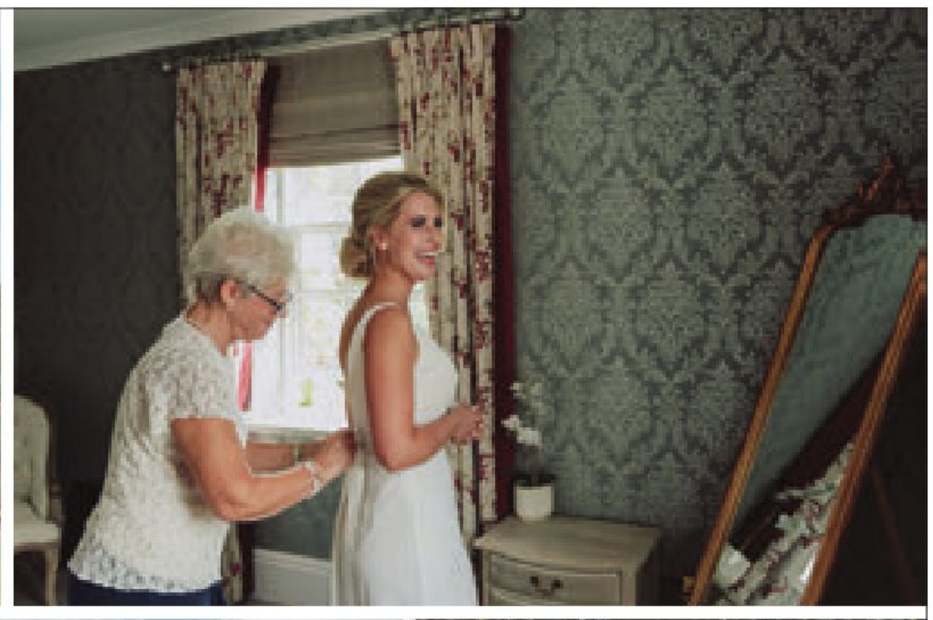
## BRODIE CASTLE
BRODIE

Capacity min n/a max day 60 night 60
Marquee ✔ capacity 250 provided ✘
Sleeps 22
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers £POA

Located between Forres and Nairn, Brodie Castle – with its elegant interiors and world-famous art collection – offers a romantic backdrop for intimate weddings. The castle's converted Stable Block provides additional flexibility, whilst the parkland can cater for larger marquee weddings. There is also excellent self-catering accommodation within the castle and wider estate.

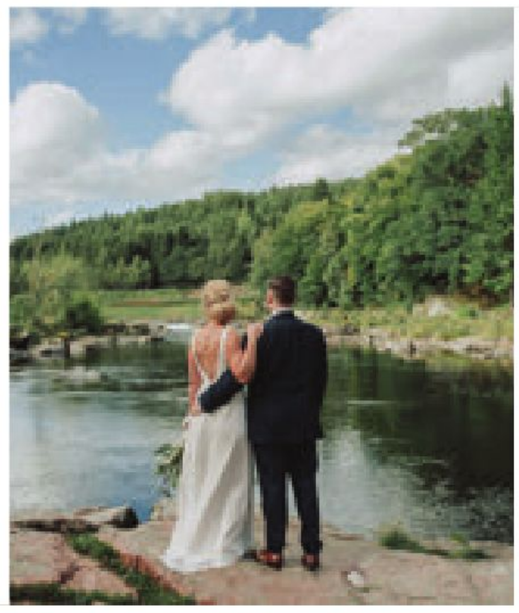
Tel: 01309 641371, www.nts.org.uk/weddings











Images: Donna Murray Photography

BALLOGIE HOUSE

## Be Distinctive, Be Yourself...

Ballogie House, Aboyne, Royal Deeside AB34 5DT

Tel: 013398 86497 | Email: weddings@ballogie-estate.co.uk

www.ballogie-estate.co.uk



*Your home for the day*





ASWANLEY

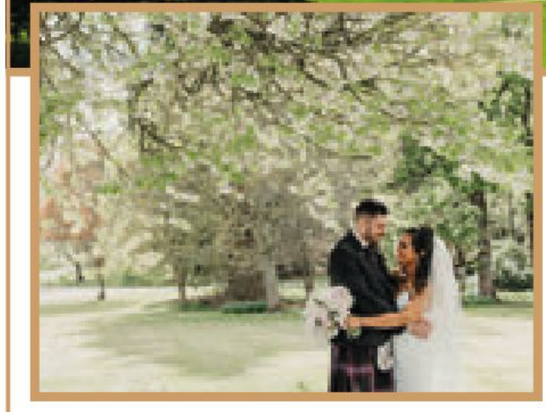
*'Aswanley is an absolute hidden gem - a blank canvas that can be turned into anything you want it to be'*

VICTORIA & EWAN LYLE

# CLUNY CASTLE

SECLUDED | MAJESTIC | ENCHANTING











**Luxury Overnight Accommodation Now Available**

*enquire for further information.*

www.clunycastle.com

CLUNY CASTLE, SAUCHEN, ABERDEENSHIRE, AB51 7RT

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# MUTHU NEWTON HOTEL

Nairn, Scotland

*Your Special Day, Our Special Setting*



Set in 21 acres of extensive lush gardens with the stunning view over the Moray Firth to the Black Isle beyond, with historic architecture and a private chapel.

The Muthu Newton Hotel is tailor made for wonderful weddings.

www.muthuhotelsmgm.com/muthu-newton-hotel

07415 310870

uk.nwtevents@muthuhotels.com

BALLACHULISH HOTEL

KINGSHOUSE
HOTEL

ISLES OF GLENCOE

www.ballachulish-hotel.co.uk | www.kingshousehotel.co.uk | www.islesofglencoe.co.uk




COYLUMBRIDGE
AVIEMORE HOTEL





Are you looking for a romantic and traditional Highland Wedding with a beautiful back drop of scenery and fantastic packages on offer? Then the Coylumbridge Aviemore Hotel would be the ideal location for you.

Located in the magnificent Cairngorm National Park and nestled away in a 65 acre woodland forest, The Coylumbridge Aviemore Hotel is the idyllic location to celebrate your special day. We cater for all wedding sizes, with our beautifully traditional Cairngorm Suite for large parties, our Druie Room for intimate ceremonies and also our riverside location for those looking to tie the knot against the back drop of the river and mountains. We will ensure your magical day is run smoothly and will be a day of memories to treasure forever.

*For details on our packages and what we have on offer please contact our dedicated wedding team on the below details:*

**01479 811 811**
**weddings765@coylumbridgehotel.co.uk**
**www.coylumbridgeaviemorehotel.co.uk**

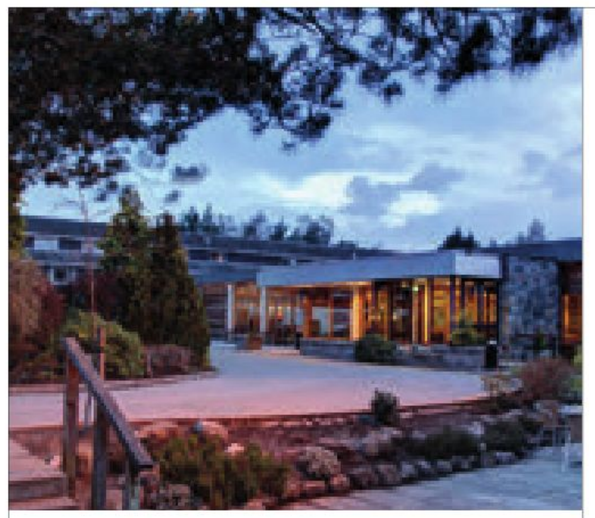


## CLUNY CASTLE
ABERDEENSHIRE

Capacity min 2 max day 100 night 100
Marquee ✔ capacity unlimited provided ✘
Sleeps 26
Price per head from £47
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers flexible depending on client's requirements

Situated in tranquil Aberdeenshire countryside, Cluny Castle is secluded, majestic and enchanting. Perfect for the ultimate fairytale wedding, with its own beautiful chapel and stunning grounds, this magnificent crenellated mansion offers you and your guests a wonderfully romantic and magical setting to celebrate your special day exclusively.

Tel: 01330 833302, www.clunycastle.com



## THE COYLUMBRIDGE AVIEMORE HOTEL
AVIEMORE

Capacity min 20 max day 400 night 450
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 628
Price per head from £54
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers are available, including winter weddings from £52pp (Oct to Jan)

Situated in the magnificent Cairngorms National Park and nestled away in a 65-acre woodland forest, The Coylumbridge Aviemore Hotel is an idyllic location to celebrate your special day. The hotel caters for weddings of every size, with 175 bedrooms and two beautiful function rooms available, complemented by the venue's stunning riverside setting.

Tel: 01479 811811, coylumbridgeaviemorehotel.co.uk




## DRUMTOCHTY CASTLE
ABERDEENSHIRE

Capacity min n/a max day 120 night 180
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 99
Price per head from £50
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers £POA

An opulent and romantic 19th-century Scottish castle, nestled in 350 acres of wild woodland glen, Drumtochty combines a fairytale church with breathtaking landscapes. This exclusive-use venue seats 120 guests and sleeps up to 99. With the entire castle all to yourself, relax and disappear into the magic of it all, in an atmosphere of privacy and luxury for your wedding.

Tel: 01561 320169, www.drumtochtycastle.com



## FYVIE CASTLE
TURRIFF

Capacity min n/a max day 120 night 120
Marquee ✔ capacity 800 provided ✘
Sleeps 16
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers £POA

Fyvie Castle is a romantic vision of towers and turrets set in beautiful parkland with its own private loch. The castle's interconnecting Drawing Room and Gallery provide a spectacular setting for weddings of up to 120 guests. From the castle, a stroll leads to the Racquets Court, a glass-roofed pavilion with sprung dancefloor – perfect for evening receptions, ceilidhs and dances.

Tel: 01651 891266, www.nts.org.uk/weddings



## ISLES OF GLENCOE HOTEL
FORT WILLIAM

Capacity min 10 max day 120 night 120
Marquee ✔ capacity 250 provided ✘
Sleeps 186
Price per head from £89
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers are available

On the shores of Loch Leven, surrounded by stunning mountainous views and breathtaking vistas, your celebration of love can begin. Whether it's a lochside ceremony or a fireside toast, you'll always be joined by Glencoe's beautiful backdrop. Have a Highland fling with up to 120 of your nearest and dearest, in the heart of this iconic Scottish landscape.

Tel: 01764 651837, www.islesofglencoe.co.uk



## KINGSHOUSE HOTEL
GLENCOE

Capacity min 60 max day 120 night 140
Marquee ✔ capacity 200 provided ✘
Sleeps 260
Price per head from £89
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers are available

If you're counting on a Highland celebration for your big day, don't look any further: an impressive 250 years in the making, the grandeur of Kingshouse Hotel awaits. Join the venue and its delightful staff with up to 120 of your family and friends, and descend on the foot of Buchaille Etive Mór to celebrate in a surrounding (almost) as monumental as your love.

Tel: 01764 651837, www.kingshousehotel.co.uk



## MACLEOD HOUSE & LODGE AT TRUMP INTERNATIONAL, SCOTLAND

ABERDEENSHIRE

With its secret stairways, traditional log fires, whisky bar and spectacular grounds, MacLeod House & Lodge offers luxury and comfort in a secluded and dramatic location that is guaranteed to impress. The venue can be hired exclusively and is the ideal location for a small, intimate wedding. A marquee can be installed on request.

Capacity min n/a max day 32 night 68
Marquee ✔ capacity n/a provided ✘
Sleeps 32
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers exclusive-use packages available

**Tel: 01358 743300, www.trumpgolfscotland.com**




## MUTHU NEWTON HOTEL

NAIRN

Set in 21 acres of woodland, offering stunning views over the Moray Firth to the Black Isle and beyond, the Muthu Newton Hotel – with historic architecture and a private chapel – is tailor-made for wonderful weddings. The venue is situated in Nairn, just 15 miles from Inverness and a ten-minute drive from the city's airport. Email uk.nwtevents@muthuhotels.com for more information.

Capacity min 50 max day 230 night 230
Marquee ✔ capacity n/a provided ✘
Sleeps 120
Price per head from £34
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers are available, including seasonal packages

**Tel: 01667 453144, www.muthuhotelsmgm.com**



## THE NETHYBRIDGE HOTEL

INVERNESS-SHIRE

Searching for somewhere outstanding for your big day? Look no further than The Nethybridge Hotel, situated amid the Cairngorm Mountains, with a dedicated team to help you with every stage. The Revack Suite can accommodate up to 110 guests. Visit the website for more info or contact the wedding co-ordinator to discuss your requirements.

Capacity min 2 max day 110 night 110
Marquee ✔ capacity 50 provided ✘
Sleeps 135
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers various seasonal packages

**Tel: 01479 821203, www.strathmorehotels.com**

DRUMTOCHTY CASTLE

t: 01561 320169 e: nikki@drumtochtycastle.com



www.drumtochtycastle.com



Drumtochty Castle is an opulent and romantic 19th century Scottish Castle nestled in 350 acres of wild woodland glen, encapsulating a fairytale church, decadent reception rooms and a grand ballroom. This exclusive use wedding venue seats up to 120 guests and sleeps up to 99.

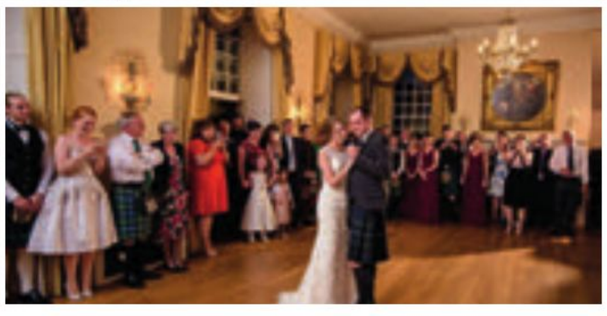
With the entire castle to yourself, relax and disappear into the magic of it all, in an atmosphere of luxury and privacy for your entire wedding.

Drumtochty Castle, Auchenblae, Scotland, AB30 1TP

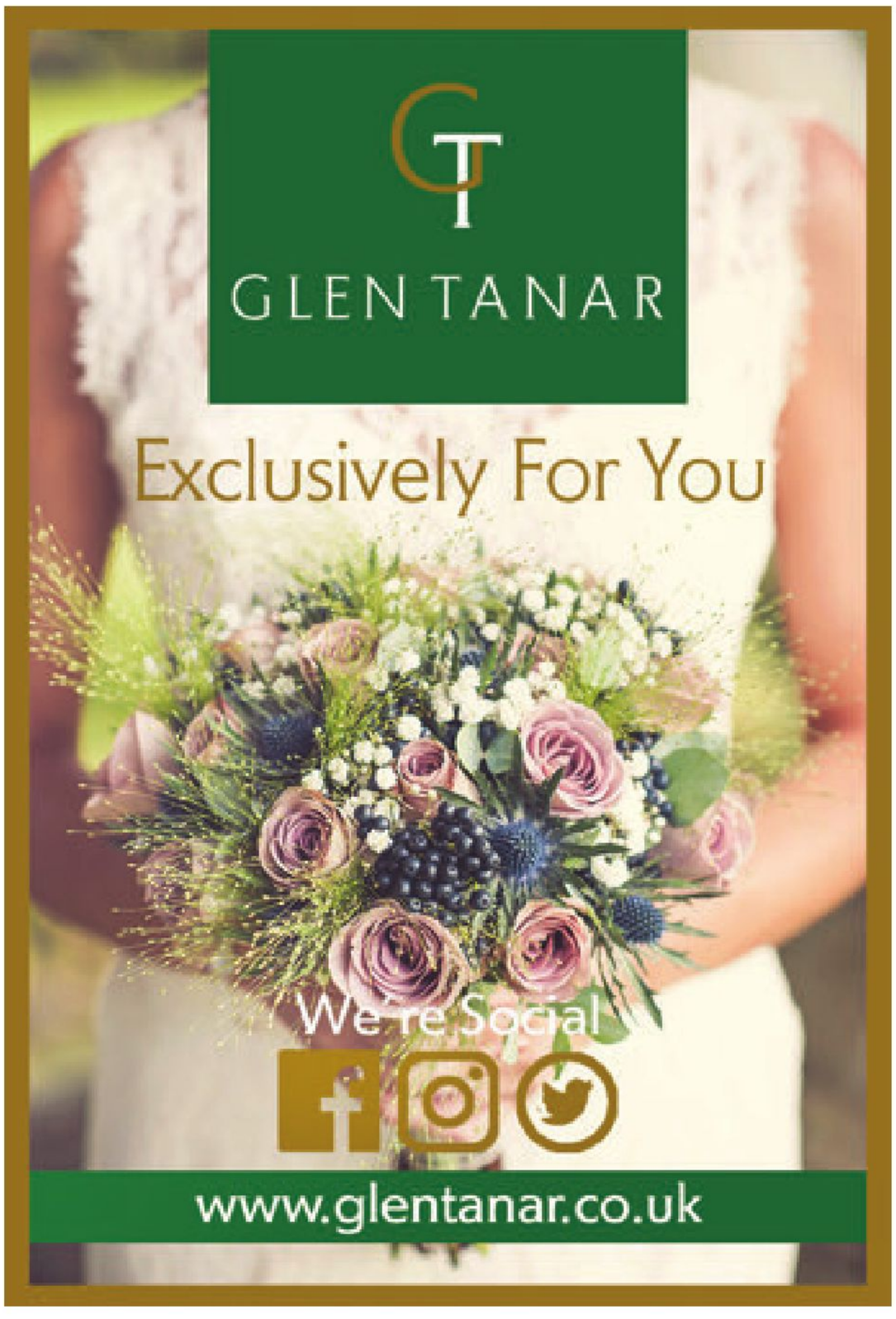



# INNES HOUSE



Innes House, Elgin, IV30 8NG | T: 01343 842410 | E: enquiries@inneshouse.co.uk
www.inneshouse.com




STRATHMORE HOTELS
www.strathmorehotels.com

# 4 GREAT CHOICES FOR YOUR HIGHLAND WEDDING

Your idyllic Highland Wedding at the
## Nethybridge Hotel
### Inverness-Shire

With its stunning Highland location and nestled within beautifully landscaped gardens, the Nethybridge Hotel is an idyllic setting for a truly memorable occasion.

- **Catering for 2-120 guests**
- **Tailored packages to suit all budgets**

Book your wedding for more than 50 guests at your meal and you will receive complimentary 4-Poster Bridal Suite and discounted wedding accommodation rates for guests.



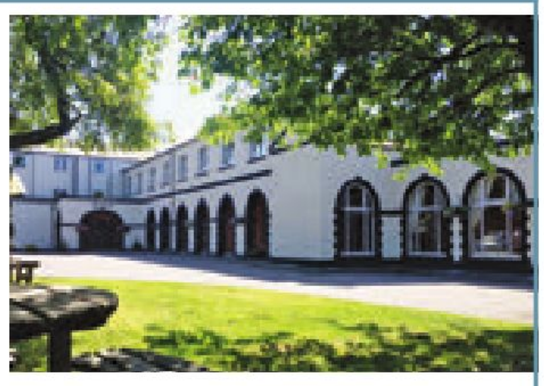


Nethy Bridge, Inverness-Shire, PH25 3DP
Telephone: 01479 821203

Mountain View Weddings at the
## Ben Nevis Hotel
### Fort William

With stunning views of Scotland's highest mountain, the Ben Nevis Hotel offers superb facilities and ample car parking for your guests, ideal for a truly memorable wedding.

- Catering for 2-150 guests
- Packages tailored to suit your requirements
- Red Carpet welcome
- Complimentary newly refurbished Bridal Suite





North Road, Fort William, PH33 6TG
Telephone: 01397 702331

Your Fort William Wedding at the
## Alexandra Hotel
### Fort William

Nestled on the shores of beautiful Loch Linnhe, the Alexandra Hotel offers superb facilities and ample car parking for guests, ideal for a true Highland wedding.

- Packages to suit all budgets
- Catering for 2-120 guests
- Fresh local produce used
- Complimentary 4-Poster Bridal Suite





The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6AZ
Telephone: 01397 702241

Mountain View Weddings at the
## Ben Wyvis Hotel
### Strathpeffer

Situated in the idyllic woodlands of Strathpeffer, this splendid hotel is the perfect venue for a true highland wedding. With stunning views of Ben Wyvis, ample parking and packages to suit all requirements.

- Catering for 2 – 80 guests
- Tailored packages to suit all budgets
- Fresh local produce
- Marquees possible for 200 guests
- In-house master of ceremonies





Ben Wyvis, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9DN
Telephone: 01997 423387

## MUTHU GLASGOW RIVER HOTEL

Glasgow, Scotland






Here at the Muthu Glasgow River Hotel we realise that every wedding is completely different. We aim to make your special day as individual as you are. Catering for anywhere between 2 and 350 guests, our spacious suite is perfectly suited for any requirements you may have.

For more information, contact Helen or Tony on 0141 812 8550
or email uk.mgrhsales1@muthuhotels.com

*We look forward to helping you turn your dreams into reality!*



# GLASGOW

## GLASGOW AREA | RENFREWSHIRE

### *Upcoming events*

MARCH

1st Wedding show, 29 Glasgow, 12pm-4pm, ***29glasgow.co.uk***

1st Wedding experience day, Boclair House, 12pm-4pm, ***www.boclairhousehotel.co.uk***

1st Wedding experience day, Bowfield Hotel & Country Club, 12pm-4pm, ***www.bowfieldhotel.co.uk***

1st Wedding showcase, The Corinthian, 12pm-3pm, ***www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk***

1st Wedding open day, Dalmeny Park House Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***dalmenypark.com***

1st Wedding open day, The Gathering, 12pm-4pm, ***thegatheringscotland.uk***

1st Wedding viewing day, The Lynnhurst Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***www.lynnhurst.co.uk***

5th Wedding open evening, House for an Art Lover, 6pm-8pm, ***www.houseforanartlover.co.uk***

8th Wedding festival, Glasgow University Union, 12pm-4pm, ***www.guu.co.uk***

15th Wedding open day, Gleddoch Hotel, Spa & Golf, 12pm-4pm, ***gleddoch.com***



29th Wedding experience day, The Busby Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***www.thebusbyhotel.co.uk***

29th Wedding walk-round, The National Piping Centre, 12pm-3pm, ***www.thepipingcentre.co.uk***

APRIL

19th Wedding open day, Dalmeny Park House Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***dalmenypark.com***

26th Wedding walk-round, The National Piping Centre, 12pm-3pm, ***www.thepipingcentre.co.uk***

26th Wedding open day, Gleddoch Hotel, Spa & Golf, 12pm-4pm, ***gleddoch.com***



Photo: stephenkyle.co

## BABY ON BOARD



If, like us, you're still obsessing over the Baby Yoda meme that exploded onto everyone's social media feeds at the tail-end of last year, you'll need to pop down to **29 Glasgow.** The hip city-centre venue has launched a brand-new cocktail in honour of Twitter's favourite little green guy – move aside lonely Kermit, your time in the spotlight is over. The radioactive-green tipple, topped off with lime slices for ears and two blueberries for eyes, costs £7.50 and will surely go down a storm(trooper) with any of your *Star Wars*-obsessed guests. Love it, we do.
*29glasgow.co.uk*



## THE BIG 5-0

Many happy returns are in order for **The Glynhill Hotel**, which will be celebrating its 50th birthday on 9th April. "It's a real milestone," managing director Maroulla Nicholas said. "It's hard to believe it's 50 years since my father opened the hotel. Then, it had 22 bedrooms, a restaurant and a function suite; now we have 147 bedrooms, leisure facilities, a carvery, a bistro and we employ over 100 staff. I am sure my dad is here in spirit." ***www.glynhill.com***



Now, here's a tale of east meets west: the start of this year saw the silver-screen release of the first Pakistani-Bollywood-British film, which was shot at various locations across Glasgow, including none other than the lovely City Chambers. The building is also home to **23 Montrose Street**, one of the premier ceremony-only spots in the city, so why not give your big day the cinematic touch by paying a visit to the filming location?
***www.glasgow.gov.uk/weddingdays***

## KISS ME QUICK



Photo: johnclarkphotos.co.uk

Should you feel inspired after reading our whirlwind wedding feature (p. 106), then add **Kincaid House** to your must-visit list: the Milton of Campsie venue has extended its all-inclusive winter/spring package to include April and May of this year. £3,995 will cover 60 day guests and an additional 50 in the evening, with private use of a variety of spaces. Time to get a move on – the clock's ticking!
***kincaidhouse.com***






**If you work in the industry,** one thing's for sure: when it comes to your own wedding, you'd better plan a banging bash. Such was the case for events supremo Leigh Fergus, who had quite a few boxes to tick for her big day. "We wanted somewhere quite contemporary but with traditional elements," she recalls. "Good food was definitely important to us, and we're both passionate about music so we wanted to make sure there were no limits on the sound system. But the thing that clinched it for us was the Corinthian's late licence, which meant we could party on till late!" Clearly a girl after our own heart there.

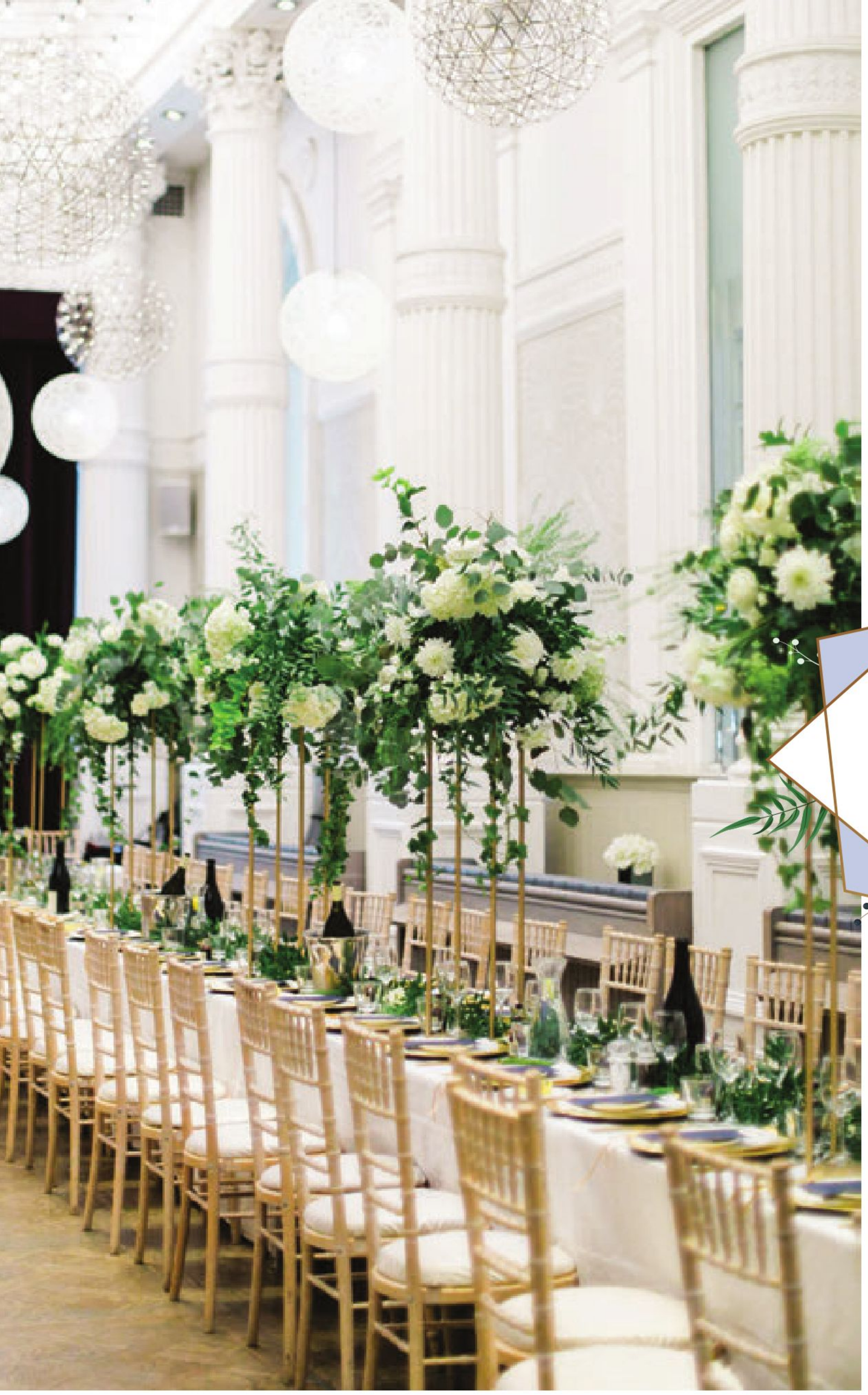
Besides this, an ultra-central venue made sense for their jet-setting guest list – loved ones would be descending on Glasgow from London, Brighton, Ibiza, America and Australia, as well as from all over Scotland. It meant Leigh was won over even before she met the team who would be responsible for delivering her dream day. "Because I work in the business, I really needed to know and trust the people

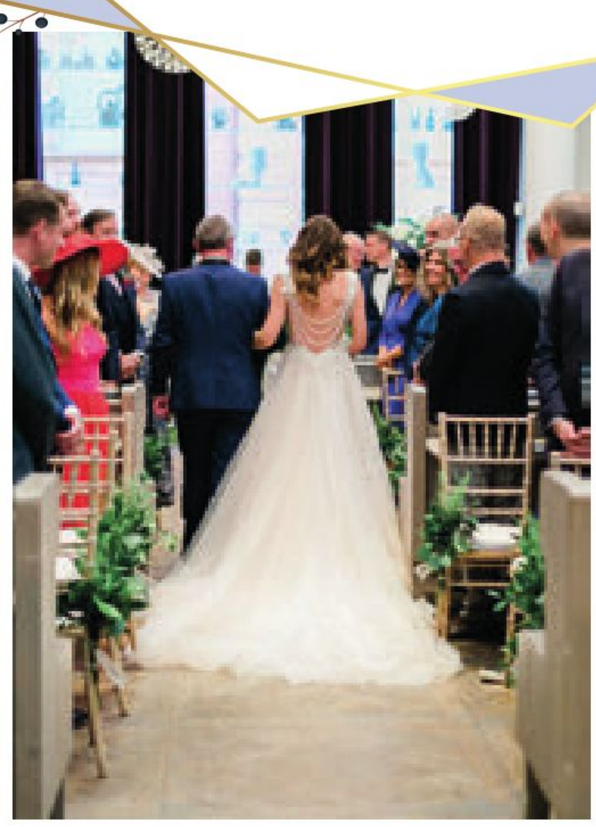


# Leigh Fergus and Stuart Galloway, 21st September 2019

Words by ***Zoë Boothby***

Photography by ***Jade Osborne Photography***







## "I WAS STILL PARTYING IN MY WEDDING DRESS AT 6AM IN THE CORINTHIAN'S CASINO – WE JUST DIDN'T WANT IT TO STOP!"

who'd be doing my wedding," she explains. "When I met Lauren at the Corinthian, we just connected – I trusted her and I felt she understood my vision. For example, the set-up at the venue is usually round tables but I wanted two long ones instead. It hadn't been done here before, but she helped me to achieve it."

With Lauren, the couple were able to put together a bespoke package to suit their needs. This allowed for both the ceremony and reception to be held in the Flying Scotsman suite with its stunning high ceilings and gorgeous lighting features. Guests would enjoy tipples in the Sgian Dubh mezzanine area while the space was turned around. "You don't have to bring anything in to make the Corinthian beautiful because the venue can offer things like flowers and tablecloths, and it would still look great anyway, even if you didn't decorate it," Leigh shares. "But I was keen to put my own spin on the event, bringing in our own cutlery, arrangements from Mood Flowers, and a neon sign we'd made ourselves."

Leigh's expertise didn't just end there. "One of the key things that I always advise my clients to do is keep guests fed and watered – that makes an event," she says. "We wanted to stick to a Scottish theme, so we had elements of haggis, cranachan, shortbread and sticky toffee pudding. There are certain foods that, when you're serving a large number of people, just work better, so we had beef bourguignon, which guaranteed high-quality taste from the first person to the last. And instead of bottles of wine, we had magnums since we wanted it to feel like a real celebration!"

As if that wasn't enough, the couple's friends and family were also treated to no fewer than *six* different kinds of entertainment (including DJs, secret singers and a performance from Leigh's dad). "One friend told us afterwards that the day kept peaking – there were none of the lulls you often experience at a wedding.

"I was still partying in my dress at 6am in the Corinthian's casino," the bride laughs. "We just didn't want it to stop!"

***www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk***

Photography by ***jadeosbornephotography.com*** ♥

# GLASGOW *Venue finder*

GLASGOW AREA | RENFREWSHIRE




## ARDGOWAN HOUSE, CASTLE AND GARDENS

INVERKIP

Ardgowan is only 40 minutes from Glasgow city centre and each booking at this privately owned, 10,000 acre coastal gem comes with the guarantee of exclusive use, so you can enjoy the sumptuous interiors and gorgeous gardens – with its medieval castle and ruined chapel – in total peace and privacy. It offers endless opportunities to personalise your special day!

Capacity min n/a max day 75 night 100
Marquee ✔ capacity 300 provided ✘
Sleeps 20
Price per head from £110
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers are available, enquire within

Tel: 01475 521656, www.ardgowan.co.uk



## BOCLAIR HOUSE

BEARSDEN

A 19th-century gothic mansion, Boclair House is an exclusive-use venue steeped in history with a tasteful Art Deco interior. Exterior features include bandstand, sweeping lawn and gardens. The honeymoon suite boasts a rainfall shower and its own spiral staircase, and there's 11 boutique suites for guests. Create an exclusive wedding experience just as special as you.

Capacity min 2 max day 170 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 30
Price per head from £62
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers from £2,020

Tel: 0141 942 4278, www.boclairhousehotel.co.uk



## BOWFIELD HOTEL

RENFREWSHIRE

Bowfield Hotel & Country Club is a hidden gem. In 2019, the venue unveiled its outdoor hydrotherapy pool with stunning views, a breathtaking new addition to its AURA Spa. Function suites have been recently redesigned, and couples looking for a rustic-themed wedding are falling for its charm. With 22 bedrooms, it's also perfect for guests looking to stay over.

Capacity min 2 max day 80 night 120
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 52
Price per head from £58
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers from £2,020

Tel: 01505 705225, www.bowfieldhotel.co.uk



## THE BUSBY HOTEL

CLARKSTON

The award-winning Busby Hotel takes pride in the personal touch. The stylishly decorated hotel has two function suites, alongside an external balcony and beautiful grounds and gardens. The stunning honeymoon suite has its own private outdoor hot tub. A versatile venue offering impeccable service and attention to detail.

Capacity min 2 max day 180 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 64
Price per head from £60
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers packages from £2,020

Tel: 0141 644 2661, www.thebusbyhotel.co.uk




## CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL

CLYDEBANK

Clydebank Town Hall is an iconic B-listed building dating back to 1902, which is steeped in history. Both stylish and unique, this venue provides the perfect setting for couples to tie the knot. Whether it's a small and intimate ceremony or a show-stopping celebration, its expert, in-house team will be there to help shape your dream day, all from just £1,600.

Capacity min n/a max day 170 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers Miller package available from £1,600

Tel: 01389 737555, www.clydebanktownhall.com



## THE CORINTHIAN

GLASGOW

The jewel in Glasgow's crown, the illustrious Corinthian is the supreme city-centre venue, providing an unrivalled service to create your special day. Its bespoke event suite, The Flying Scotsman, offers incredible ornate features coupled with dramatic lighting – giving you the perfect backdrop against which to capture your magical wedding memories.

Capacity min 2 max day 120 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £45
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers all inclusive from £6,000 for 60 guests

Tel: 0141 559 6865, www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk



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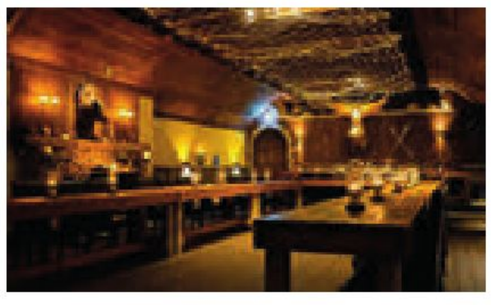



THE CORINTHIAN CLUB

The illustrious Corinthian is the supreme city centre venue. Our Flying Scotsman Suite, where stunning architecture and fairytale lighting, create the perfect backdrop to capture your magical memories. From small intimate ceremonies to lavish celebrations.

Contact our experienced Wedding Manager Lauren on **0141 5596865** or email **weddings@thecorinthianclub.co.uk** to arrange an appointment.

**www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk**




## ÒRAN MÓR

A unique wedding venue in the heart of Glasgow's West End. Within the converted church, the Auditorium and Gallery - with ceiling mural by renowned artist Alasdair Gray - provide an atmospheric setting for up to 250 guests, while our beautifully appointed Private Dining Room is perfect for more intimate wedding gatherings.

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www.oran-mor.co.uk

Gleddoch hotel spa & golf

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15TH MARCH | 26TH APRIL | 31ST MAY
12-4PM. NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED







## DALMENY PARK HOUSE HOTEL

GLASGOW

Dalmeny Park is an impeccable Scottish mansion set amidst several acres of magnificent grounds. Located in the south side of Glasgow, it is one of Scotland's premier venues and is the perfect backdrop to capture the best of your wedding-day memories. Celebrate your ceremony in the beautiful landscaped gardens or in its new Jasmine Suite.

Capacity min 2 max day 180 night 220
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 56
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers 2020, midweek and winter discounts available

Tel: 0141 881 9211, dalmenypark.com



## DOUBLETREE BY HILTON GLASGOW WESTERWOOD SPA AND GOLF RESORT

GLASGOW

Set amongst stunning wooded countryside overlooked by the beautiful Kilsyth and Campsie Hills, DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood has over 400 acres of grounds for your wedding to utilise, whether you would like a summer sunset over the hills as the backdrop or a crisp winter's day. The venue's surroundings are the perfect setting for your special occasion.

Capacity min 10 max day 200 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 350
Price per head from £55
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers range available, including per person, self-catering and smaller wedding

Tel: 01236 860724, www.glasgowwesterwoodspaandgolfresort.doubletreebyhilton.com



## EDEN LEISURE VILLAGE

GLASGOW

Eden Leisure Village is an idyllic location for a wedding to remember. Nestled within 25 acres, the glamping getaway is 14 miles from Glasgow. You will have exclusive use of the site, including the lodge area and 10 quirky accommodation options. Hold your ceremony and breakfast in the marquee, then retire to the barn for dancing. You can also have your ceremony outside.

Capacity min n/a max day 150 night 150
Marquee ✔ capacity 150 provided ✔
Sleeps 39
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all packages bespoke

Tel: 01236 735464, www.edenleisurevillage.co.uk



## THE GATHERING

MUIRHEAD

Glasgow's first medieval-themed wedding barn, located 10 minutes north of the city and set on the edge of the last of the Great Caledonian Forest, provides a beautiful backdrop for your wedding. Exclusive use of the space over two days gives you time to prepare for your perfect day. This is a must-see venue with a magical atmosphere and so much to offer.

Capacity min n/a max day 80 night 130
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 25
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers venue hire from £3,500

Tel: 0141 779 4913, thegatheringscotland.uk



## GLEDDOCH HOTEL, SPA & GOLF

LANGBANK

Standing as one of the most unique and charming wedding venues near Glasgow, Gleddoch is a picture-perfect setting that will truly make your wedding day special. The venue combines beautifully landscaped gardens with luxurious decor and personalised service, creating an all-inclusive wedding experience which leaves you free to sit back and relax.

Capacity min 10 max day 130 night 150
Marquee ✔ capacity 500 provided ✘
Sleeps 140
Price per head from £58
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all-inclusive packages available, enquire within

Tel: 01475 540711, gleddoch.com



## THE GLYNHILL HOTEL

RENFREW

The family-owned Glynhill Hotel offers exclusive facilities for all types of wedding. Whether your big day is grand and lavish or intimate and relaxed, the highest level of service and commitment to creating memories for a lifetime is guaranteed. Its Grand Manor Staircase and Secret Garden are perfect for the photos of your big day.

Capacity min 5 max day 360 night 420
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 330
Price per head from £28
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers 60 people all inclusive from £4,300

Tel: 0141 886 5555, www.glynhill.com

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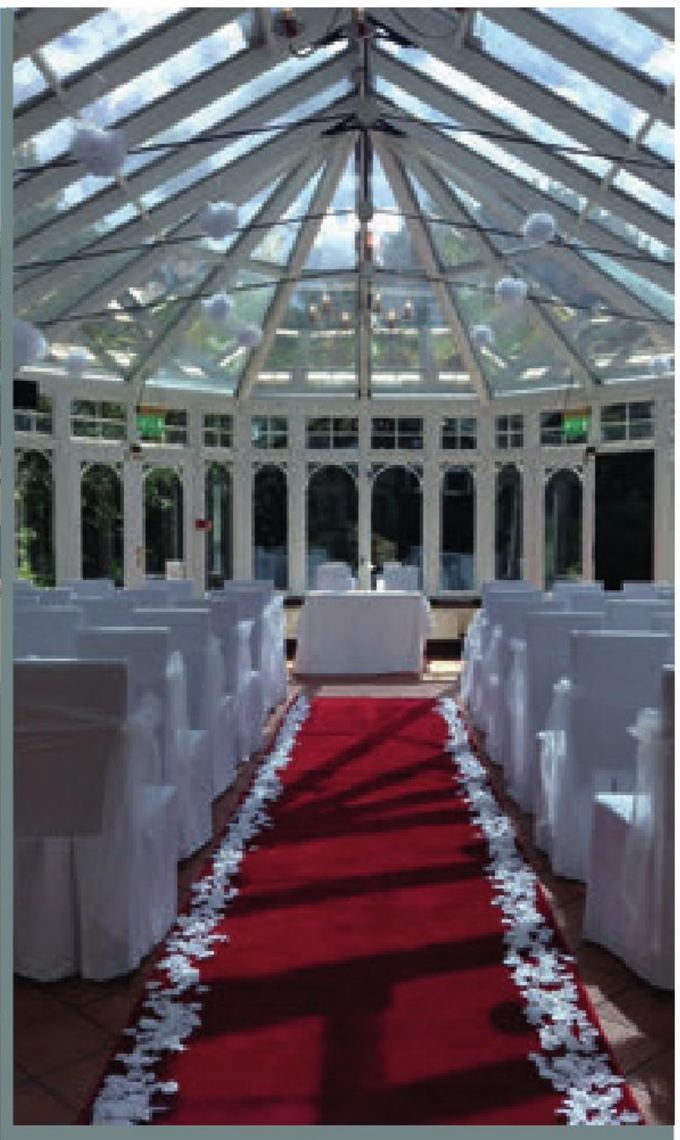


Milton of Campsie, Glasgow, G66 8BZ | 0141776 2226
info@kincaidhouse.com | kincaidhouse.com

Kincaid House
Hotel



## GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL
GLASGOW

Capacity min 70 max day 360 night 380
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 449
Price per head from £70
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers 2020 prices from £70pp; 2021 prices from £75pp

Victorian architecture, ornate pillars and chandeliers, and a landmark building and location set the tone for an incredible wedding day in Glasgow. A classic fixture in the city, the Grand Central Hotel is loved for its modern-day interpretation of the traditional British hotel experience – offering relaxed luxury and unstuffy service.

Tel: 0141 240 3728, www.grandcentralhotel.co.uk


Photo: simonsstudio.co.uk

## HOUSE FOR AN ART LOVER
GLASGOW

Capacity min 2 max day 120 night 150
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £60.50
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers £2,900 all-inclusive midweek package for 40 day guests and 80 evening (Sun-Thur 2020/21 dates available)

Designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh, House for an Art Lover is set in Bellahouston Park, adjacent to Victorian walled gardens. Offering an elegant suite of rooms, including the spectacular Music Room with balcony terrace, this stunning building is the perfect location for your special day and offers bespoke packages from £60.50 per person.

Tel: 0141 483 1600, www.houseforanartlover.co.uk



## KINCAID HOUSE
MILTON OF CAMPSIE

Capacity min n/a max day 100 night 180
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 25
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all inclusive from £2,995

Kincaid House is a beautiful Grade A-listed building secluded in its own grounds that can be all yours. Exclusive use includes private access to the conservatory, Lennox room, drawing room, lounge and garden. Country-house charm, period features and an experienced team ensure Kincaid House is the perfect setting for your special day.

Tel: 0141 776 2226, www.kincaidhouse.com



## THE LYNNHURST HOTEL
RENFREWSHIRE

Capacity min 30 max day 160 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 50
Price per head from £62
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers packages from £2,020

The jewel in the Lynnhurst Hotel's crown is its two acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, which make it perfect for photos, relaxed champagne receptions or for hosting ceremonies on the lawn. This versatile venue, with its Grand Ballroom and function areas, offers many options for creating your own perfectly bespoke wedding day.

Tel: 01505 324331, www.lynnhurst.co.uk

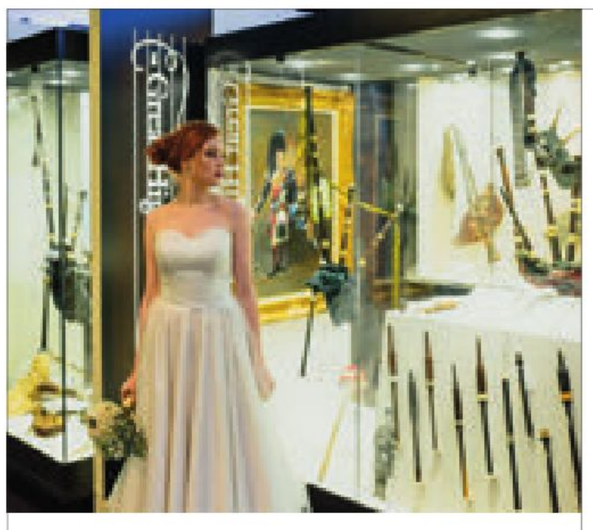


## MUTHU GLASGOW RIVER HOTEL & SPA
ERSKINE

Capacity min 35 max day 350 night 350
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 320
Price per head from £35
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers enquire within

The team at the Muthu Glasgow River Hotel firmly believe that your special day is all about you. So while they may feel that they have the perfect package for you, they are also more than happy to tailor one to your specific requirements. No wedding is too big or small for the friendly, efficient staff who aim to give you the day you've always dreamed of.

Tel: 0141 812 0123, www.muthuhotelsmgm.com



## THE NATIONAL PIPING CENTRE
GLASGOW

Capacity min 25 max day 120 night 150
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 16
Price per head from £51
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers midweek and weekend packages available

The National Piping Centre is a beautiful Italianate church in the heart of the city. The auditorium is the ideal size for all ceremonies, wedding breakfasts and receptions, and packages include a top bagpiper, of course! The venue is rich in character and with a team of dedicated professionals on hand, they will help you dream, create and cherish your perfect day.

Tel: 0141 353 5551, www.thepipingcentre.co.uk



## POLLOK HOUSE
GLASGOW

Capacity min n/a max day 60 night 120
Marquee ✔ capacity 400 provided ✘
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers midweek and winter packages available

Scotland's answer to *Downton Abbey*, Pollok House is a grand country house surrounded by beautiful formal gardens. Lavishly decorated family rooms offer an elegant setting: exchange your vows in the Library and sip champagne in the Parterre Garden. Downstairs, the Servants' Quarters offer added flexibility for larger evening receptions and dances.

Tel: 0141 440 7904, www.nts.org.uk/weddings

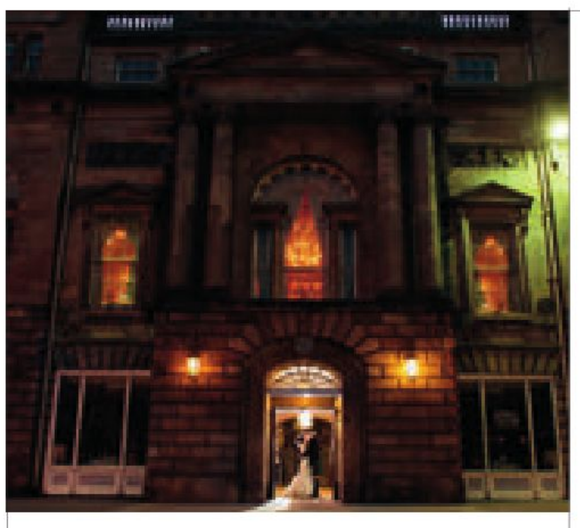


## THE REDHURST HOTEL
GIFFNOCK

Capacity min 30 max day 200 night 220
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 42
Price per head from £58
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers from £2,020

The Redhurst Hotel, located in Glasgow's south side, is perfect for celebrations of all sizes. The Eastwood Suite comfortably holds large numbers, and has a state-of-the-art sound system. A smaller function space is available for intimate weddings and there's packages to suit all. Well-appointed rooms and a cottage beside the venue gives guests options to stay.

Tel: 0141 638 6465, www.redhursthotel.net



## TRADES HALL OF GLASGOW
GLASGOW

Capacity min n/a max day 180 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £46
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers bespoke packages available for midweek weddings

Enjoy exclusive use of Trades Hall on your special day and make the most of this historic, city-centre venue. With the help of its wedding and events co-ordinator, choose where you want your wedding to be from its selection of stunning rooms All income arising from events held within Trades Hall is used to support charitable purposes.

Tel: 0141 552 2418, www.tradeshallglasgow.co.uk



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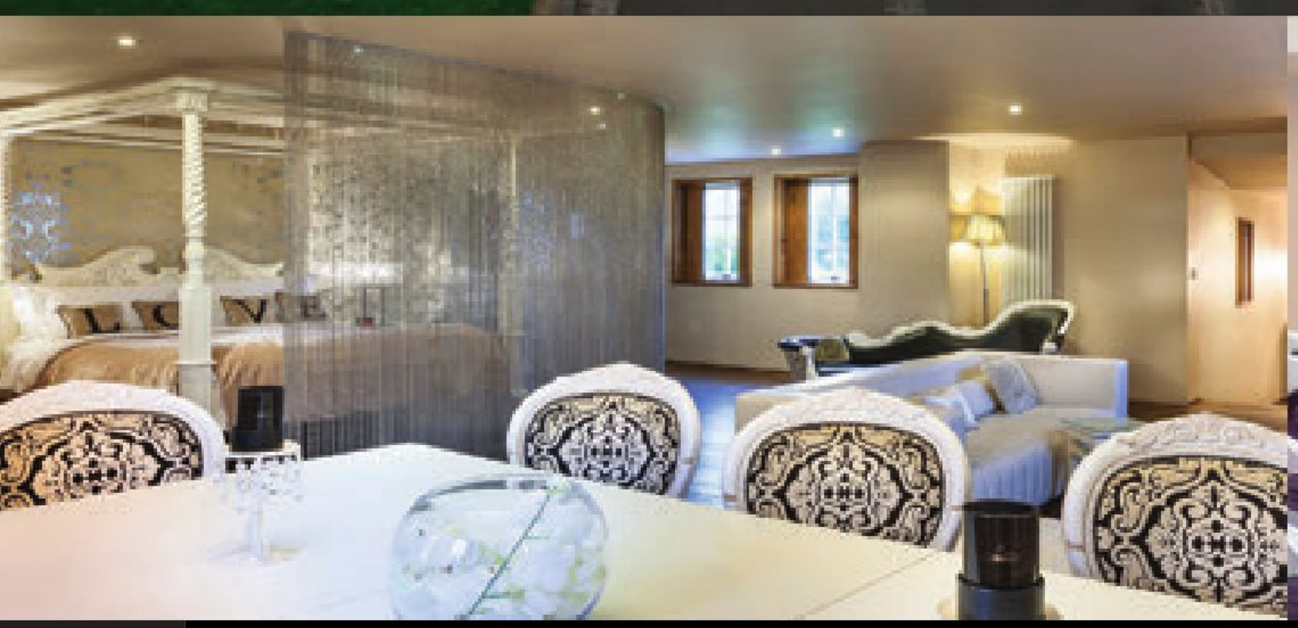

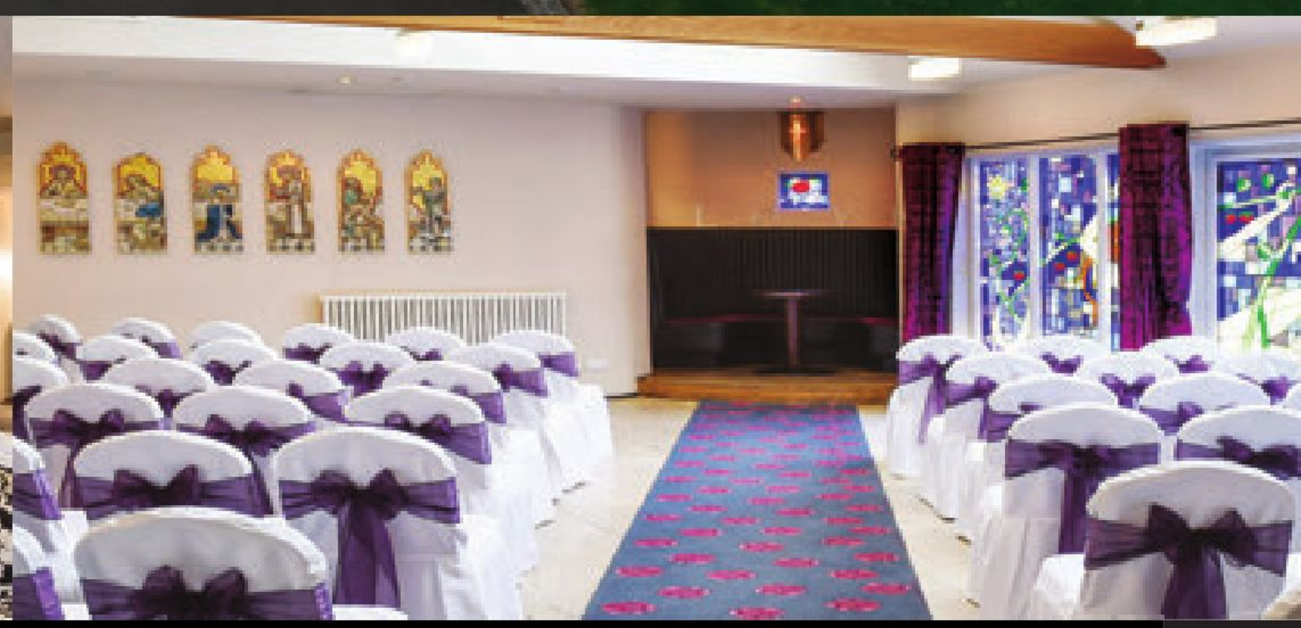

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| 75 daytime guests and an additional 25 evening guests. | **From £4,999** |
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HOUSE FOR AN ART LOVER

ARDGOWAN HOUSE

CASTLE & GARDENS

# 'One of the most beautiful venues in Scotland'


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# SOUTHWEST

LANARKSHIRE | AYRSHIRE | DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY



**Radstone Hotel's** busy restaurant, The Opal, has had a mini-makeover, and we're huge fans. While the quality, contemporary cuisine is still just as delectable (Monday grill nights – whoop whoop!), the design is more evenly matched with the unrivalled level of service offered by the hotel. Vibrant tangerine accents, geometric prints and statement artwork will now greet guests descending down to the eatery for breakfast the morning after the wedding, and there's a glamorous bar area if you're in the market for a hair of the dog. Hey, we're not judging... ***radstonehotel.com***

## *Upcoming events*

MARCH

1st Wedding fair, Riverside Lodge Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***www.riversidelodgehotel.co.uk***

8th Open day, Hetland Hall Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***hetlandhallhotel.co.uk***

8th Viewing day, Cornhill Castle, 12pm-4pm, ***www.cornhillcastle.co.uk***

APRIL

26th Open day, Chatelherault, 12pm-4pm, ***www.slleisureandculture.co.uk***

26th Open day, Radstone Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***radstonehotel.com***

## MAKING *WAVES*



There's nothing better than being recognised for your efforts, so hats off to **Brisbane House Hotel,** which has been nominated for not one, but two accolades at the annual Prestige Hotel Awards – 'Best Hotel Breakfast' and 'Best Boutique Hotel' in Scotland. It's voted for by the public, making the acknowledgment all the more meaningful for this luxurious seaside venue. The hard-working team are buzzing for the gala final on Sunday 15th March. We're keeping our fingers firmly crossed for them! ***www.brisbanehousehotel.com***




## GREEN LIGHT

Famous family business **Gretna Green,** the setting for many a runaway couple, has been beavering away behind the scenes, renovating its recently acquired venue, Gretna Hall. The building has stood in the heart of the village since it was built in 1710, and its refurbishment has been ongoing since it was bought over in 2016. The next stage will focus on guest accommodation. "It's vitally important for us to continually develop as a group and constantly surprise and delight our customers," says chairman Alasdair Houston. "It's also crucial to ensure that the investment we're making contributes to a sustainable future for the community. By adapting and improving our hotels and our visitor attraction, using the skills and expertise of local tradespeople, we are able to support the area and provide career opportunities." This comes five years after a similar makeover at Greens at Gretna Hotel. We can't wait to see the result! ***www.gretnagreen.com***




History, sprawling grounds, ornate interiors – **Chatelherault** has it all. See it for yourself at the venue's open day on Sunday 26th April from 12pm-4pm. Sip a glass of 'Duke and Duchess' punch (named after Chatelherault's aristocratic heritage) while you tour the opulent banqueting room. You'll also receive a goody bag and, if you confirm your booking within three weeks, your day guests will receive a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. ***www.slleisureandculture.co.uk***

# *We married at* MABIE HOUSE HOTEL *Dumfries*

**We're biased, of course,** but this country of ours *is* pretty magical. When you fall for our majestic glens and shimmering lochs, you fall *hard*. Just ask Abi and Martin.

"We visited Scotland for the first time ever in 2014, and it's safe to say we were totally enamoured – with the place, as well as each other!" says the bride. "After many return trips, Martin popped the question, much to my surprise, at the top of Grey Mare's Tail waterfall, just outside of Moffat. So when we started planning we knew that, even though we lived in Oxford, we just had to get married north of the border."

The pair soon began scouring the countryside around Dumfries for a setting that would sum up what they loved most about Scotland: the warm and friendly hospitality, the scenery, and the sense of it being a 'home from home'. Eight venues later, they landed on Mabie House Hotel, a 17th-century gem deep in the forest.

"Mabie captured our hearts, it was as simple as that," smiles Abi. "From the moment we got to the end of the long driveway and saw the house emerge from the trees, I think we knew we'd found our venue."

First impressions count, but it's as much about the people behind the scenes as the scenes themselves. Who was waiting to greet them at Mabie? "The deal



"MABIE CAPTURED OUR HEARTS. THE MOMENT WE GOT TO THE END OF THE LONG DRIVEWAY AND SAW THE HOUSE EMERGE FROM THE TREES, WE KNEW WE'D FOUND OUR VENUE"

# Abi Cullen and Martin Bottone, 27th May 2018

Words by ***Rosie Patrick***

Photography by ***Hemera Visuals***



was most definitely sealed when we met Phillipa Proudlock," Abi says. "She wanted to know about our journey as a couple and was so genuinely interested in what we had in mind for our big day. She could answer all our questions, and none of our wishes seemed like too much trouble."

The more Martin and Abi learned about Mabie, the more certain they felt. This was it. "One of the things we really liked is that, unlike many other venues, there are no set packages, so we were able to build our dream day from scratch," says Abi. "You can also have exclusive use at no extra cost when you reserve all the hotel rooms. This was crucial to us."

The bride and groom booked in January 2017, with just over a year to pull together their spring wedding. Seventy guests made the journey from the south of England and the west coast of Ireland to watch the pair tie the knot in Southwick Parish Church, as suggested by Phillipa, before heading back to Mabie for a relaxed afternoon tea in the garden. "The new terrace and pavilion is spectacular, and there's nothing like the views from the garden across the forest, particularly on a summer's day," says Abi. They were also treated to an owl display arranged with the help of the venue.

"The wedding breakfast was incredible," adds Abi. "We'd had the freedom to devise a menu that was utterly unique, which made our day even more special. We offered a choice of three mains – chicken wrapped in prosciutto, Scottish salmon, or bean stew topped with sweet potato and halloumi – followed by three dessert options. The evening buffet was chip and bacon butties – much-needed fuel so we could carry on dancing!"

Throughout the planning, Abi and Martin were blown away by Mabie's staff. "As we had to organise our day from Oxford, most of the correspondence was either over the phone or via lengthy emails," Abi recalls. "Phillipa and the team were fantastic, responding quickly to every question. They were so supportive and reassuring, which massively reduced our stress. Every time we did pop in, Phillipa and her colleagues Sam and Hazel would always check in with how our plans were progressing and give us tips. Their genuine kindness shone through. On the day itself, we fell behind schedule and they were happy to postpone the dinner by an hour. They made us feel that our day was just as important to them as it was to us.

"My advice is don't even think about going anywhere else! Mabie has everything you could possibly wish for, and more. We'd do it all over again in a heartbeat."

***www.mabiehousehotel.co.uk***

Photography by

***www.hemeravisuals.co.uk*** ♥





# SOUTHWEST *Venue finder*

LANARKSHIRE | AYRSHIRE | DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY



## BRISBANE HOUSE HOTEL

LARGS

Capacity min 2 max day 150 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 56
Price per head from £42
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers a range available from £3,875

Imagine a hotel which whisks you off into a magical, modern and luxurious world, where the only thing that's overlooked is the sea, and you're already there. Brisbane House Hotel loves weddings and with over three decades of experience, your special day is in expert hands. The highly skilled events team can provide bespoke ideas, or offer all-inclusive packages.

Tel: 01475 687200, brisbanehousehotel.com



## THE CARLTON HOTEL

PRESTWICK

Capacity min 2 max day 180 night 240
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 119
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers packages from £57pp

The Carlton is a luxurious, modern wedding venue with beautiful landscaped gardens providing the perfect setting for your photographs. The team's years of experience will ensure that every detail, from start to finish, will be accommodated. Your own personal wedding co-ordinator will dedicate themselves to you and will oversee everything, leaving you free to relax and enjoy your day.

Tel: 01292 476811, www.carlton-prestwick.com



## THE CASTLE ROOMS

UDDINGSTON

Capacity min 30 max day 120 night 150
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £32
Self-catered option ✔ (Sunday-Thursday only)
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers packages available from £1,750

The Castle Rooms is a hidden gem situated right in the heart of Uddingston. The space has been superbly and exquisitely designed to hold both smaller, more intimate big days as well as grander affairs, suitable for up to 150 guests. As an additional bonus, this private wedding venue guarantees you and your guests exclusive use on your special day.

Tel: 01698 810889, castlerooms.co.uk



## CHATELHERAULT

HAMILTON

Capacity min n/a max day 60 night 50
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers packages available, please enquire for more info

Picture your wedding taking place at the heart of Scotland's rich heritage. Chatelherault, a beautiful Georgian 18th-century hunting lodge built for James V Duke of Hamilton (who also held the title 'Duc de Chatelherault') is set on a hill amidst magnificent gardens. Today, Chatelherault serves as one of the country's most prestigious and elegant venues for ceremonies.

Tel: 01698 426213, www.sllcweddings.co.uk



## CORMISTON FARM

BIGGAR

Capacity min 2 max day 120 night 160
Marquee ✔ capacity 200 provided ✘
Sleeps 4
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all weddings bespoke

Hold your barn wedding in the heart of the Clyde Valley, with stunning views of the Southern Uplands, not far from the town of Biggar. At Cormiston, you'll have exclusive use of the farmhouse and two acres of woodland garden. Without being tied to a package, your big day will be individually tailored to your wishes.

Tel: 01899 221507, www.cormistonfarm.com



## CORNHILL CASTLE HOTEL

BIGGAR

Capacity min 2 max day 200 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 25
Price per head from £62
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers from £2,020

Cornhill Castle sits beside the River Clyde surrounded by acres of grounds. The Grand Ballroom has stunning views, and there's options for couples to tie the knot outside. The luxurious honeymoon suite is set over three levels in the one of the original castle turrets. In 2019, the venue revamped its restaurant and unveiled The Ghillie, a nod to its Clydeside heritage.

Tel: 01899 220001, www.cornhillcastle.co.uk



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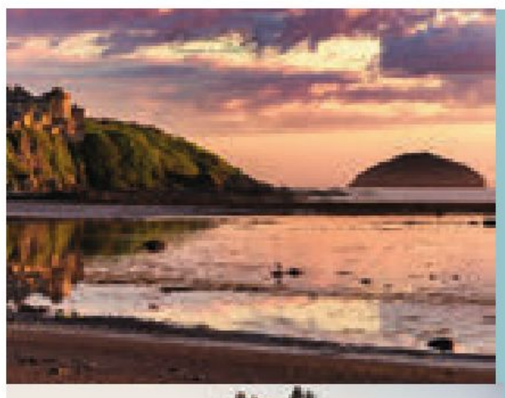
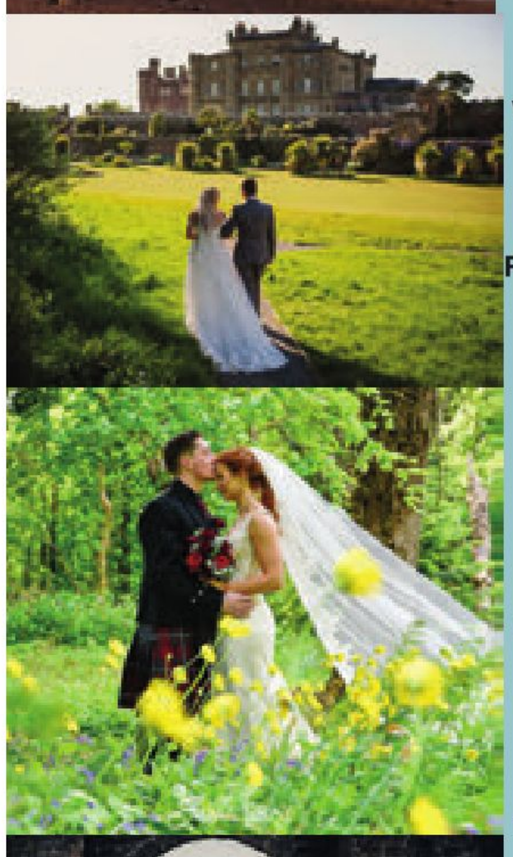
**www.savoypark.com**







Culzean Castle & Country Park

**Perched on a clifftop over the Isle of Arran surrounded by glorious gardens and woodlands, Culzean Castle the perfect fairytale setting.**

**From an intimate wedding for 2 to marquees for 120 guests using a mixture of the castle, grounds and a bespoke marquee on Fountain Court, Culzean has it all.**

**For more information contact our Wedding team on: 01655 884455 or email: culzeanevents@nts.org.uk Web: www.nts.org.uk/Culzean**






Mabie

The idyllic 17th century, traditional Scottish country house hotel is in the heart of Mabie Forest, just a 3.5 mile drive from Dumfries

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**our Pavilion - the perfect place to deliver the wedding of your dreams**





Contact us today

*Definitely Mabie*

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# Cormiston Farm

Create your own day with exclusive use of the 18th Century barn and wooded gardens.
Two miles from the town of Biggar, in the heart of the Clyde Valley.
www.cormistonfarm.com weddings@cormistonfarm.com 01899 221507

HAMILTON PARK








## www.hamilton-park.co.uk

Hamilton Park, Bothwell Road, Hamilton ML3 0DW 01698 283 806 enquiries@hamilton-park.co.uk

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## MIDWEEK AND WINTER WEDDING PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE AT ALL OUR RAD VENUES

*Enjoy your special day with us, come along to one of our open days or open evenings and discover exclusive discounts when you book one of our wedding packages.*

RADHOTELGROUP.COM





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Dalswinton Weddings & Events, Dumfries & Galloway, DG2 0XZ

# Weddings of distinction

## Hamilton Town House

With its striking architecture, tastefully decorated rooms and the garden surroundings of Cadzow Glen, the Town House is an inspired choice for your wedding.





## Low Parks Museum

The 18th century Assembly Room is a stunning setting for your wedding ceremony. The private courtyard gardens with pagoda, also provides an elegant backdrop.





## Chatelherault

Chatelherault is a beautiful 18th century Hunting Lodge set on a hill amidst magnificent landscaped gardens and ancient woodland.





## Lanark Memorial Hall

Lanark Memorial Hall is a Grade B Listed building which has recently undergone a £6 million refurbishment, making it the perfect venue for your special day.





## Rutherglen Town Hall

Everyone has a dream of how they want their wedding day to go and here at Rutherglen Town Hall our dedicated events team will ensure that your dreams come true.





*Escape the Ordinary* at one our five Scottish Wedding Venues of Distinction

For more information or to book an appointment visit our website

**www.sllcweddings.co.uk**

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Leisure & Culture

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## CROSSBASKET CASTLE

### HIGH BLANTYRE, NEAR GLASGOW

A luxurious affair, Crossbasket Castle offers the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable time for you and your guests. Complete with a four-storey private bridal tower, an array of opulent public rooms (including the Grand Roosevelt Ballroom seating up to 250 people), and dining from the Roux family dynasty, Crossbasket Castle promises a truly magical wedding experience.

Capacity min 2 max day 250 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 18 (plus two-bedroom Gate Lodge)
Price per head from £71
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers bespoke, with venue hire from £6,000 and menus from £71pp

Tel: 01698 829461, www.crossbasketcastle.com


Photo: silverphotography.co.uk

## CULZEAN CASTLE

### MAYBOLE

Perched on a clifftop looking over to the Isle of Arran, Culzean Castle offers a fairytale setting. Packages are tailored to each couple, meaning your big day will be like no other. Exchange vows in one of the many unique ceremony sites before sitting down to dinner in the State Dining Room or rustic Stone Barn. The castle's on-site accommodation means you can celebrate into the small hours.

Capacity min n/a max day 60 night 90
Marquee ✔ capacity 500 provided ✘
Sleeps 32
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers £POA

Tel: 01655 884455, www.nts.org.uk/weddings



## DALDUFF FARM

### AYRSHIRE

A well-established barn venue set in the glorious Ayrshire countryside, only an hour from Glasgow. Dalduff Farm is a blank-canvas space with plenty of room and all the gear included. This allows you to create your own dream wedding without the hassle. The barn is also renowned for its warm hospitality and lavish big-day feasts.

Capacity min 70 max day 140 night 160
Marquee ✔ capacity 180 provided ✘
Sleeps 14
Price per head from £60
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all weddings bespoke

Tel: 01655 740550, www.dalduff.co.uk


Photo: duncanirelandphotography.com

## DALSWINTON ESTATE WEDDINGS

### DUMFRIES

Dalswinton Estate Weddings is an exclusive-use venue on a private country estate.
Its renowned garden and truly unique lakeside setting, combined with the latest furniture and lighting set-up in the superb new marquee, ensures that Dalswinton will wow your day and evening guests.

Capacity min 90 max day 200 night 300
Marquee ✔ capacity 250 provided ✔
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £54
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all inclusive starting from £117pp

Tel: 01387 733816, www.dalswintonestateweddings.co.uk



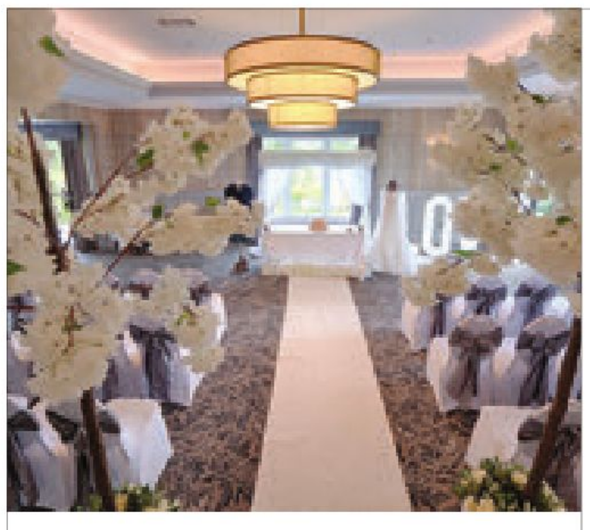
## DALZIEL PARK

### LANARKSHIRE

Off the beaten track and surrounded by picturesque woodland scenery, one of Dalziel Park Hotel's two stunning suites will provide the perfect setting for your wedding day. The award-winning Wide Mouth Frog restaurant is situated within the hotel and there are 14 boutique bedrooms plus a nine-hole golf course in the grounds.

Capacity min 30 max day 280 night 350
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 35
Price per head from £62.50
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers packages from £1,750, or £65 per person

Tel: 01698 862862, www.dalzielparkhotel.co.uk



## THE FENWICK HOTEL

### KILMARNOCK

Searching for the perfect setting for your special day? Look no further than The Fenwick Hotel, nestled away in the heart of Ayrshire. The highly skilled events team is on hand to make wedding planning simple and fun! The hotel has several package options, from Twilight to all inclusive; or go bespoke and have a wonderful package tailor-made to suit you.

Capacity min 2 max day 250 night 250
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 51
Price per head from £42
Self-catered option ✔ (Asian weddings only)
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers available from £3,750

Tel: 01560 600478, www.thefenwickhotel.co.uk


Photo: jarvieandjones.com

## THE FIRTH PAVILION AT SEAMILL HYDRO

AYRSHIRE

Capacity min n/a max day 200 night 300
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 175+
Price per head from £105
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all-inclusive packages from £105pp

The Firth Pavilion is one of Scotland's finest purpose-built wedding venues. Already renowned for quality food and service and a second-to-none location, Seamill Hydro has long been known as a wedding venue of distinction and nowhere can compare with the Firth Pavilion. Email firth@seamillhydro.co.uk.

Tel: 01294 822217, www.seamillhydro.co.uk



## HAMILTON PARK RACECOURSE

HAMILTON

Capacity min 10 max day 200 night 240
Marquee ✔ capacity 240 provided ✔ (x2)
Sleeps 118
Price per head from £50
Self-catered option ✔ (food only)
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all inclusive from £6,995

Situated within 20 acres of secluded grounds, Hamilton Park Racecourse provides a stunning setting for both you and your guests. Say 'I do' at the Weighing Room Gardens and enjoy your reception under the fairylight canopy of the marquee or stylish, newly refurbished grandstand. Award-winning chefs will prepare your wedding meal using the finest locally sourced ingredients.

Tel: 01698 206475, www.hamilton-park.co.uk



## HETLAND HALL HOTEL

DUMFRIES

Capacity min 2 max day 180 night 180
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 74
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers 2020, midweek and winter discounts available

Hetland Hall Hotel is an elegant country house set amidst beautiful unspoilt grounds, situated just outside Dumfries. With sweeping views over the Solway Firth and mountains of the Lake District, Hetland Hall provides an unforgettable setting for your wedding day. Stay in the stunning new honeymoon suite and experience classic design with a modern twist.

Tel: 01387 840201, www.hetlandhallhotel.co.uk



## LOCHSIDE HOTEL, LODGES AND SPA

NEW CUMNOCK

Capacity min 2 max day 200 night 240
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 108
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers 2020, midweek and winter discounts available

Tucked away in the Ayrshire countryside, Lochside Hotel, Lodges and Spa can provide a spectacular setting for your wedding. The Loch of the Lowes and Afton Hills make a wonderful backdrop for your day, whilst the newly refurbished Glen Caol suite offers a stunning walk down the aisle. Sip champagne on the banks of the loch and celebrate your new life together.

Tel: 01290 333006, www.lochside-hotel.com


Photo: dyulephotography.com

## MABIE HOUSE HOTEL

DUMFRIES

Capacity min 2 max day 150 night 200
Marquee ✔ capacity 200 provided ✔
Sleeps 39
Price per head from £48
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all bespoke

With its unique setting and idyllic surroundings, Mabie House Hotel is perfectly placed to deliver the wedding of your dreams, offering fantastic opportunities for indoor and outdoor ceremonies alike. From the house itself to the pristine grounds and the new Garden Pavilion, it's the ideal location for your special day, no matter how big or small.

Tel: 01387 263188, www.mabiehousehotel.co.uk



## PARKVILLE HOTEL

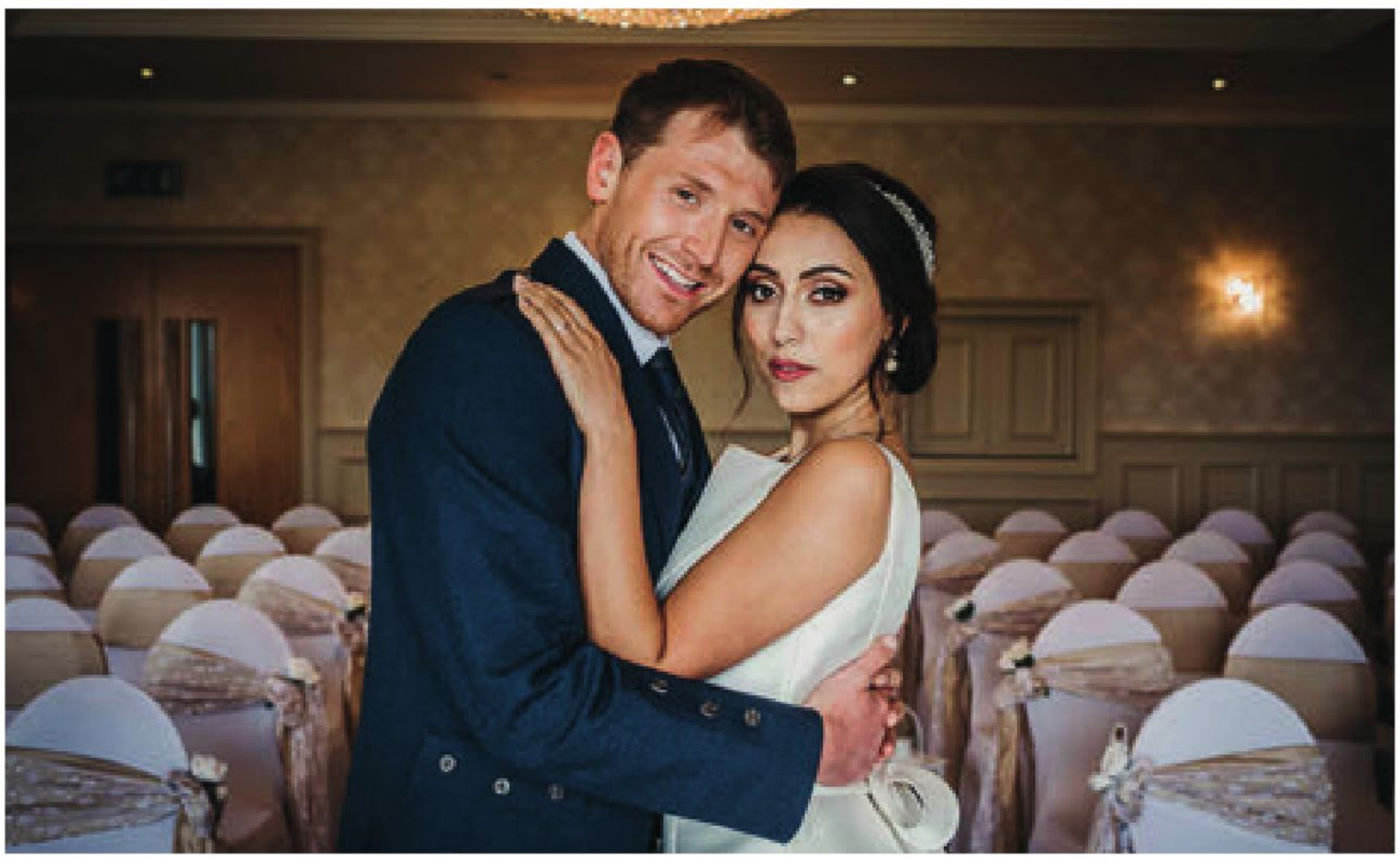
LANARKSHIRE

Capacity min 70 max day 160 night 230
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 10
Price per head from £32
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers packages from £1,750 or £40 per person

Famed for hosting great nuptials and celebrations, the Parkville Hotel in Blantyre can hold up to 230 of your loved ones in its stunning Park Suite. With private grounds for sensational photo opportunities, five stunning boutique-style bedrooms and two private bars within the suite, the Parkville Hotel is a must-see wedding venue.

Tel: 01698 822861, www.theparkvillehotel.co.uk

# THE FENWICK HOTEL





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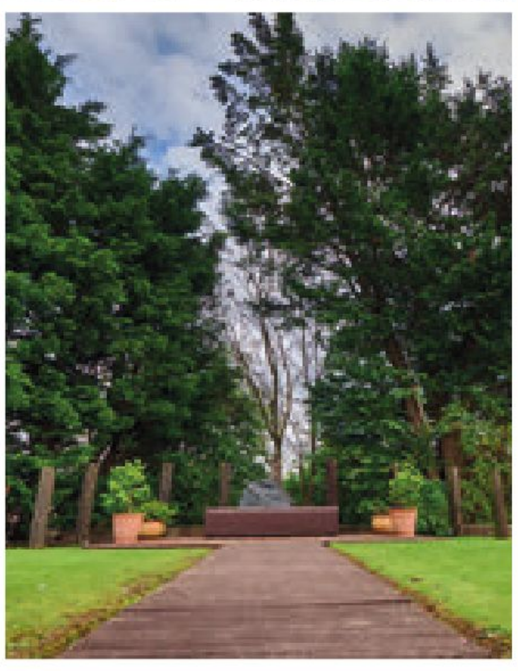

The Fenwick Hotel E: info@thefenwickhotel.co.uk T: 01560 600 478

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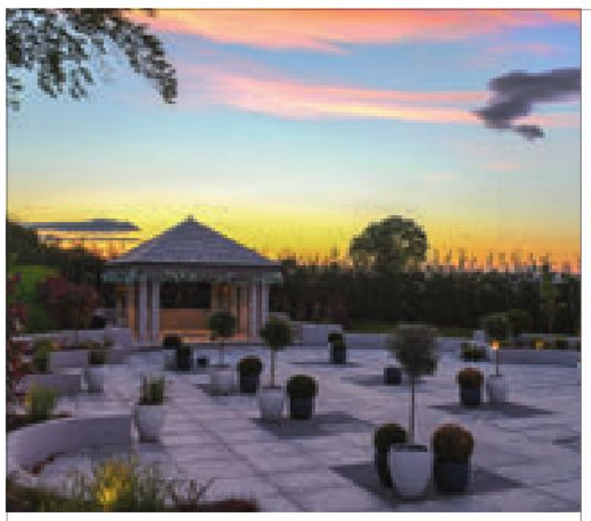


## RADSTONE HOTEL
SHAWSBURN

The Radstone Hotel, in the Clyde Valley, enjoys beautiful panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. A modern hotel with top-class finishings, it boasts a stunning foyer, bar and function suites thanks to a recent refurbishment. Stay in the stunning new honeymoon suite and experience true luxury. The dedicated team will be with you every step of the way.

Capacity min 2 max day 320 night 400
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 100
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers from £65pp

Tel: 01698 791111, www.radstonehotel.com




## RIVERSIDE LODGE HOTEL
IRVINE

At the Riverside Lodge Hotel, the team prides itself on having the ability to tailor packages to you, whether you're planning a small, intimate wedding or are looking for a grand Scottish venue to host a more elaborate celebration. The highly skilled events staff can provide bespoke ideas to suit, or offer one of the venue's all-inclusive packages.

Capacity min 2 max day 180 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 280
Price per head from £POA
Self-catered option ✔
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers available from £3,875

Tel: 01294 279274, riversidelodgehotel.co.uk



## RUTHERGLEN TOWN HALL
RUTHERGLEN

Rutherglen Town Hall is a premier location for weddings. The baronial Grand Hall, coupled with the modern Mezzanine Bar area, provides a unique setting. In addition, the Hall's flexible accommodation offers a bespoke package ranging from intimate functions right up to 150 guests for your wedding meal. Whatever the size of your event, fully trained staff are available to help.

Capacity min n/a max day 150 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from £55
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers all-inclusive packages from £2,830

Tel: 0141 613 5700, www.sllcweddings.co.uk



## SAVOY PARK HOTEL
AYR

Stylish and exquisite, the Savoy Park Hotel in Ayr is a superb setting for both ceremony and reception. Ceremonies can take place in the Oak Room or in the manicured gardens. Afterwards, drinks are served on the lawn and dinner celebrated in the Garden Room. The hotel will comfortably host up to 120 for your meal and an additional 80 guests for the reception.

Capacity min 2 max day 120 night 200
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 30
Price per head from £45
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers from £2,150; all-inclusive packages from £4,500

Tel: 01292 266112, www.savoypark.com



## THE TORRANCE HOTEL
EAST KILBRIDE

The Torrance Hotel has a relaxed atmosphere and a friendly team who are passionate about weddings. The fully refurbished function suite has a modern, neutral palette, featuring an LED dancefloor. Alongside this, the hotel offers a large conservatory and gardens. There's also a variety of room options for guests, and the stunning honeymoon suite even has its own spa.

Capacity min n/a max day 120 night 160
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps 40
Price per head from £58
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✘
Package offers packages from £2,020

Tel: 01355 225241, www.thetorrancehotel.co.uk



## THE TOWN HOUSE, HAMILTON
HAMILTON

With its striking architecture, tastefully decorated rooms and the garden surroundings of Cadzow Glen, the Town House is an inspired choice. The Avon Room can hold up to 150 guests for your evening reception and has its own private bar, stage and dancefloor. The events co-ordinator will meet with you to ensure that every detail is managed to your wishes.

Capacity min 40 max day 120 night 150
Marquee ✘ capacity n/a provided n/a
Sleeps n/a
Price per head from n/a
Self-catered option ✘
Exclusive use ✔
Package offers packages available, please enquire for more info

Tel: 01698 452104, www.sllcweddings.co.uk

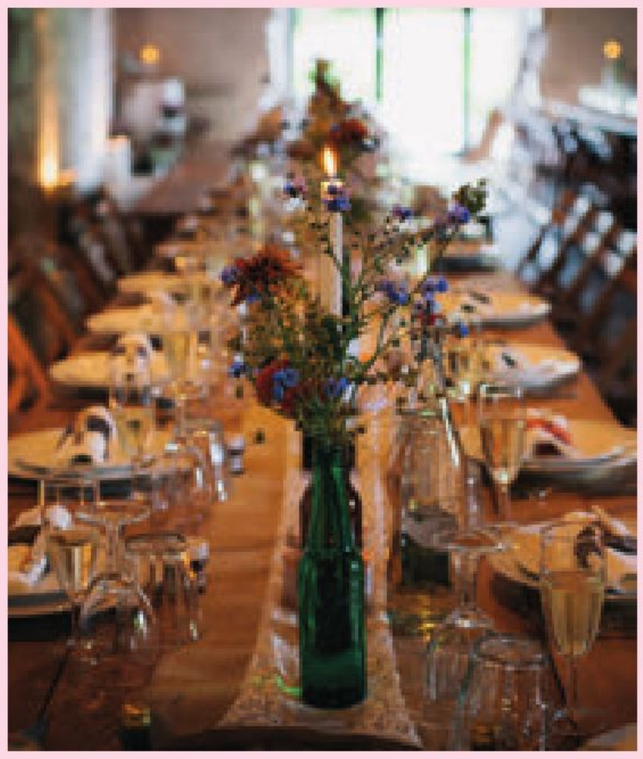
THE WEDDING BARN

Dalduff

AYRSHIRE SCOTLAND







01655 740 550 weddings@dalduff.co.uk www.dalduff.co.uk



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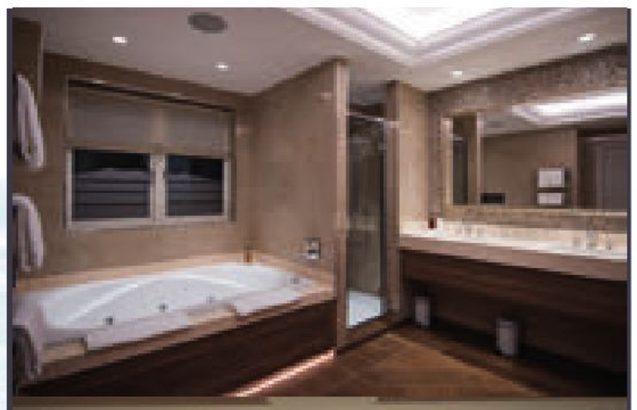



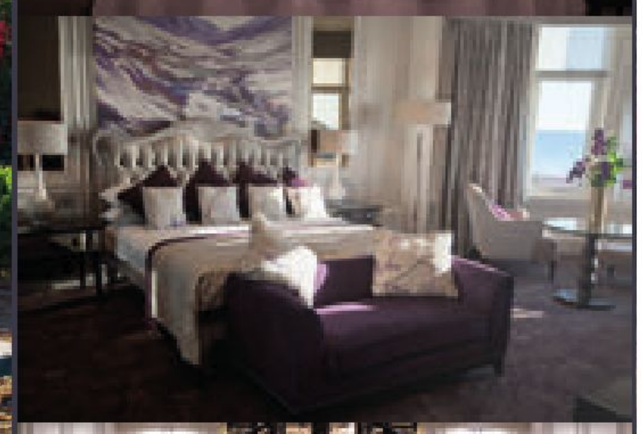




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**NEW FOR 2018**
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THE ROSSLEA HALL RHU ★★★

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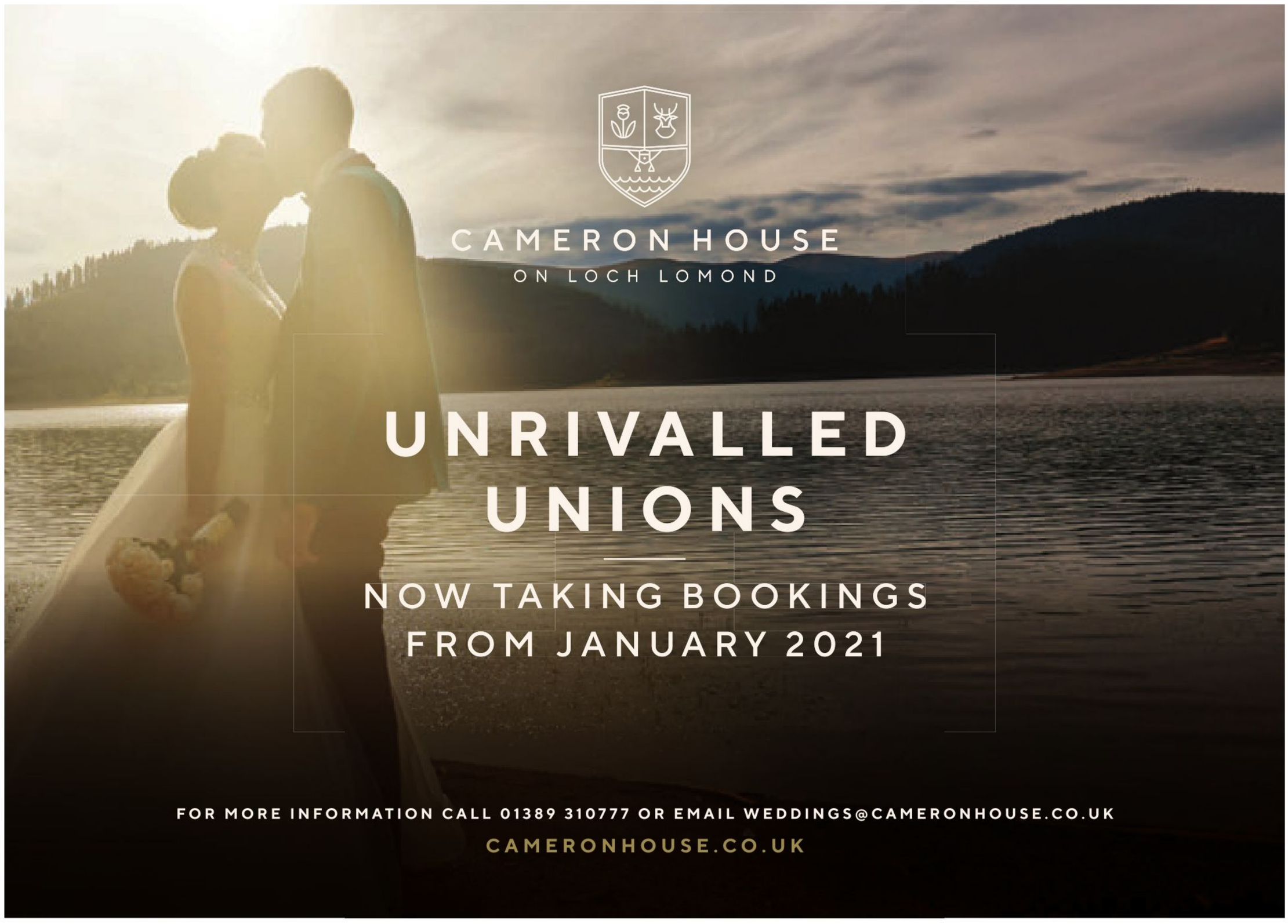
W: www.rossleahallhotel.co.uk | E: sales@rossleahallhotel.co.uk



# LOCH LOMOND TROSSACHS & ARGYLL



## *Upcoming events*

MARCH

15th Wedding open day, Lodge on Loch Lomond, 12pm-4pm, ***www.loch-lomond.co.uk***

29th Spring wedding fair, Rosslea Hall Hotel, 12pm-4pm, ***www.rossleahallhotel.co.uk***

APRIL

5th Wedding fair, The Cruin, 12pm-4pm, ***www.thecruin.com***



Photo: facebook.com/gwalshfilmandphotography

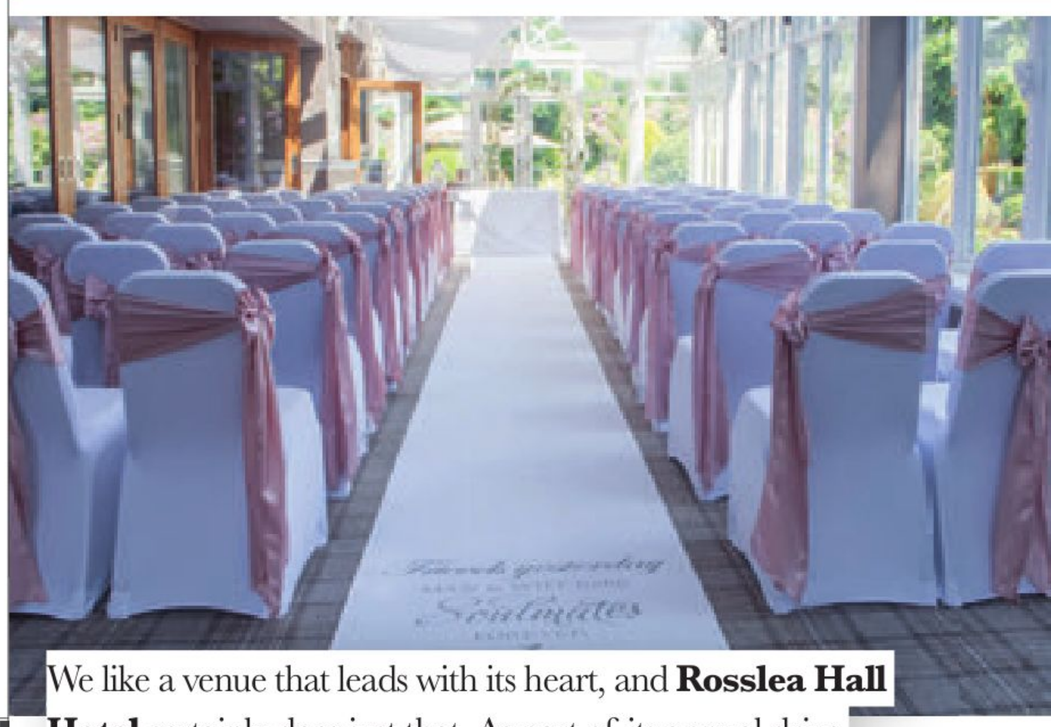
# IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Has your doggo been having a 'ruff' time of it lately? Give them a taste of star treatment at **Dumbuck Country House Hotel** in Dumbarton, which has introduced a new menu targeted specifically at man's best friend. Let them sample the delights of a variety of flavours, including chicken, sausage and turkey – well, they certainly deserve it for being such a good boy (or girl)! And if your pampered pooch still has some room left for dessert, then reward them with some dog-friendly ice cream, also available at the venue. Totally paw-some! ***www.dumbuckhousehotel.com***



# A FAIR TO **REMEMBER**

We've been admirers of **The Cruin** for a long time, owing to its welcoming interiors, cosy accommodation and enviable location on the shores of Loch Lomond. What more could you want from your w-day setting? Scope the space out for yourself by popping along to its annual wedding fair on 5th April between 12pm and 4pm, where you can learn more about hosting your nuptials at the venue, as well as meeting a range of its recommended suppliers. ***www.thecruin.com***



We like a venue that leads with its heart, and **Rosslea Hall Hotel** certainly does just that. As part of its annual drive to raise funds for Robin House, a local hospice which cares for terminally ill children, it managed to raise an astounding £1,612 through events held during the festive period. Alongside this terrific amount, the hotel also donated a range of gifts to residents on Christmas Eve. Who needs Santa Claus? ***www.rossleahallhotel.co.uk***

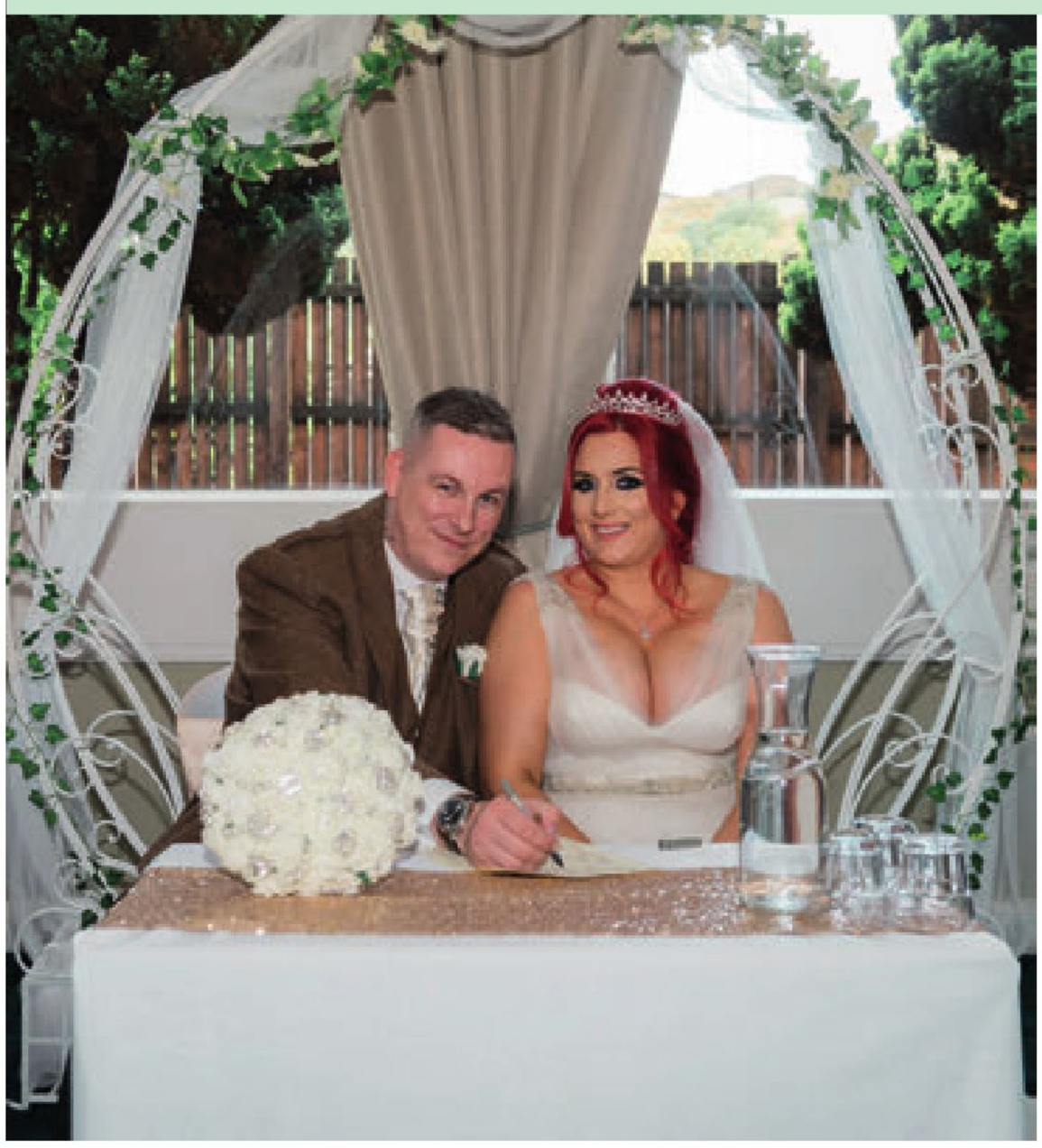


Let's all put our hands together for the **Lake of Menteith Hotel**, whose scrumptious fare has been recognised with receipt of VisitScotland's 'Taste Our Best' accreditation, designed to shine a spotlight on outlets showcasing the finest pickings from Scotland's larder. We can hardly say we're surprised, however – this one's been on our radar for a while. Congrats! ***www.lake-hotel.com***

# *We married at*

# DUMBUCK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

## *Dumbarton*





**Weddings are family occasions,** and though we wouldn't have it any other way, this can make planning a bit of a headache sometimes. For bride Kimberley, her extensive network of relatives was threatening to turn her nuptials into a game of numbers. "Finding the right venue was difficult as my family is big on both sides," she explains. "I wanted to have the wedding of my dreams somewhere that would be able to hold all of my guests comfortably."

Luckily for her and Stephen, they hit the jackpot by signing on to Dumbuck Country House Hotel, on the edge of Dumbarton, which also happened to be one of their regular haunts. "We had always enjoyed going there for dinner and drinks," the bride shares. "I like the warm and welcoming atmosphere, and the main room is so beautiful. It was set up for a wedding the first time I saw it and I knew even then that I had to have mine there too. When I looked at Stephen he just smiled and nodded, feeling exactly the same way."

Kimberley was able to secure her ideal autumn date ("My favourite time of year is a dry, crisp, sunny October day"), booking the venue around 18 months in advance. And, with red, orange and yellow leaves peppering the landscape outside, she was certainly pleased that the interior was equally as stunning. "I had already decided on a colour scheme of blush and rose gold, but the main room, with its chandeliers and voile draped from the ceiling, was so breathtaking that we decided to have cream and gold instead," she says. "It was classic, clean and simple. I didn't need to dress up the room a whole lot, but I still wanted to add some glamorous touches, so we had lots of cream flowers and gold-accented candles."

Although our bride was steadfast in her vision for the day, she was still grateful for all the help she received from the venue. And what help it was: "I can't even begin to tell you how amazing our co-ordinator, Sholey Davies, is," smiles Kimberley. "She is a very friendly and approachable person – she made us feel at ease right away. Sholey told us she would go above and beyond, and she did, listening to everything we wanted

# Kimberley McPhillips and Stephen Cassels, 6th October 2018

Words by ***Zoë Boothby***

Photography by ***Walsh Film & Photography***

and suggesting ideas she knew we would love."

Kimberley's dream of holding an autumnal wedding was not only fantastic for the couple's photographs – their bank balance also reaped the benefits. Their date made them eligible for Dumbuck's winter package, a reasonably priced offering that included ceremony room hire, prosecco reception, bottles of wine with dinner, linens and stationery, as well as an LED dancefloor and the honeymoon suite. Result!

Kimberley and Stephen held both their ceremony and reception at Dumbuck. For the meal, they opted



"WE ACTUALLY DECIDED TO GO BACK AND STAY FOR OUR FIRST ANNIVERSARY BECAUSE WE LOVED IT SO MUCH – AND THE FOOD IS AMAZING!"

for classic dishes, which proved popular with their guests. But the exceptional service didn't stop there. "I have to mention how co-ordinated the waiters were: the serving of every table was synchronised perfectly, as opposed to people eating at different times or food being mixed up like I've experienced at other weddings," Kimberley says.

It goes without saying that Dumbuck will always have a special place in this pair's hearts. "We actually decided to go back and stay for our first anniversary because we loved it so much – and the food is amazing!" the bride laughs. Sounds like a ringing endorsement to us.

***www.dumbuckhousehotel.com***

Photography by ***facebook.com/gwalshfilmandphotography*** ♥

# LOCH LOMOND, TROSSACHS & ARGYLL *Venue finder*



## CAMERON HOUSE ON LOCH LOMOND

LOCH LOMOND

Cameron House Hotel, one of the most unique venues in the UK, will re-open later this year, offering unrivalled five-star luxury. In addition, a new extension will open in the summer of 2021. As well as 208 stunning bedrooms and suites, you'll have a choice of elegant function rooms and versatile event spaces, along with catering for over 400 guests.

**Capacity min** 65 **max day** 400 **night** 400
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 416
**Price per head from** £150
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** 2021 wedding packages now available

**Tel: 01389 310777, www.cameronhouse.co.uk**




## CARRICK CASTLE ESTATE

LOCHGOILHEAD

Carrick Castle Estate is a quirky new exclusive-use barn venue perfect for couples looking for an alternative DIY space to make their own. The picturesque views over Loch Goil and choice of ceremony locations make this a unique and memorable option – get in touch with Hannah to arrange a viewing: hannah@carrickcastleestate.co.uk.

**Capacity min** 2 **max day** 120 **night** 120
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** 120 **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 36
**Price per head from** n/a
**Self-catered option** ✔
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** venue hire from £2,600

**Tel: 01301 703458, www.carrickcastleestate.co.uk**



## DUMBUCK COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL

DUMBARTON

This family-run hotel is nestled at the gateway to Loch Lomond and steeped in Scottish history, dating all the way back to 1798. Dumbuck has been hosting weddings since the early 1900s, and has married many generations of couples. It has the perfect combination of Scottish country elegance and contemporary style, ideal for a romantic wedding.

**Capacity min** n/a **max day** 120 **night** 160
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 50
**Price per head from** £50
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✘
**Package offers** are available for 2020/2021

**Tel: 01389 734336, www.dumbuckhousehotel.com**



## LODGE ON LOCH LOMOND HOTEL

LOCH LOMOND

Nestled on a quiet sandy cove with panoramic views, the four-star Lodge on Loch Lomond Hotel occupies one of Scotland's most romantic locations. A loch cruise or a sea-plane flight can add that extra-special touch to the day. Guests can enjoy stunning accommodation, award-winning cuisine and a health suite with swimming pool.

**Capacity min** 20 **max day** 150 **night** 200
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 98
**Price per head from** £65
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** from £65pp to £95pp

**Tel: 01436 860201, www.loch-lomond.co.uk**



## ROSSLEA HALL HOTEL

RHU, LOCH LOMOND

Winner of 'Best Wedding Venue' at the 2019 Confetti Awards, Rosslea Hall Hotel is a stunning country house that boasts beautiful gardens and panoramic views of the Firth of Clyde. The team will ensure an unmatched level of personal service to you, your family and friends. Attention to every detail will guarantee that your special day is, indeed, special.

**Capacity min** n/a **max day** 120 **night** 180
**Marquee** ✔ **capacity** n/a **provided** ✘
**Sleeps** 60
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** starting from £4,377.50

**Tel: 01436 439955, www.rossleahallhotel.co.uk**



## THE ROYAL HOTEL OBAN

OBAN

Plan your perfect day at The Royal Hotel in Oban. This stunning venue has a civil marriage licence and can hold ceremonies for up to 80 guests, cater for up to 120 for a wedding meal and host 200 at your reception. From the initial meeting to the first full day of married bliss, its professional team will help guide you through it all.

**Capacity min** 30 **max day** 120 **night** 200
**Marquee** ✘ **capacity** n/a **provided** n/a
**Sleeps** 173
**Price per head from** £POA
**Self-catered option** ✘
**Exclusive use** ✔
**Package offers** various seasonal packages

**Tel: 01631 563021, www.strathmorehotels.com**

Weddings at
CARRICK CASTLE
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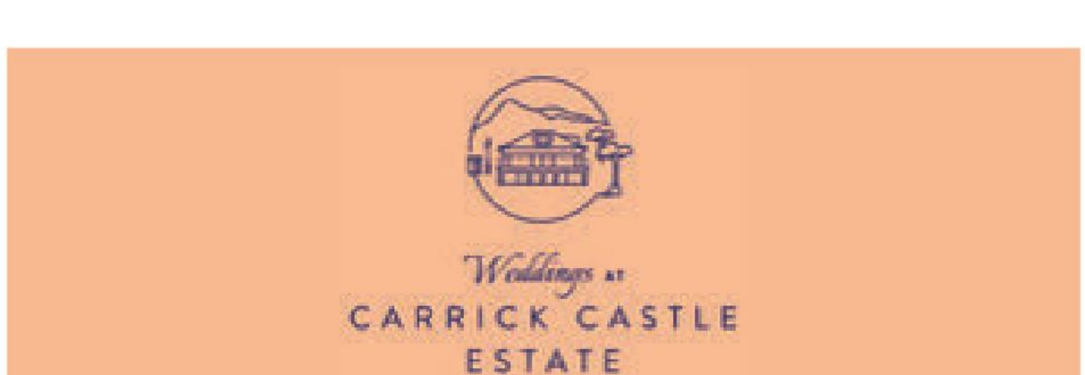
# Carrick Castle Estate

Rustic meets luxury at this unique Scottish wedding venue, giving our couples the best of both. Enjoy the spa facilities and on-site accommodation for up to 36 of your nearest and dearest guests and treat them to exquisite loch and mountain views during an outdoor ceremony. Retreat to the rustic barn for an alternative reception venue accommodating up to 120 – spacious and styled by you, your day will be memorable for all the right reasons.







Tel: 01301 703 458
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Website: www.carrickcastleestate.co.uk

·DUMBUCK·
COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL
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**www.dumbuckhousehotel.com**

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Rhymes & Reasons by Christina

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SWE SCOTTISH WEDDING EXHIBITION

# Planning news

SUPPLIER LATEST AND DATES FOR THE DIARY

Words by *Zoë Boothby*

## NEW tricks

We all need a change of direction sometimes, and so it is that Timber + Canvas, marquee-provider extraordinaire, has decided to rebrand to **Helsby Tents**. Despite the switch-up, the business is still committed to being the high-class purveyor of tents, tipis and domes that it's always been – don't even consider booking your outdoor Scottish wedding without first having a gander at its extensive offering.

*www.helsbytents.co.uk*

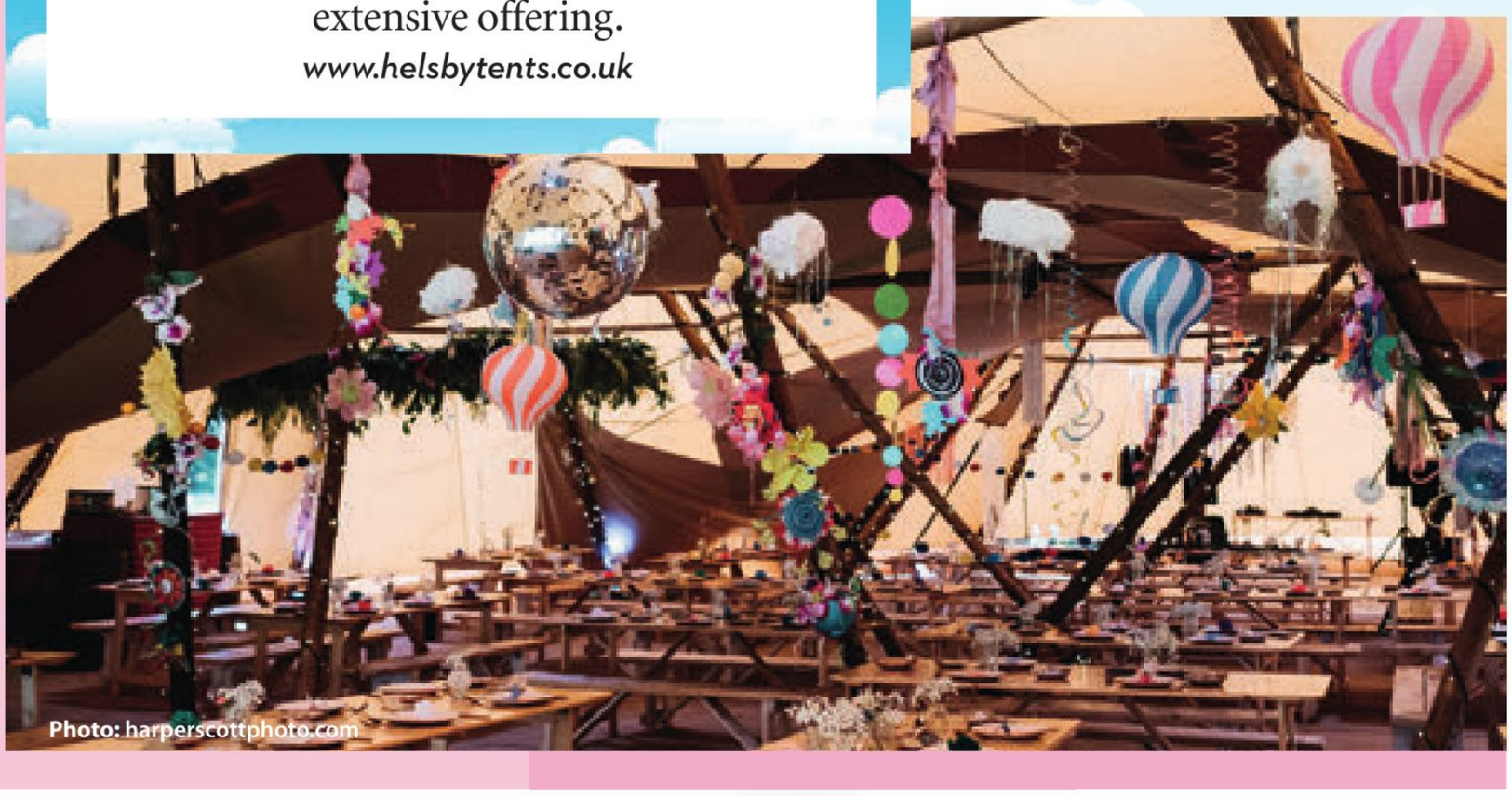

Photo: harperscottphoto.com

## THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Make the most of your late May Bank Holiday Monday by making tracks to the **Scottish Wedding Exhibition** on 25th May, 11am to 7pm, at Argyle St Arches in Glasgow, where up to 80 suppliers will be showcasing their talents. Visitors on the day will also have the chance to win a wedding at Rowallan Castle worth £25,000! We've got four pairs of VIP tickets up for grabs (worth £24) that include fast-track entry, a glass of fizz and a goody bag, so head to our website or keep an eye on our social feeds for details on how to enter.

*scottishweddingexhibition.com*




## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

What's the best part of being a bridesmaid? The merch, obvs. Get your girls kitted out in **Candy Couture**, which specialises in creating handcrafted, affordable gifts for all manner of occasions – including weddings. Get your pals' names emblazoned on satin robes, hangers, champagne flutes and more. For a 10% discount, just quote 'TTKS03' when making your booking. So fetch! *www.facebook.com/candycouturelanarkshire*



Photo: unsplash.com/@brookelark

## You are WHAT YOU EAT

To kickstart healthy eating habits, hit up **KL Nutrition**. It can provide convenient seven-day food itineraries, including shopping lists, recipes and online support, to couples finding it hard to resist their fave indulgences. "The aim is to deliver flexible and tailored meal plans to help brides, grooms or other members of the wedding party in their efforts to become healthier in time for the big event," owner Kirsten Lindsay, a registered nutritionist with the Association for Nutrition, explains. An apple a day just won't cut it... *www.klnutrition.org*



Photo: www.caroweiss.com

## Ding, ding! All aboard

"Our buses are more than just transport; they're a legal mood enhancer," laughs Sam Phipps at **The Red Bus**. Whether it's a pre-ceremony jaunt to round up the troops, or to transport the masses to the reception venue, smiles all round are guaranteed when stepping on one of these cheery red vintage Routemasters. The company offers three buses, each carrying 64 passengers, and operates in Edinburgh and within a 30-mile radius of the capital. Hires include a uniformed driver and conductor with original ticket machine – and your own personal destination blind, that's yours to keep. Think we'll hop on...

*www.theredbus.co.uk*

You can't fault **The Wedding Shop's** remarkable reputation: a mainstay of the gift-list industry, it's been a favourite of switched-on couples for an impressive 30 years now. To commemorate this milestone, the business has launched its own homeware brand, Blush & Blue, which draws on its wealth of experience to curate a range of products guaranteed to be a hit with brides and grooms. Think super-soft bedding, furnishings in plush textiles and tableware that will still look chic in decades to come. Case in point: we bet that any one of these Hampstead cushions, £85, would be enough to brighten up your living room. Is one in every colour too much? We think not.

*www.weddingshop.com*



## STAR BAKER



A round of applause for Kate Archer at **Gorgeously Sweet Cake Emporium**, who has been named regional champ at The Cake Professionals Awards 2020. "I was delighted to win, and am so looking forward to the national awards – I hope I can bring back the title of 'Cake of the Year'," Kate beams. "My business hasn't even been open for two years yet, so this is a very exciting time. I'm grateful to all my customers for trusting me to make their cakes." We'll keep our fingers crossed for you, Kate.

*www.facebook.com/Gorgeouslysweet*

## *Back to black*

If our experts' predictions are to be believed (see p. 216 for the lowdown), 2020 is set to be about one thing: chairs. Put yourself ahead of the curve with **88 Events'** latest offering: *black* chiavari seats. Yup, you read that correctly. Finished with a high-gloss coating, these babies will sate the teen emo still lurking inside you, whilst also adding a touch of high-end glamour to your event. Billie Eilish eat your heart out.

*www.88events.com*



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**www.ceremonybookspublishing.com**

Ceremony Books



# Short but sweet

In 2020, there's any number of ways to personalise your wedding, but this is definitely one of the more adorable ones we've seen. For pure, unadulterated cuteness, enlist **Wee Folk Scotland** to capture you and bae's likeness for the big day. "The 'Wee Folk' are customised wooden portraits, individually handpainted in Scotland to look like the couple," explains owner Susie Hogg. "Perfect for cake toppers, keepsakes, favours or thank-you gifts, every detail can be tailored to your preferences. Where possible, we also source the figurines from FSC-certified European wood suppliers, and use environmentally friendly packaging and tape." Priced from £25 each, it's fair to say good things *do* come in small packages.

***weefolkscotland.com***

## BE OUR GUEST




Pay homage to the traditions of our stunning country by getting the word out to loved ones with the help of the superlative **Mon Amour Wedding Stationery**. Although based in Wales, the team specialises in Scottish-style designs, which would suit anyone planning a do inspired by bonnie Caledonia. Pricing for the purple-hued Heritage of Scotland collection starts from £2 for a save the date, to up to £80 for a seating plan. However, it's this tartan and sunflower suite which is calling our name – we'll definitely be RSVP-ing 'yes'.

***www.monamourweddings.co.uk***

## THIS BE THE VERSE

Are you struggling to articulate the emotions you're feeling in the run-up to the big day? Enlist the talents of **Rhymes & Reasons by Christina**, a bespoke poetry service which provides personalised verses for save the dates, invites, favours, speeches or gifts, presented in scrolls tied with metallic ribbon. "My couples tell me the sentiments they would like to be included and I make it into a poem," says Christina Howland. "It can be as light-hearted or as serious as they wish. I have a brochure of previous work should a client want some inspiration for their own composition."

***www.facebook.com/Rhymes-Reasons-by-Christina-783718528393449***



## PRETTY AS A PICTURE

For invites as beautiful as they are informative, give **Wedding Artwork by Daria** a buzz. "I create fully bespoke, fine-art wedding stationery for couples looking to add personal touches to their big day," explains Daria. "Venue artwork is created for each client which is then featured throughout their suite designs, as well as their on-the-day stationery. This illustration also doubles as a keepsake which can be framed or gifted to parents." The talented artist also has a wedding-dress illustration venture in the pipeline. ***wedding-artwork.co.uk***



## DATES for the diary

MARCH

**1st** Perth and Kinross Registrars Wedding Fair, Civic Hall, Perth, 12pm-3pm. Free entry.
***www.pkc.gov.uk***

**15th** Bespoke Vintage Wedding Fair By Bohemia, Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor, 12pm-4pm. Free entry.
***facebook.com/events/689197141592301***

MAY

**9th-10th** The Wedding Exhibition, Braehead Arena, Glasgow, Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 11am-5pm. Tickets from £8.
***www.braeheadweddingexhibition.co.uk***

**25th** Scottish Wedding Exhibition, Argyle St Arches, 11am-7pm. Tickets from £6.50.
***www.scottishweddingexhibition.com***

HAS

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# GO YOUR *own* *way*



[Right] Who says a veil must be edged with lace? Not **AM Faulkner**, that's for sure. Flores veil, £380 *(annmariefaulkner.co.uk)*



**Photo:** walnutwasp.com

There's a lot of pressure to follow the wedding rule book, but planner *Catrina Duthie* is here to remind us that it's perfectly fine to break with tradition and design your own day

**As the song famously goes, the Book of Love is long and boring.** That's because marriages (or their equivalent) have been around for millennia, which means they've accumulated an awful lot of traditions. But there is no rule that requires your wedding to stick rigidly to those customs – in fact, I'm here to tell you that your day doesn't have to be anything you don't want it to be.

I've been in the wedding-planning business for years, and I always encourage my couples to create an occasion that reflects them as people. What this essentially means is assessing each element and working out if it resonates with you, so that you end up doing things because you *want* to do them, not because you feel you have to, think it's expected of you, or because everyone else does it that way.

Of course, it's very easy for me to say this now. The challenge, when you're faced with a to-do list totting up to what feels like a million-and-one things to decide for the wedding (and you want to start making some concrete plans), is how do you put this into action? Here are my top tips for creating a day that reflects *you*.

## Ask yourself what your priorities are

One of the first things I recommend when you start planning your wedding (after celebrating extensively, of course) is to sit down together and discuss what areas are important to you. Come at it from the point of view of enlightening each other, not judging, to see what you both consider imperative as individuals and as a team. You can start to map out your goals from there. And don't worry if you learn something new about your partner that you didn't know before. It's entirely feasible that they've never given a moment's thought to what they'd want for their nuptials before, so how could you possibly have known?

## As you make decisions, ask yourself '*why* are we doing this?'

I don't mean 'why are we doing this whole wedding thing?'. It's at a more micro level: 'why are we devoting time/space/money to this aspect?' The answer should always be, 'because we want to, and we think it'll make our day even more epic', not 'because we should' or 'because we have to'.

Weddings, at the root of it all, need just three things: you, an officiant, and some witnesses (and a pen, if you're being really pedantic, but you get the gist). Now, you may be surprised by a planner saying that – you might expect me to ramp up the pressure to have a massive bonanza with 200 guests and an entire performing circus – but that's not my style. I firmly believe that everything beyond the bare essentials should be there because you want it there. Even your officiant, whether registrar, celebrant or religious representative, should be someone you actively want to marry you.

This isn't to say you must have a minimalist wedding either. If you do want hundreds of

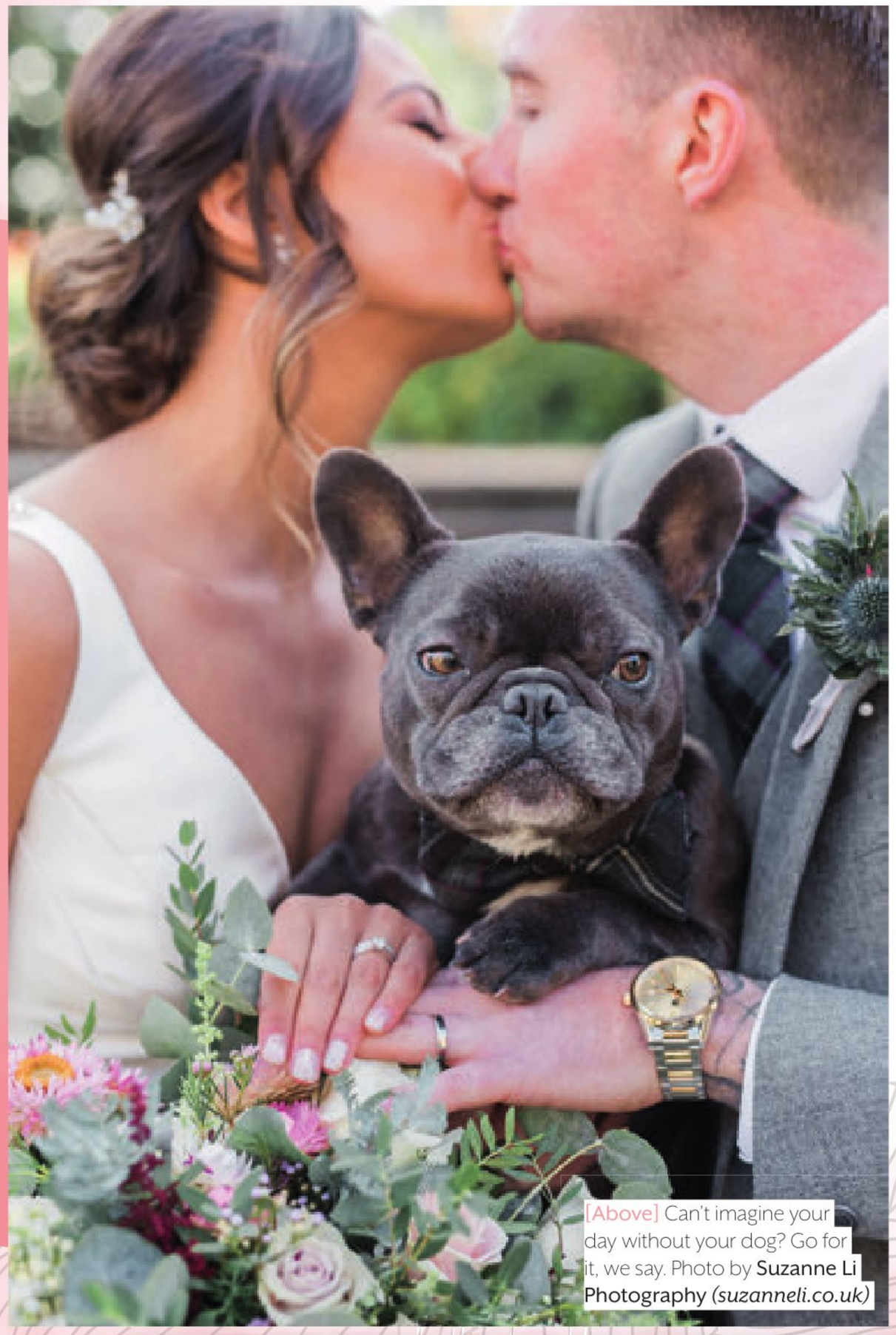



[Below] Two heads are better than one when it comes to bouncing ideas around. Rose gold 'Better Together' chair signs, £4.99, **Ginger Ray** *(gingerray.co.uk)*

> "Balancing others' assumptions against your own desires can be tricky"



[Right] There are so many alternatives to wedding cake these days. How about **Butter and Bodoni**'s meringue-shell tower? *(butterandbodoni.com)*



[Above] Can't imagine your day without your dog? Go for it, we say. Photo by **Suzanne Li Photography** *(suzanneli.co.uk)*

guests and a similar number of sword-swallowers, I'm very much here for that (and totally up for co-ordinating on the day) – but it just needs to be on your terms.

## Don't have things just because they're established practice

Weddings, as we mentioned, are steeped in lore, so most people will expect or assume that yours will pretty much follow the usual template. If some of these rituals resonate with you as a couple, then by all means include them. But the ones that don't sit comfortably with you or perhaps simply don't apply to your relationship – I say chuck 'em and create a narrative that you're both comfortable with.

## Manage other people's expectations of your wedding

Balancing the assumptions of others against your own desires for your wedding can be tricky – and even more so if a family member or parent is contributing towards the costs. In these situations, I'd recommend trying to reach a compromise and discussing openly and honestly why you don't want to include the thing they're so keen on (or vice versa). More often than not, they're just worried you're making a mistake by going against the grain; talking through your reasons can show them that, actually, you're 100% convinced it's right for you.

But this advice doesn't just apply to relatives who're helping out financially; it can also be used with well-meaning family and friends who are emotionally invested in you and your happiness. Don't feel awkward if they keep mentioning customs that you're not having – for example, if they keep saying they can't wait to see your dad's face when he walks you down the aisle (without knowing that you're walking it solo) or they want to know what flavour of cake you're having (even though you've already decided to have a cheese tower instead). Tell them you're going for something different and, if you want to, explain why. Then they can a) get excited for the alternative you're going to introduce to them on the day, and b) stop asking questions that make you feel bad! ♥

**Photo:** tubofjelly.co.uk

[Below] Everyone expecting roses? Surprise them all with a bold mix of protea, hydrangea and fern courtesy of **Cora Anderson Floristry + Styling** *(coraandersonfloristry.co.uk)*





[Above] Heart set on eloping or having a teeny outdoor do? It's special, no matter what the size, so allow **Scottish Wild Picnics** to make your celebratory feast *(scottishwildpicnics.co.uk)*



[Above] **Frill Factory**'s neon signs and reclaimed fabric backdrops fly in the face of humdrum wedding decor (*frillfactory.co.uk*)

## INDEPENDENT HUMANIST CEREMONIES

As a celebrant, Norrie Flowers is on the front line – does he think the wedding party line-up has changed in recent years? "Lots of brides and grooms are very modern in their approach," he says. "They're choosing to have bridesmen, best women, and men of honour by their side, and are sometimes escorted up the aisle by their precious pets or even alpacas. When someone's unsure, I always advise them not to worry about what other people think." As for decor, he reckons greenery is taking over from floral arrangements. "I've seen many venues being very thoughtfully and cleverly decorated," he says. "There seems to be an increase in wedding arches too, for both indoor and outdoor ceremonies – I doubt they'll ever go out of fashion. Couples are putting their own stamp on designs, working closely with florists and venue stylists. I think it sets the tone for the ceremony beautifully."



[Above] Norrie Flowers at **Independent Humanist Ceremonies** says unusual arches – such as this one by **Days of Dahlia** – are being used more and more as ceremony decor *(humanist-ceremonies.org; daysofdahlia.com)*



# 2020 WEDDING *trends*

What's in store for the year ahead? Between bespoke neon, big florals and bridesmen, top Scottish suppliers have plenty of predictions

Words by *Rosie Patrick*

[Below] Make a fuss of Mother Dearest with this personalised sign *(beautifulmagicalandelegantweddings.co.uk)*




## BEAUTIFUL, MAGICAL & ELEGANT

Experienced planner Anna Healy of **Beautiful, Magical & Elegant** is convinced that perspex is going to dominate this year. "It's a clear acrylic version of glass, and is so versatile it will work with any style of wedding," she suggests. "It can be teamed up with flowers, foliage or colours. Couples also have so many options in terms of chairs now – I'm into Ghost, Louis and open-ring Dior chairs."

**2019 trend to keep**: "Unconventional nuptials! Break away from the norm and don't be a sheep! Marry on a beach or in a cave, make your dog the ring bearer, have six wedding cakes instead of one, walk down the aisle in bespoke tartan shoes – the possibilities are endless!"
**Trend to ditch**: "I think we've finally moved on from chair covers and bows."

## FLEUR & BLUME

"Brides and grooms are trying to act in a more sustainable way, using as many locally grown blooms as possible," observes florist Ashley Bryden at **Fleur & Blume**. "Couples are also opting for texture, such as dried flowers, pampas grass and palms."
**2019 trend to keep**: "Hanging installations of greenery is something we should hold onto. And last year's long family-style banquet seating makes dining more relaxing and intimate."
**Trend to ditch**: "In floristry, ditching oasis foam is now a widespread trend, one that I have fully embraced. I also reckon floral walls have had their day, as have photobooths, formalities and matching bridesmaids. Think outside the box and be brave. And step away from social media!"

## THE LITTLE BAR GROUP

When you're invited to the evening reception, it's easy to feel a wee bit left out. Maxine McCourt at **The Little Bar Group** is on a mission to improve the experience. "I foresee drinks receptions for evening guests



[Above] Think pink! 2019's penchant for pretty pastel tipples will continue into 2020, says Maxine McCourt at **The Little Bar Group** *(thelittlebargroup.com)*

[Below] Attention-grabbing, rich-toned florals will be everywhere, according to **Fleur & Blume** *(fleurandblume.com)*


Photo: Mickey McManus

becoming more common," she says. "More people are booking a quirky bar for this part of the day. It helps make those joining you at night feel involved."

**2019 trend to keep**: "Whether bubbly or gin, we all loved pink tipples last year, and it looks like they're here to stay."

**Trend to ditch**: "Fizz-only drinks receptions. While fizz is likely to be your main offering, stock up on some cool alternatives for guests who don't like champers or prosecco – yes, such people do exist!"

## SUPERNOVA WEDDING DESIGN & FLOWERS

The **Supernova** team has picked up on an interesting shift in the last few months. "We're seeing bigger budgets for smaller-scale weddings," reveals Ruth Marshall. "Fewer guests, with a higher spend on each, and extra attention to detail will be huge. Neon lighting is also in demand – we have the largest selection of signs in Scotland."

**2019 trend to keep**: "A more creative focus on chairs. We now have over ten different styles, with our chiavari chairs coming in every colour imaginable."

**Trend to ditch**: "Set decor packages. Each wedding is so unique – gone are the days where a standard deal would suit a couple."



[Below] "Statement decor has taken over," declares Ruth Marshall at **Supernova Wedding Design & Flowers.** "Go big or go home!" *(supernovaweddingdesign.co.uk)*


Photo: 1500photography.co.uk

[Above] Brides will opt for berry-stained lips in 2020, reckons **Leigh Blaney** *(makeupbyleighblaney.co.uk)*

## LEIGH BLANEY

Who needs a crystal ball when you have makeup artist **Leigh Blaney**? Her knowledge of the beauty industry is unparalleled. What's new for 2020? "Brighter and darker lips will be present right through to the summer months – berries, pinks and reds," she reports. "I'm also loving highlighted, almost pearlescent rosy cheeks. This will be massive, and an easy look for most skin types to adopt, any season. Just don't go overboard or you could appear shiny."

**2019 trend to keep**: "It should be a nude lip. It's fantastic that the bolder shades are having their turn, but a pared-back lip is still a classic look with a darker eye."

**Trend to ditch**: "It's time to say goodbye to over-contouring. Authentic beauty is better. Enhance what you already have."


Photo: caroweiss.com

[Below] Foliage-heavy arrangements are more eco-friendly – we are dazzled by **Days of Dahlia**'s hanging fern display *(daysofdahlia.com)*

## DAYS OF DAHLIA

By now, you've probably well and truly got the message that climate change is a serious threat (and if not, flip to p.271 for this edition's flower feature). Thankfully, florists like Fleur & Blume and **Days of Dahlia** are disrupting the wasteful weddings industry. "We are meeting so many eco-conscious couples who are approaching planning with the environment in mind," says the latter's Lauren Printy Currie. "This can be difficult, given imported flowers and unnatural designs are so sought after, but there is an increased awareness of the responsibility we all have to protect our planet. At Days of Dahlia we grow our own flowers and source what we can't produce ourselves from other excellent Scottish growers. It means our carbon footprint is extremely low, and it's heartening to see our field full of bees, butterflies and pollinators."

## FUZE CEREMONIES

"We've noticed the trend for eloping is more prevalent than ever," reports celebrant Paula Wilkinson of **Fuze Ceremonies**. "In fact, quite a few of our 2020 bookings are for closeknit services in idyllic Scottish surroundings. The growth in elopements has birthed another new trend – the Scottish wedding-moon. Many of our eloping couples are choosing to head into the wilderness and combine their ceremony with a cosy mini-moon where they can chill out, reconnect and toast their newlywed status." Run away with us?

**2019 trend to keep**: "We were all obsessed with 2019's vivid colour palette and hope it remains a fixture for some time to come. And who doesn't love a pet at a wedding? Hundreds of happy hounds trotted up the aisle last year. Long may it continue!"

**Trend to ditch**: "Are summer dates declining in popularity? We're finding autumn and winter nuptials are more fashionable these days. Book your suppliers as soon as you can!" ♥

# The planning *diaries*

Two of the *Tie the Knot Scotland* team are engaged! We've been following their route to the altar, as one plans a wedding in France and the other organises a celebration in Glasgow. As spring approaches, invitations and music are on the agenda…




[Above] Catherine and fiancé Mark are trusting their stationery to **Feel Good Invites** *(etsy.com)*



## Catherine Sheridan, digital journalist

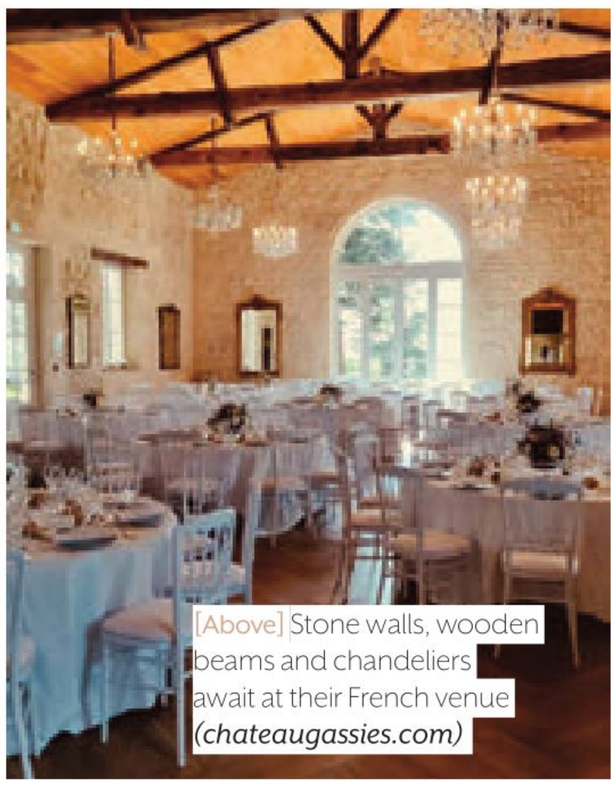
**Wedding date: July 2021**
**17 months to go**

**Confession time: wedding planning has been put on the back burner** in recent weeks, with little progress made on my part. All of my spare time – which had previously been dedicated to operation 'Get hitched in France' – has been completely diverted to my nearest and dearest following an unexpected family illness. Even researching has been put on hold.

With all that has been going on over the past month or so, there have been times when my stress levels have gone through the roof. January felt never-ending from a financial point of view too. But stepping back has definitely given me a new perspective. I now realise my timescales were over-ambitious, and my worries about finding the right florist and ensuring my colour schemes were on trend no longer seem so important.

With that in mind, I'm going to focus on what Mark and I have achieved since our engagement instead of berating myself for everything we still have left to do.

One of the main accomplishments, besides securing our venue, was locking down a makeup artist and hair stylist for me and my bridesmaids. Unlike a wedding in Scotland where you often know who you want to do your bridal makeup, it was much more of a gamble booking an unknown artist in France. All I really had to go on was social media accounts and online reviews. I contacted a raft of French freelancers but quickly learned that many have contracts with particular venues and are unable to guarantee availability until much closer to your wedding date – something I was not willing to risk. Thankfully, I eventually stumbled across a beautiful website, Atelier Coquette, which specialises in wedding hair and makeup and is based in Bordeaux. I made contact with the company owner, Amandine, who outlined the prices and dates for trials. Miraculously, she was available to book. I was absolutely over the moon as the pictures of her previous brides and bridesmaids fit exactly what I'm looking for – elegant, boho chic.



[Above] Stone walls, wooden beams and chandeliers await at their French venue *(chateaugassies.com)*

Over the Christmas break, Mark and I also settled on the design of our invites – I can't wait to see them when they arrive. Having saved money by skipping save-the-date cards, we weighed up the cost of making and printing invites ourselves and instead decided to go with Feel Good Invites, a design company we found on Etsy. All that is required now is to finalise the spreadsheet of names and addresses and place the final order, so that's another big bullet-point ticked off the list!





[Left and above] Catherine has booked bridal hair and makeup studio **Atelier Coquette**, after falling in love with its boho chic style. It even sells some pretty accessories on Etsy *(www.etsy.com/fr/shop/Ateliercoquette)*

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Number one, and most importantly, KEEP THE HEAD!
- Book another wedding-dress shopping try-on extravaganza – Unbridaled in Ayr, and Eleganza Sposa and Anne Priscilla Bridal in Glasgow are next on my list.
- Decide on catering options and sort a drinks reception for in between the service and reception.
- Organise another sleepover with my bridesmaids – they (and Mark) are the best people for keeping me sane.

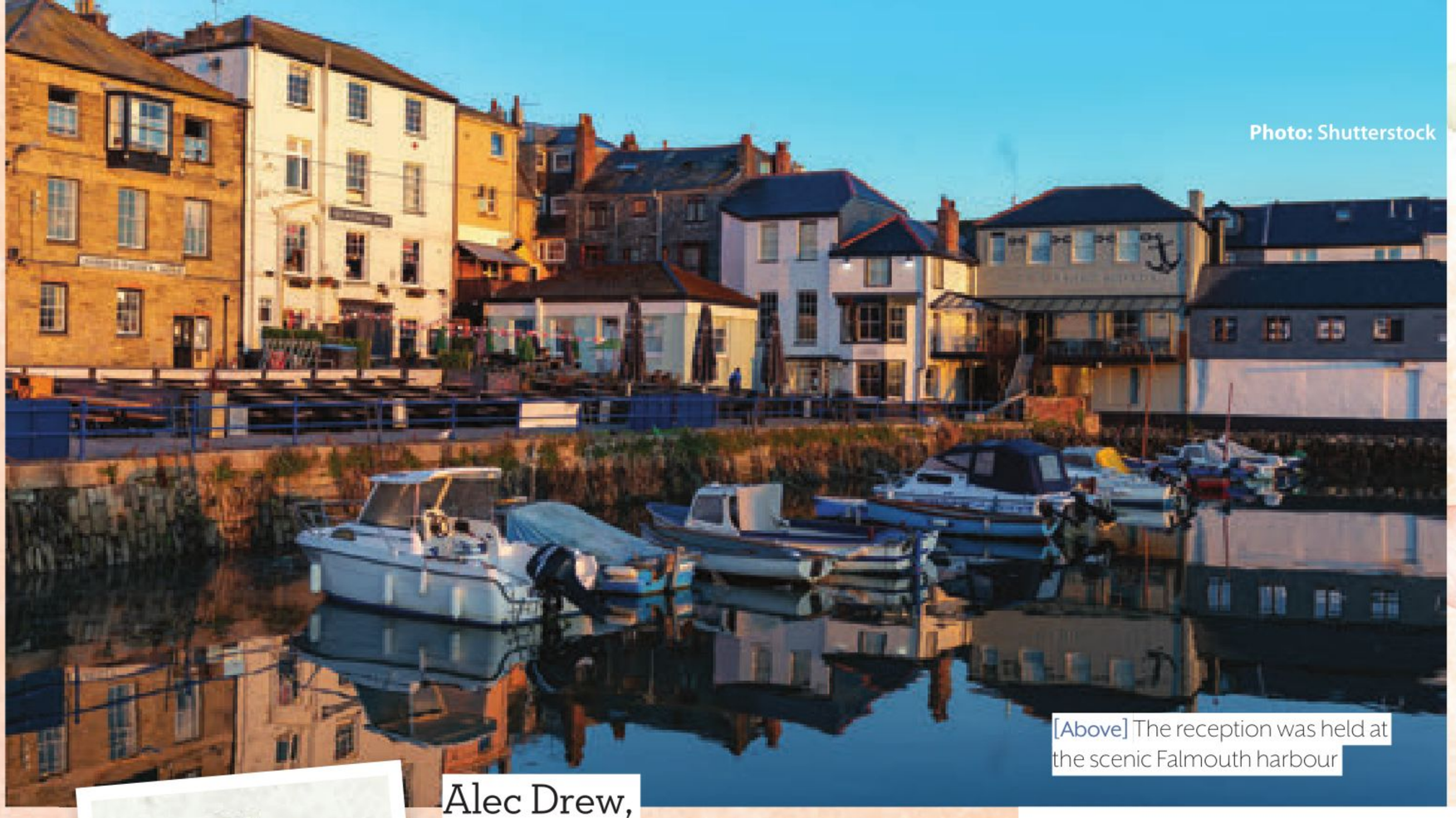


Photo: Shutterstock

[Above] The reception was held at the scenic Falmouth harbour



Alec Drew, digital and data manager

Wedding date: August 2020

**5 months to go**

**Where has the time gone? It feels like just yesterday that I was thinking 18 months was** plenty of time to plan a wedding, yet today I'm looking at the words 'five months to go' in black and white and starting to get a bit apprehensive about how much we have left to do!

I'm pleased to say that, despite this, our planning got off to a great start this year. Our first wedding activity of 2020 was as guests – my old school friend Lucy tied the knot with her fiancé Tyson in a beautiful ceremony overlooking the Cornish coast. Getting there was an epic journey for Adam and me that involved trains, planes and automobiles from Glasgow to the harbour town of Falmouth. Once there, we enjoyed the ceremony on the dramatic Pendennis headland, followed by the reception set against a backdrop of the sun setting over the harbour. Congratulations, Lucy and Tyson!

## "WE'RE PUTTING ON A COUPLE OF CLASSIC RED BUSES, WITH A SCENIC TOUR OF GLASGOW INCLUDED"

As we travelled home feeling totally inspired, our chat turned back to our own big day as we discussed logistics and how people would get to our venue. Lucy and Tyson had laid on a beautiful vintage bus to take us to the ceremony and back again. Both our ceremony and reception are at House for an Art Lover, on the south side of Glasgow, but most guests will be staying in the city centre. There's no shortage of taxis in Glasgow, but we'd enjoyed our bus ride along the coast, and decided we'd like to give our guests a similar treat. Most of them will be coming here for the first time, so we're going to put on a couple of classic red buses to transport them to the venue, with a short scenic tour of the city included. It beats a quick trip up the M8 in an Uber – and also ensures everyone gets there on time!

We also had a chance to talk about our evening

## PLANNING

[Below] Impressed by the vintage bus at his friend's wedding, Alec is organising similar transport for his own guests from **Lothian Motorcoaches** *(lothianmotorcoaches.com)*





Photo: weddingphotographyincornwall.co.uk

[Above] **Pendennis Castle** hosted Alec's friend's wedding earlier this year *(english-heritage.org.uk)*



Photo: neilthomasdouglas.com

[Above] Alec and Adam will tie the knot at the magnificent **House for an Art Lover** *(houseforanartlover.co.uk)*

entertainment. Adam and I are not dancers (the whole idea of a first dance fills us with dread), but we love music. We'd been swithering over whether to go for a DJ or a live act, but watching Lucy and Tyson's band made me realise that was what I wanted. I love the special atmosphere you get from live music, and I like that you can still enjoy a good show whether you're dancing or not. We've been helped in our search for a band by *Tie the Knot Scotland*'s handpicked online entertainment showcase – it has a selection of artists in lots of different styles. Researching bands on YouTube is worthwhile too – not only do you hear them, but you see what they look like on stage and if they're the right fit for you. But there's nothing quite like hearing a band play live, so we'll be heading along to a few showcase events before we make our final decision.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

- Food tasting: as we head into the final stretch, we're looking forward to going to our venue and sampling the menus.
- Order of service: we have some coffee dates planned with our celebrant, Elizabeth from Fuze Ceremonies, to plan the ceremony.
- Seating: we don't want a chair cover in sight, so we'll be looking for stylish seats that suit the look of our venue. ♥

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*fly away*

# Honeymoons

Get outta your dreams and into your car. There's a whole world out there to explore, so head to these places and make tracks in a set of wheels

Selection by ***Rosie Patrick***



## PATAGONIA

The southern tip of South America, encompassing Chile and Argentina, is a tale of two breathtaking landscapes, with the snow-capped Andes and fjords to the west and deserts to the east. It's hard to believe both can co-exist, and only a drive will do it justice. Book via Pelorus, which is offering a ten day 4x4 journey from £9,000pp from Coyhaique to Punta Arena, taking in Torres del Paine, a magnificent national park full of bright blue icebergs and golden grasslands, and the lakes around Lago Posadas, where you'll stay in haciendas and tuck into Argentine BBQs. ***www.pelorusx.com***

# HIT THE *road*

## THE SILK ROAD

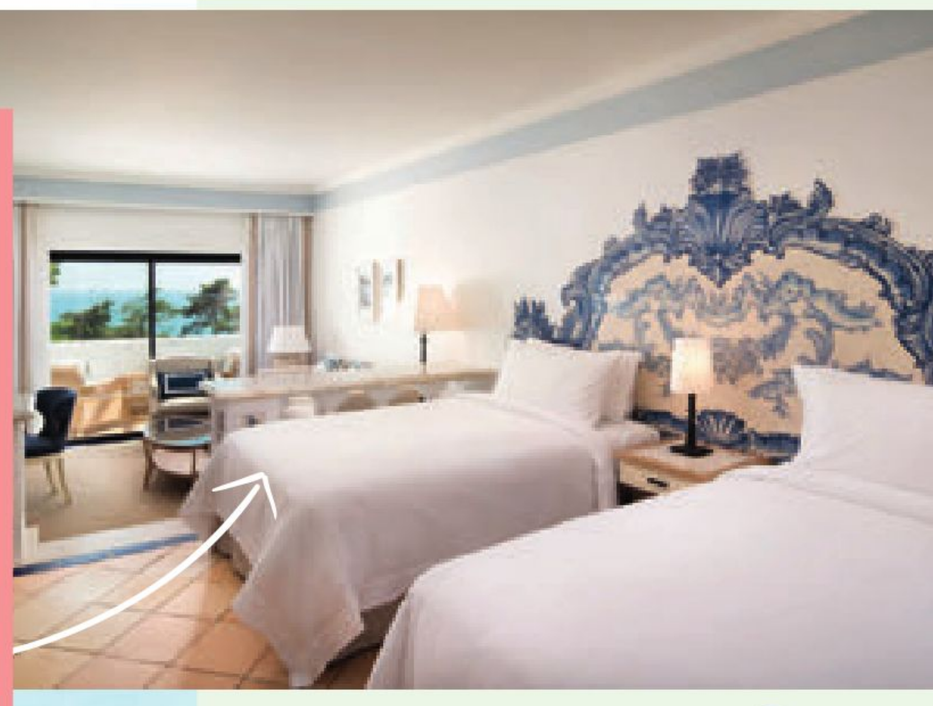
This famous route had its genesis in the Han dynasty in China around 207 BCE, when the silk trade began its operation between east and southeast Asia, and south Asia, Persia, the Arabian peninsula and southern Europe. If you've got the time to spare, join Wild Frontiers' fascinating 48-day tour of the full length of the road, from Xian to Istanbul. It's the biggest trip that the company has ever orchestrated, and – at £10,995pp – isn't cheap, but if you're looking for extraordinary, this is the one.

***www.wildfrontierstravel.com***



## PORTUGAL

Perhaps you've stayed in the Algarve with your parents when you were younger, but know this: this is *not* one of those trips. This is Portugal as you've never seen it before. Fly into Lisbon, where you'll rent a car and head north, officially starting your journey at Cabo do Roca, the westernmost point of mainland Europe, before heading down to the glittering seaside town of Cascais (the Santini ice-cream parlour is well worth a stop). You'll then wind through the wild Alentejo and Algarve, and the wine regions of Tavira and Lagos, before ending up at the five-star Pine Cliffs Resort, above right, near Albufeira, which boasts 11 restaurants and an award-winning spa. From £64pp per night. ***www.pinecliffs.com***



## BAHAMAS

It isn't all about sunbathing in the Bahamas – there are ample opportunities for a sensational drive if the one paradisaical view isn't enough. If you base yourself in New Providence, kick things off at Cable Beach, a few miles west of the capital, Nassau, before going east to Saunders Beach, where the sunsets are heavenly and the crowds have all but disappeared. After that, you could continue on to Fort Montagu, the oldest on the island.

***www.bahamas.com***

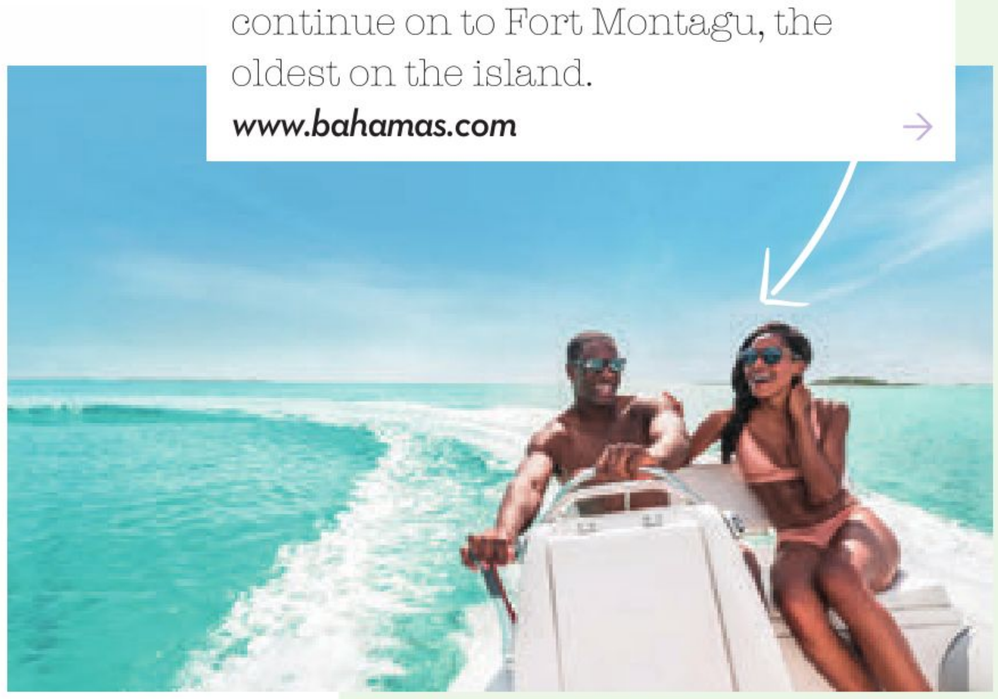




Photo: tibo.org

## NAMIBIA

This is one for the bucket list. With two contrasting luxury camps, Zannier Hotels' Omaanda and Sonop (pictured right) as the bookends, you'll travel across the Namibian desert by 4x4, a five-hour drive through dramatic plains, towering dunes and jagged mountains. At Omaanda (from £541pp per night), you can embark on a private tracking tour in search of iconic native wildlife, like rhinos, elephants, cheetahs and giraffes, while Sonop (from £466pp per night) has a spa and open-air cinema to recharge after the journey. ***www.zannierhotels.com***



## UTAH

Have you ever seen a pool like *this*? We're dying to dive right into its turquoise waters. It belongs to the Amangiri five-star resort at Canyon Point near the Zion National Park, the first stop on Pelorus's Utah self-drive. Here, you'll go canyoning through rock formations and drive ATVs across the Coral Pink Sand Dunes, before moving on to the Vermillion Cliffs and Lake Powell, for a day on a private yacht. You'll then drive to the Grand Canyon and wrap up at the Verde River. From £7,000pp. ***www.pelorusx.com***



## MEXICO

Another bridge between two decadent, and very different, destinations, this Mayan jungle trip connects Chablé Maroma on the Riviera Maya with its sister hotel, Chablé Yucatán, to the west. After indulging in 650 feet of private beach and presidential villa options at Maroma (from £590 per night), the pair of you will drive through the heart of the Yucatan Peninsula with Chablé, stopping at Chichen Itza, a large pre-Columbian city, and the sacred Cenote Chihuán, before finally reaching the blissful, wellness-focused Yucatán (from £761 per night). ***chablehotels.com***



## TUSCANY

We can't get over the glamour of Italian Hospitality Collection's Tuscan Route. The thought of speeding through the hills and past the cypress trees in a classic Italian ride, headscarf fastened on tight, is just so *chic*, we're packing our Prada quicksmart. During the three-, six- or nine-night trip, you'll be encouraged to visit a number of sites, recommended by the knowledgeable team. You'll also stay at three historic spa hotels, Fonteverde, Bagni di Pisa and the opulent Grotta Giusti, pictured left. *Bellissima*! From £3,316. ***www.italianhospitalitycollection.com***



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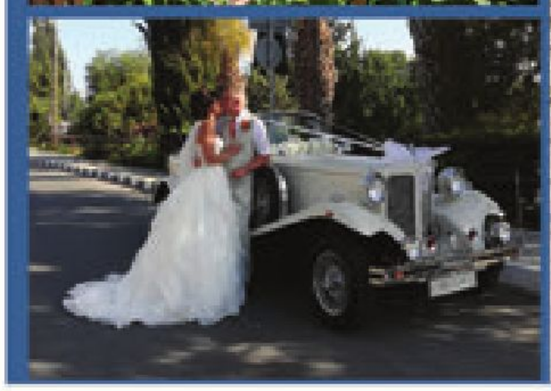

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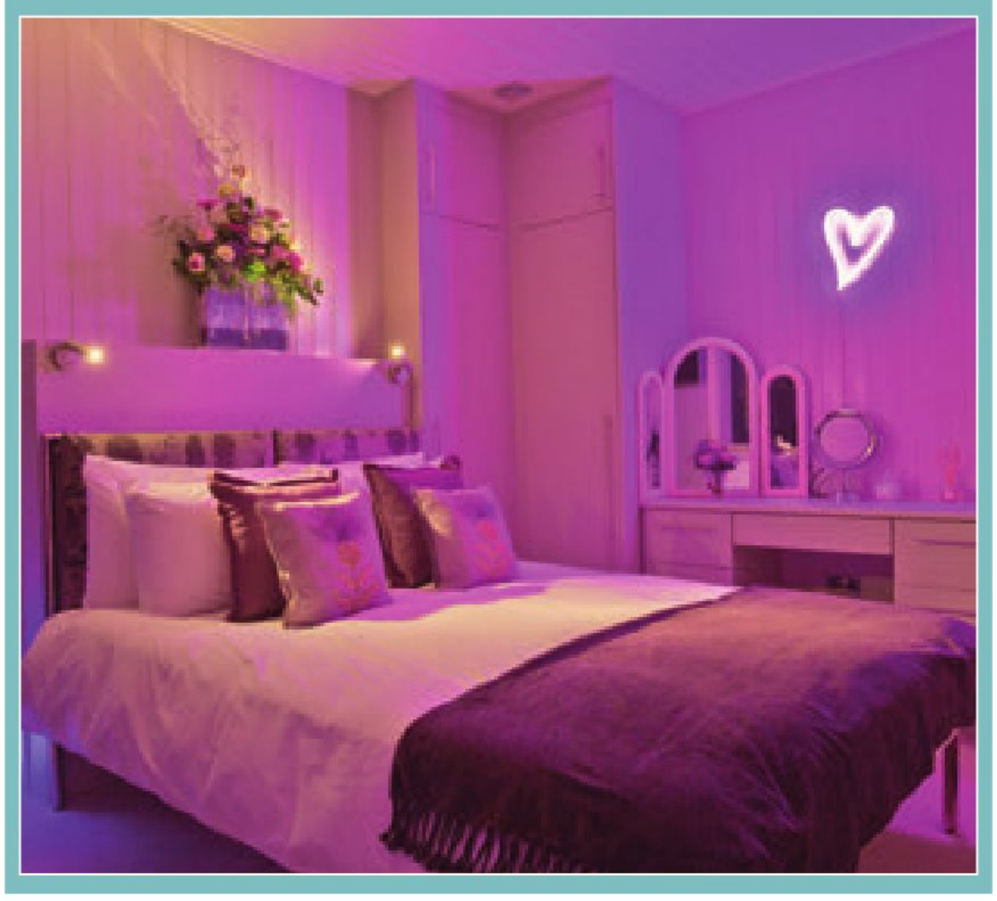






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# *Staying* PUT



## THE IDLE ROCKS

Get your Daphne du Maurier on at The Idle Rocks, an idyllic 19-bedroom boutique hotel in St Mawes, Cornwall, a stone's throw away from the seafront. Each room is individually designed and equipped with a deluxe Hypnos bed to sink into and snooze, while the waves lap on the shore. The restaurant serves up authentic Cornish fare (and not just pasties, before you start), sourced from the doorstep – our mouths are watering at the idea of oysters, confit Cornish cod and West Country cheeses. Mmm. ***www.idlerocks.com***



## THE INVERGARRY

Formerly a gardener's cottage, this architectural gem in a quiet village in Royal Deeside is a relaxing retreat, first built around 1908. These days, the place is a thoroughly modern prospect, with bi-folding doors to soak up its peaceful surroundings, plush furnishings and a wetroom, which leads outside to a hot tub (pictured above) and patio area. Despite its proximity to the majestic Cairngorms National Park, we reckon you'd struggle to tear yourself away. ***invergarry.scot***



## HIGH TRODIGAL

Machrihanish, a small village in Argyll, boasts superlative scenery and hidden coves, overlooking the mighty Atlantic coast. It's here you'll find High Trodigal, a unique, earth-sheltered cottage, complete with underfloor heating, spa bath and welcome hamper (stocked with champagne and local goodies) – i.e. it's the cosy night in of *dreams* for the two of you, that doesn't require you to fly for 13 hours. You'd have to drag us out by our loungewear... ***www.hightrodigal.co.uk***

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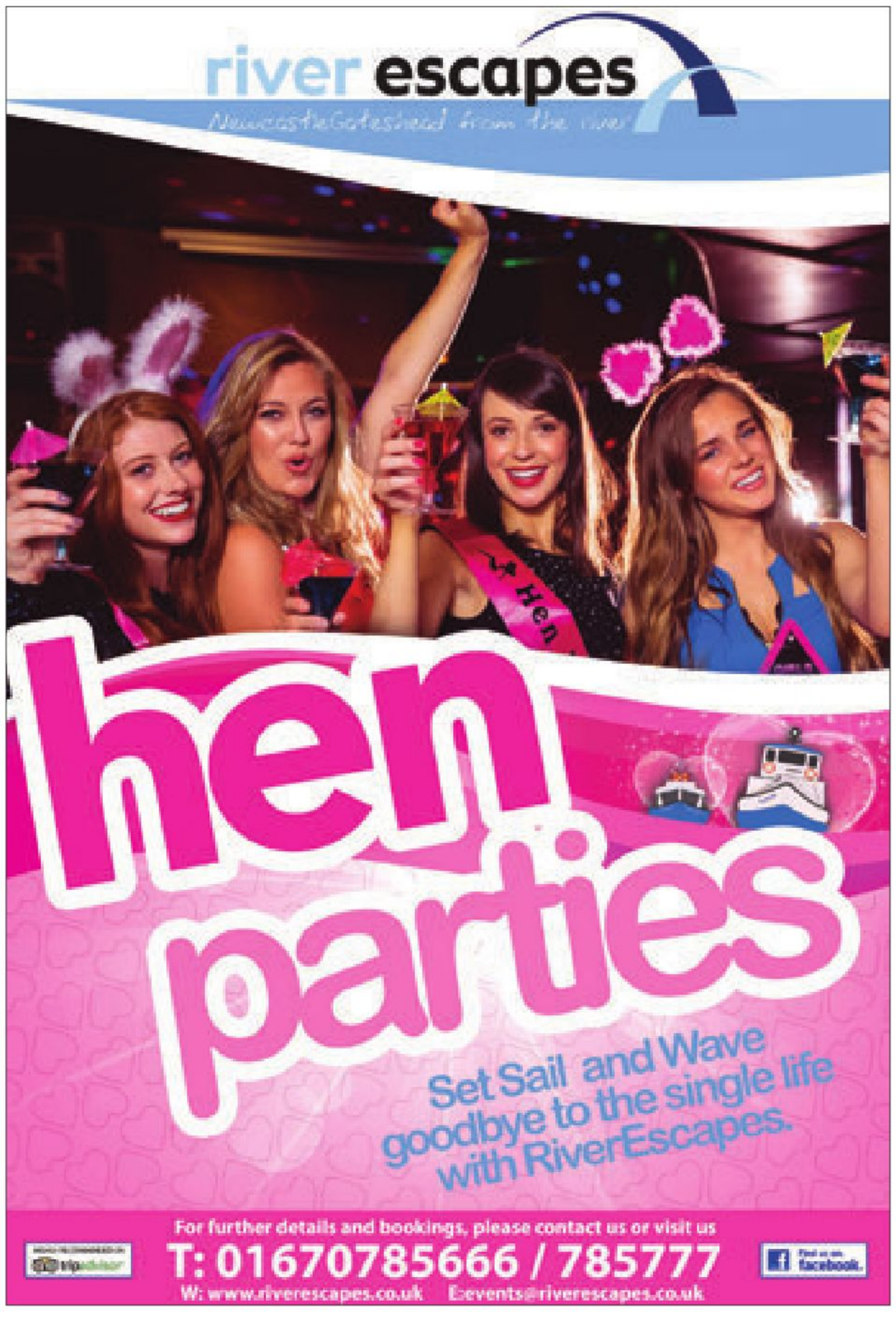
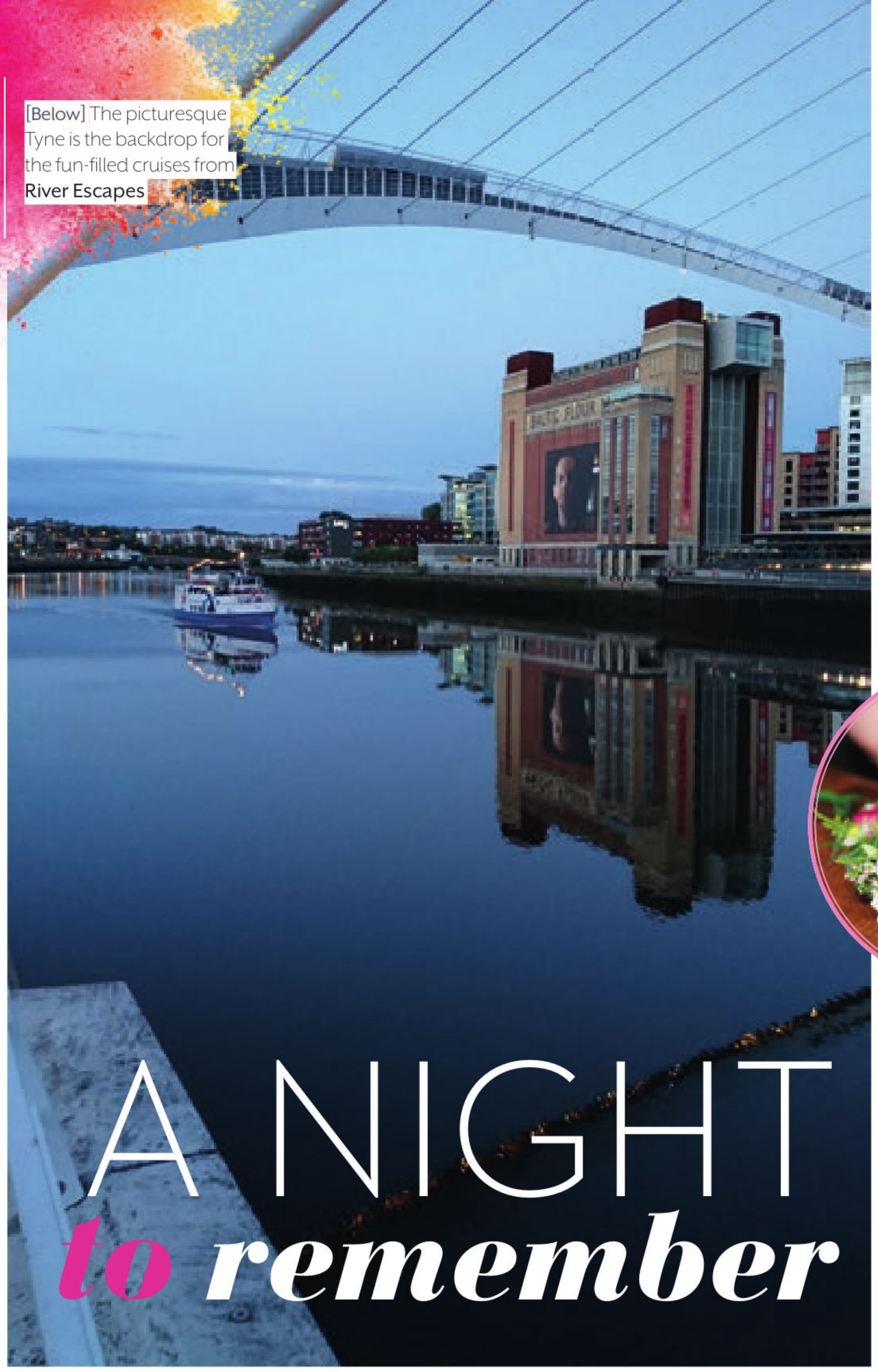







# Hen & stag



[Below] The picturesque Tyne is the backdrop for the fun-filled cruises from **River Escapes**

# A NIGHT *to remember*



[Above and left] **The Narcissus Flower School** will be a hit with brides and their besties



[Above] The lanes at **Bowlarama** aren't ready for your, er, abilities... *(bowlarama.co.uk)*

**Photo:** Jordan Summers

Give your single life the send-off it deserves by hitching your wagon to one of these stellar ideas. There's something for everyone here....

Words by ***Zoë Boothby***

## 1 RIVER ESCAPES

There aren't many things we'll freely give England credit for (we're Scottish through and through), but even we can't deny that Newcastle is one of the UK's best party cities. With myriad bars and clubs, and its infamous 'treble' deals (that's three triple measures for a fiver to the uninitiated), it's no surprise that legions of hens and stags descend on the hotspot every weekend. Jazz up this tried-and-tested formula by adding a jaunt up the Tyne from River Escapes into the mix – with over 30 years' experience, the city cruise specialist certainly knows what makes a good time. Push the boat out and set sail under the iconic Millennium Bridge on either one of its day- or night-time offerings, and you and your posse will be treated to a well-stocked bar, an impressive sound system, and, cruise dependent, catering options like curry or hog roast. The group even offer themed party nights ('90s dance, anyone?) so you can opt for the event best suited to your personalities. And when costs are as little as £15 each, you know it's time to hit the toon.

***riverescapes.co.uk***

## 2 NARCISSUS FLOWER SCHOOL

Hens in 2020 aren't always the booze-fuelled benders they once were, and the assortment of new ventures we've seen crop up in recent years testifies to this. One of the most popular is undoubtedly the floral workshop, which has inspired bride tribes to discover their green fingers and create bloomin' marvellous masterpieces. One such petal purveyor is the Narcissus Flower School in Edinburgh, which puts on parties for willing groups. Try your hand at making corsages or hair combs, or go all out and create a flower crown for you to wear as you dance the night away later on. If you're aiming to do your own arrangements for the big day, you could even learn the art of the hand-tied bouquet or the vintage-inspired tablescape. Prices start from £45pp with the option to add bubbles, nibbles or more hearty fare.

***www.narcissusflowers.co.uk***

## 3 BOWLARAMA

Here at *TTKS*, there's nothing we love more than a trip to the lanes: whether it's date night or a catch-up with pals, we'll take any excuse to don those white, red and blue shoes and show off our skills. Imagine our delight, then, when we learned of new Glasgow venture Bowlarama, which provides late-night bowling, super scran and cocktails until the wee hours. We'll be dragging all our hens along to witness our sporting prowess. Watch us and weep as we score strike after strike. (With the bumpers, of course, we're not that talented.)

***bowlarama.co.uk***

## 4 THE JAM HOUSE

As fun as it can be to do things a little differently, sometimes you just can't beat a good old-fashioned knees-up. Round up →



"THE GOOD NEWS? AT SUCH REASONABLE PRICES, YOU'LL STILL HAVE ENOUGH CASH IN YOUR POCKET TO TREAT YOURSELF TO SOME CHIPS AND CHEESE AT THE END OF THE NIGHT. RESULT!"

[Above] **The Jam House** can keep the party going through to the early hours

your nearest and dearest and make tracks to Edinburgh's The Jam House to take advantage of its dedicated package for hen nights: starting from £28 per person, the crew will be entitled to a dinner from the specially created menu, a glass of bubbly and admission to enjoy the evening's scheduled entertainment. Or, if you want to forgo the dinner, you can still join the party until 3am with a £10 ticket. The best news? At such reasonable prices, you'll still have enough cash in your pocket to treat yourself to some chips and cheese at the end of the night. Result!

***thejamhouse.com/edinburgh***



[Above and left] Get the blood pumping with **Adventure Carrick**

## 5 ADVENTURE CARRICK

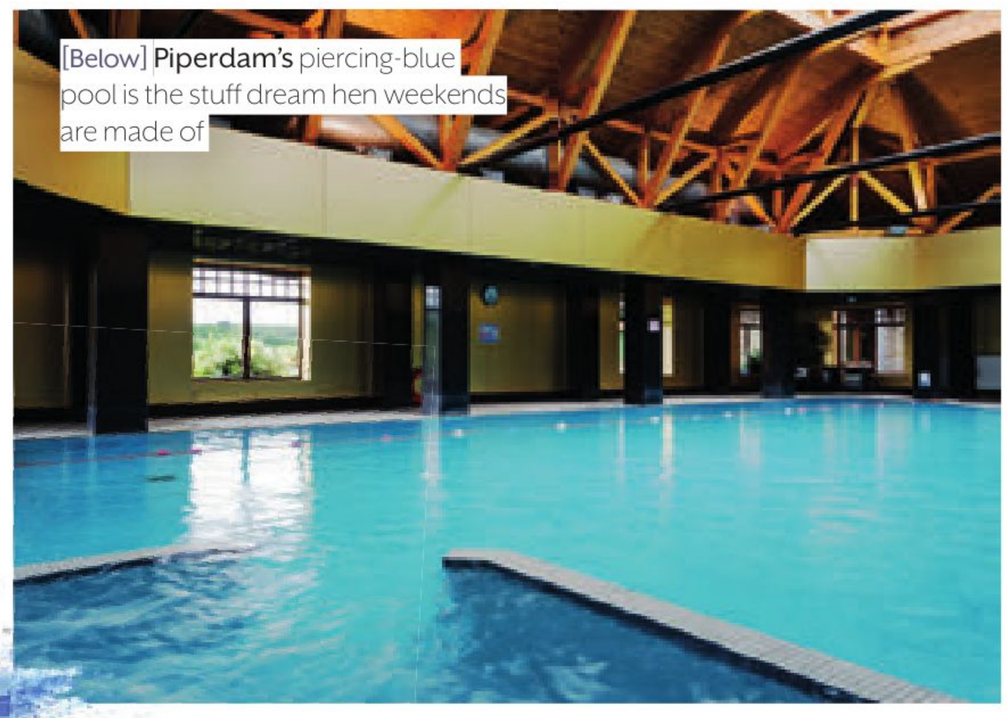
Calling all thrill-seekers: when it comes time to celebrate your final night (or day) of freedom, there's only one way to do it. Hit up Adventure Carrick in Ayrshire and get your adrenaline fix with a spot of coasteering or gorge scrambling. Prefer to take things slow and steady? Settle in for a canoeing or stand-up paddle-boarding sesh, suitable for everyone from the flower girls to ushers.

Or, if you really want to take it down a level, why not try woodland yoga, open-water swimming or forest bathing out for size? Carrick can provide all of these, and more – the only limit is how much you're willing to push yourself. Far out, man.

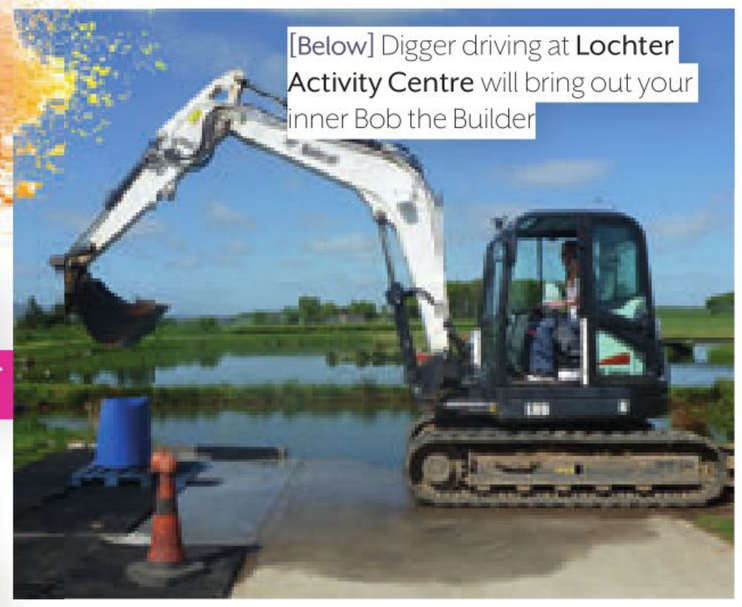
***adventurecarrick.com***

## 6 PIPERDAM LEISURE RESORT

Prefer chill to thrill? Alongside being a first-rate wedding venue, Dundee's Piperdam Leisure Resort also has a wide range of activities to keep all manner of brides- and grooms-to-be entertained. We'd be checking in to enjoy the leisure facilities as part of a relaxing spa weekend. There's a range of treatments available, including luxury ELEMIS massages, clinically proven facials and detoxifying body scrubs, as well as a menu of beauty appointments to help you get wedding-ready. Pad



[Below] **Piperdam's** piercing-blue pool is the stuff dream hen weekends are made of



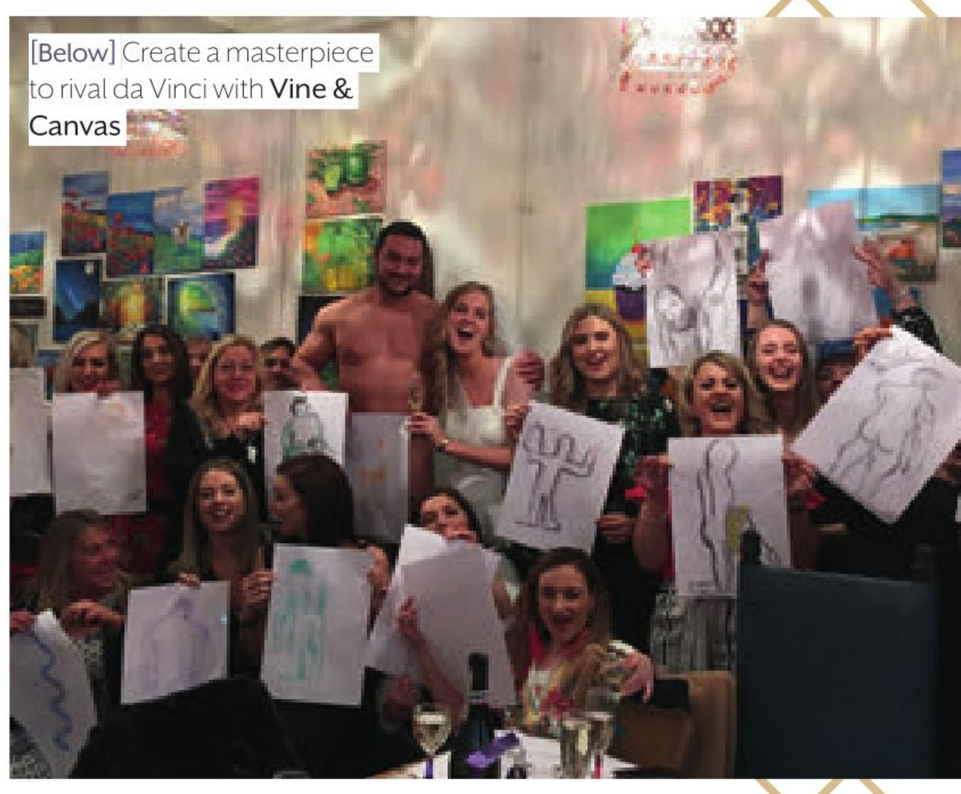
[Below] Digger driving at **Lochter Activity Centre** will bring out your inner Bob the Builder

out your day with trips to the pool, spa or steam room, or book in for an afternoon tea. You're worth it.

***www.piperdam.com***

## 7 LOCHTER ACTIVITY CENTRE

Wedding planning is a stressful business. Blow off some steam by shuttling the gang to Inverurie for a day of unadulterated fun at Lochter Activity Centre. Catering to all ages and abilities, there's something here for everyone to enjoy: we're finding it hard to



[Below] Create a masterpiece to rival da Vinci with **Vine & Canvas**

decide between go-karting, segways, archery and rifle shooting... guess it'll just have to be all four, then! For something completely off the wall, try your hand at digger driving [pictured above]. The chance to operate one of these 5.5 tonne babies is too good to turn up – pass the high-vis vest, dude.

***www.lochter.co.uk***

## 8 VINE & CANVAS

Relive the glory days of Higher Art by picking up a paintbrush and exercising your creative talents with Vine & Canvas. The Glasgow-based biz offers inclusive, bespoke experiences for hens and stags to express themselves through a variety of mediums at one of its paint parties. Available for groups of between 12 and 22, you can even BYOB if you need to get yourself suitably loosened up with a cheeky glass of fizz. Kick it up a notch by booking in for a private life-drawing session with a live model. Nudity, but make it classy.

***www.vinencanvas.co.uk*** ♥

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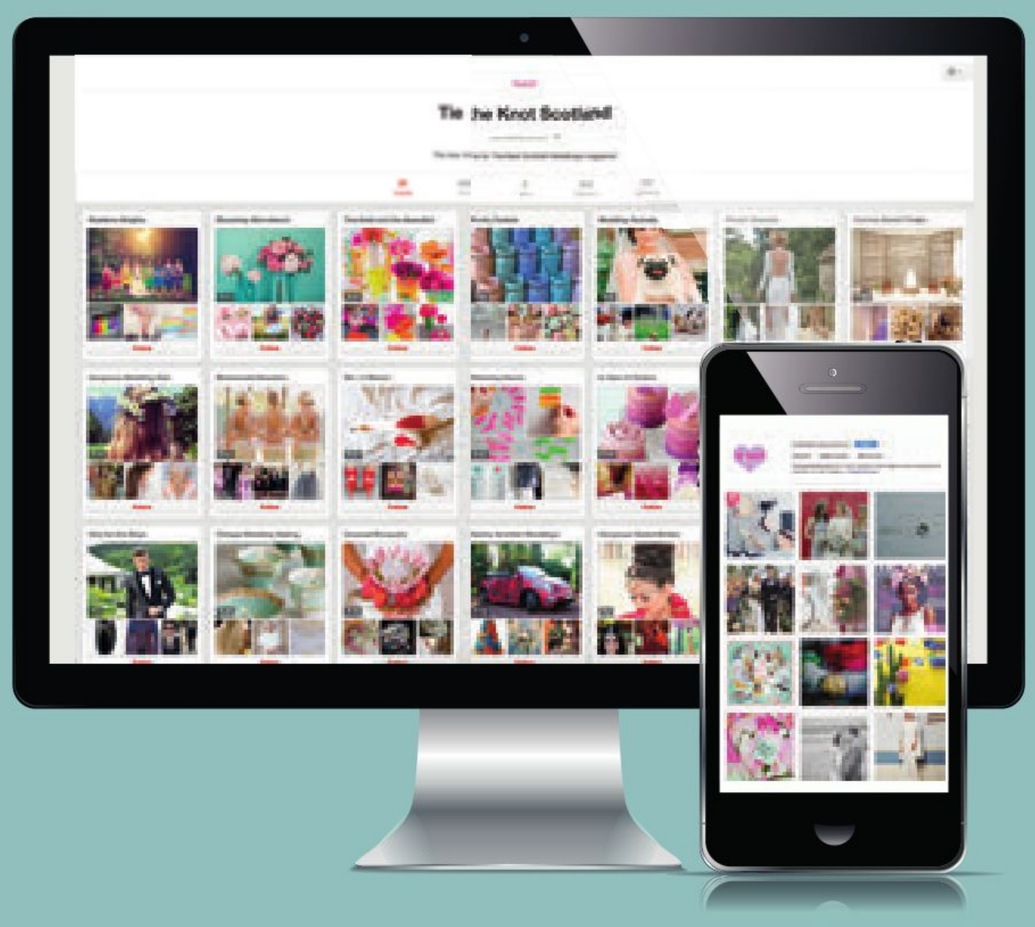

**www.tietheknot.scot**








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# *Photography*

You'll want to capture every second of the day – so does it make sense to invest in *two* wedding photographers? *Zoë Boothby* considers both sides of the argument

[Above] Nail that essential confetti shot with the dual talents of **Aboyne Photographics** *(aboynephotographics.com)* [Below] **Eilidh Sutherland Photography** captures this intense moment *(eilidhsutherland.com)*

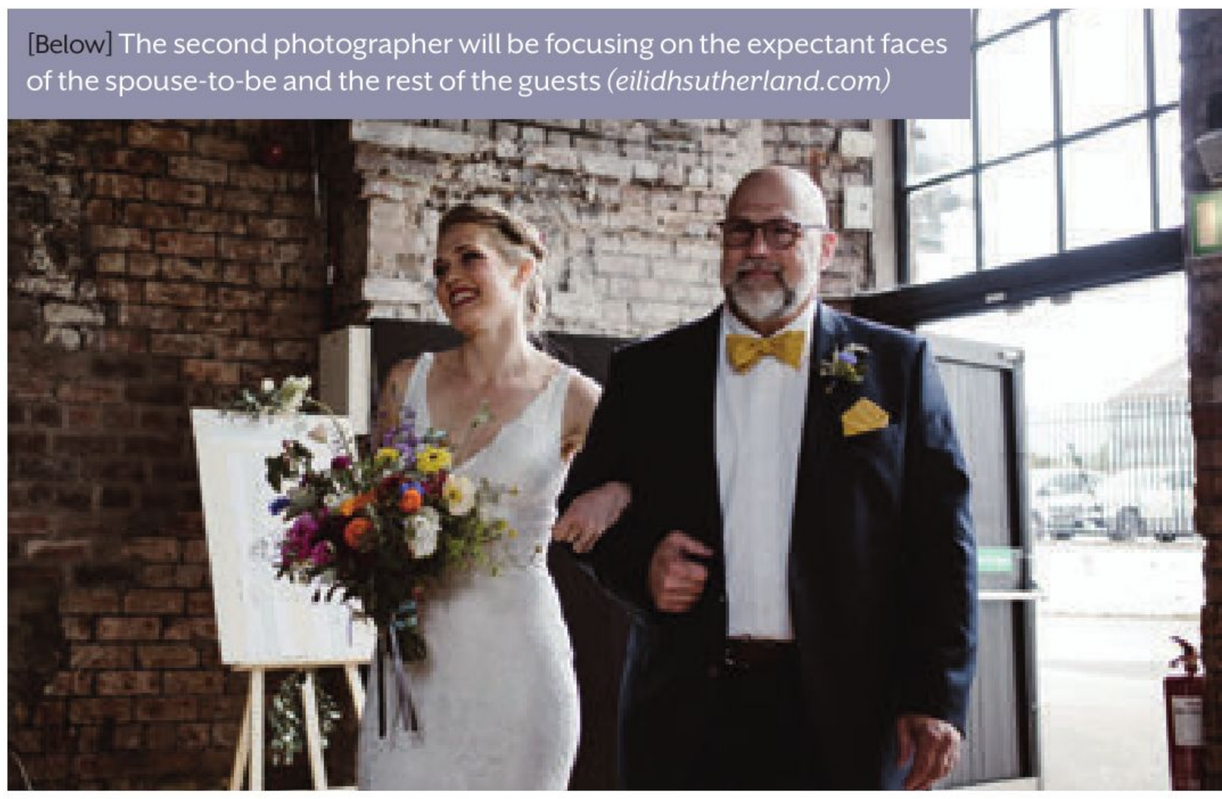
## DOUBLE TAKE

**My parents love taking photos.** Not in any professional capacity, but just as a way of recording time and memories. It's not a trait I inherited (my camera roll is instead stuffed with memes and unflattering selfies), but it's nevertheless interesting to compare the fruits of their labour. Mum's a hardcore traditionalist – go anywhere with her and she'll inevitably drag you in front of a famous landmark, then snap away to her heart's content. Our family albums are full of images of us, smiles frozen in place, with eyes that say, "*Please* make it stop."

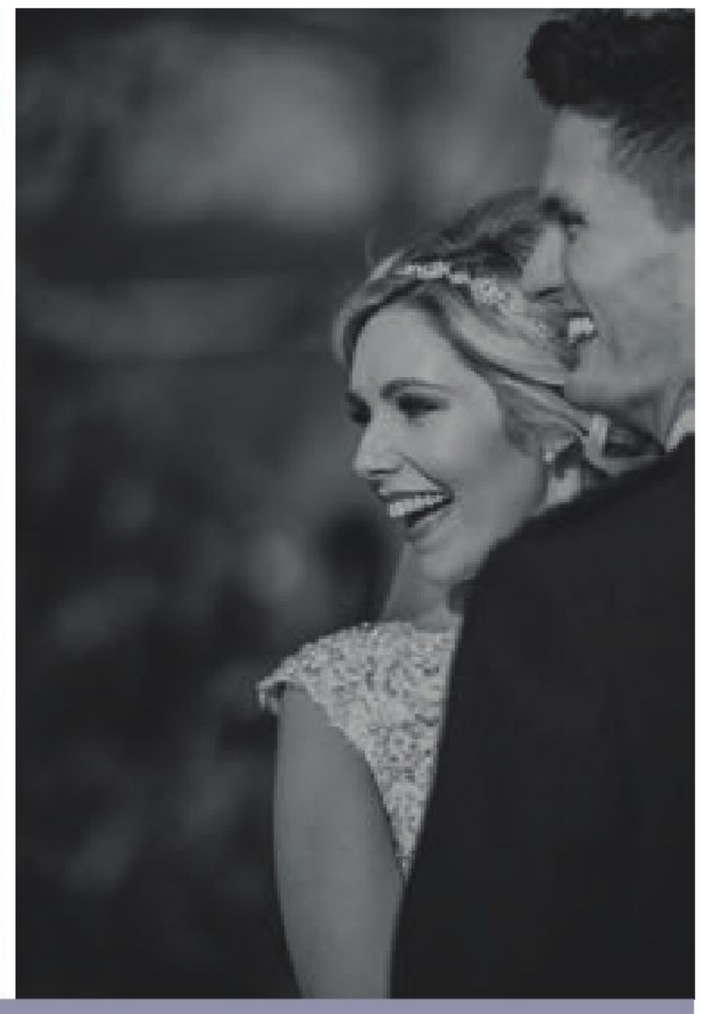
My dad's style, on the other hand, is more what you'd call 'artsy' or 'experimental'. You'll often catch him lying on the floor at social events, aiming his lens upwards in an attempt to capture the action from an angle no one else would have ever dreamed of (probably since nobody wants to know what they look like with three chins). It's great, though, because my sister and I have two sets of images to look back on of ourselves at important milestones – one with classic, cheesy shots, poised to take pride of place on the mantelpiece; and the other a weirder, more abstract selection, →



[Below] The second photographer will be focusing on the expectant faces of the spouse-to-be and the rest of the guests *(eilidhsutherland.com)*







[Above] **Aboyne Photographics** have a lot of experience and they know how to take complete advantage of having a pair of cameras at their disposal: "With a second shooter you can cover both aspects of the morning preparation in full – you can literally be in two places at once. Also, this way you have the perspective of a couple of different angles, and you have twice the chance of catching spontaneous moments." *(aboynephotographics.com)*

best suited to an ironic Facebook profile pic. (At my graduation, my dad captured a series in which he focused on the tree I was standing next to, leaving my made-up face and furry hood lurking blurrily in the background. "Genius," he mused to himself.)

Though they might not all appreciate my dad's unique takes, brides- and grooms-to-be are increasingly being drawn to wedding photographers who pride themselves on offering not one but two shooters. The upsides seem obvious: more coverage, more photos, more bang for your buck. But are two heads really better than one? We decided to find out.

## SPECIAL CONNECTION

If you're thinking about booking a tag team, you should note that they'll likely have a strong relationship, professionally *and* personally. Remarkably, all three of the duos we spoke to are also married couples, and they all insist that the intimacy of this bond helps them produce their best results. "We're both a business and a married team," says Eilidh, owner of Eilidh Sutherland Photography. "It's so much fun working with your husband or wife, and Lloyd and I perform well together because we know each other so deeply. Having that connection doesn't just make it more special, it's also a lot easier: we don't even need to communicate – sometimes just my face says it all to Lloyd and he knows what to do!"

It's a similar story at Aboyne Photographics. "Laura and I understand and trust what the other is doing without having to worry," says Russell Hogg with a smile. "It's a very comforting thought." But even if the married couple are completely in sync, is each person's individual style visible in the final results? "Laura and I have always had a similar approach to shooting," he replies. "There is, however, about a foot's height difference between us, so you could argue that we see the day from contrasting perspectives! But overall it is a very cohesive portfolio of images – we frequently struggle to tell who took which photograph."

Pamela at Jarvie & Jones concurs: "George and I completely understand each other's style, and so it is hard for our clients to distinguish between our work. But we often see the beauty and interest in things differently, so we capture subjects in various but complementary ways."

> "WE'RE BOTH A BUSINESS AND A MARRIED TEAM. IT'S SO MUCH FUN WORKING WITH YOUR HUSBAND OR WIFE"

The truth is, wedding photography has changed a lot in the last decade. Not so long ago you'd likely have wanted a barrage of posed group shots, compared to nowadays when informal, natural photos are the flavour of the month. How to find a healthy compromise?

Well, a dynamite duo could help you achieve the right balance. "Lloyd shoots less than I do, simply because I cover all the more formal shots and am the main photographer for the couple and group session," says Eilidh. "He co-ordinates this while I snap, which works well – these can often be the most dreaded pictures of the day so we like to move fast. His images also tend to be far more candid than mine, as he is usually the one shooting with a longer lens, capturing people laughing, having fun and drinking!"

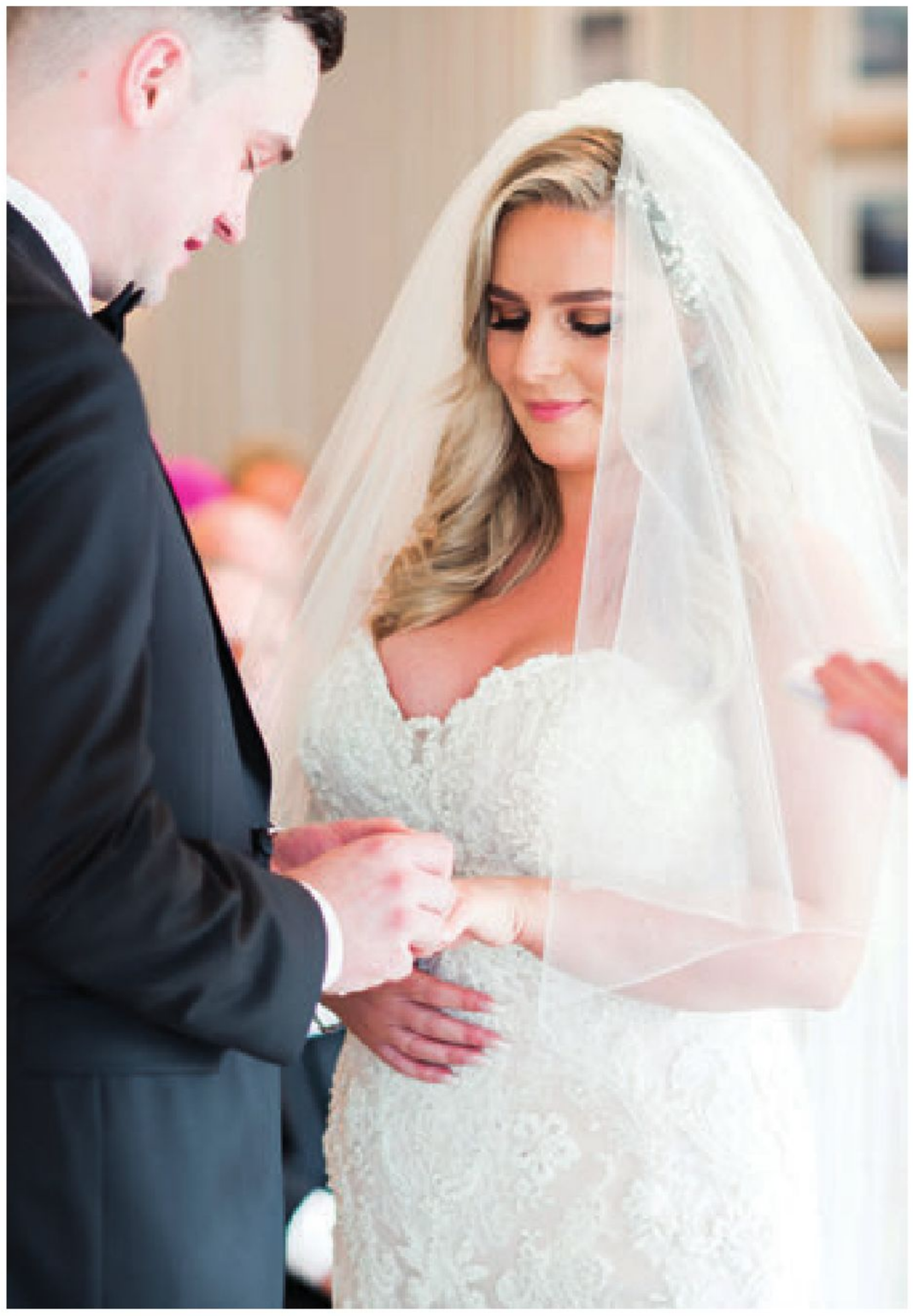
## TAKE TWO

As you'll probably be aware from the planning you've done so far, the more people involved, the more co-ordination you'll need. So how do you accommodate two photographers? Our experts have a plan of action up their sleeves. "Up until the close of the ceremony we work individually," Pamela reveals. "George will start off taking the groom for some pictures with his groomsmen, while I'll be responsible for recording the bridal prep. At the service, George is positioned at the top of the altar so he'll do the close-ups. I'll remain at the back, snapping the ceremony from a different vantage point."

Other points of the day require a similarly strategic approach. "When setting up and capturing the formal groups, we tend to operate more as photographer and assistant," Russell explains. "Also, I usually work the evening reception solo. Two cameras aren't so necessary for this part of the day as all the action is taking place on the dancefloor. And it allows people to boogie with abandon, rather than feeling they're being closely watched."

You might not want to hear this, but it's worth bearing in mind that, very occasionally, not everything goes to plan on the big day. When that happens, a second shooter can act as an insurance policy. "Unfortunately, all too often a guest will jump out into the aisle and block the photographer's view right at the crucial





moment," says Russell. "They don't do it intentionally, of course, but if you don't have a second angle you might miss out on the moment entirely."

## DOUBLE TROUBLE

Of course, no two weddings are the same, and so a second viewpoint won't be the answer for every couple. If you're having an intimate, cosy affair, it's unlikely you'll want two photographers milling around

> "WE ALWAYS TRY TO INCLUDE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT REPEATING – YOU DON'T WANT THE NEWLYWEDS TO BE BORED"

your selective number of guests. "Yes, we tend to do small weddings single-handedly, and it's the only time we do so," agrees Russell. "When you have a tiny ceremony, two people can seem intimidating and a bit OTT. It might change things if the couple are planning to get ready separately and some distance apart, but we find that small weddings or ones held in a smaller area require less coverage."

For some duos, however, going it alone is simply not an option. "Lots of photographers will offer an individual shooter, which is absolutely fine," says Eilidh. "For us, though, because working together is so important, we no longer cover weddings on our own. Truthfully, without Lloyd, the practicalities of the day would be a bit of a stress."

One of the biggest questions you could have might be regarding the delivery of the final product: with two pros snapping away all day, don't couples end up with more photos than they know what to do with? "That's the only issue with the two-shooter way of working," nods Russell. "You have many more images to sort through and whittle down – it isn't easy to do and it takes time. We always try to cover as much as possible without repeating ourselves – you don't want the newlyweds to be bored of their photos by the end of it all."

With this in mind, it's up to you to decide how important it is to have the cover offered by a second shooter. If it works for your day and your budget, there are definite advantages: more coverage, extra opportunities to nail those crucial shots, and a back-up plan in case something goes wrong.

Anything else? "You've also got the benefit of added banter at your wedding with your photo team," Eilidh laughs. She's certainly on to something – when it comes to patter, more is *always* more. ♥

[Above] **Jarvie & Jones Photography** can capture your ceremony from all angles, with minimal intrusion: "We are very respectful of the occasion, and will do all we can to limit our impact by remaining still and resisting the temptation to hit the shutter release during important moments of quiet – especially prayer." *(jarvieandjones.com)*
[Below] Wriggly pets might not sit still when you want them to – enlisting a second snapper doubles the chance of the perfect frame *(eilidhsutherland.com)*



# *Accept* all COOKIES

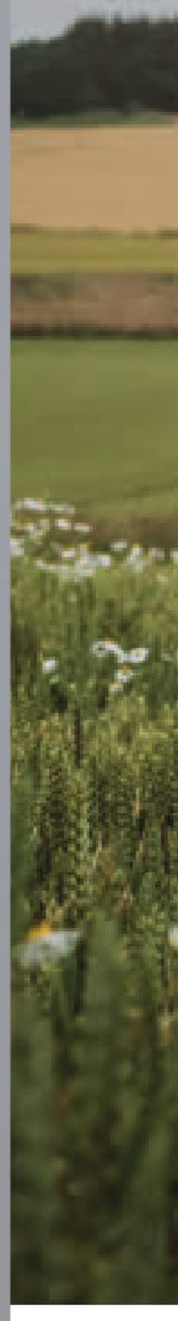
Bride Nina reveals how hubby Fraser surprised her with a super-cute proposal under the local Christmas tree, before thoughts turned to how they could make their dreams of a rustic, relaxed wedding a reality

After returning from a stint offshore over Christmas 2017, Fraser convinced me to join him for a meal at a local Thai restaurant. As we were leaving, he lifted two fortune cookies from the till. En route to our local pub for a post-dinner drink, Fraser passed me one of the cookies. Once opened, it revealed a note that read: 'Nina, will you marry me?' In complete shock, I looked up to see Fraser down on one knee holding a gorgeous ring! Turns out he had made and stashed a 'fake' fortune cookie during his time away working.

**We booked the Barn at Barra Castle within a week of being engaged.** It's beautifully designed: rustic but modern with quirky touches. We were taken with the timber beams and full-length windows showing off the stunning views. The venue has a picturesque backdrop looking on to Bennachie (a local hill) where we had one of our first dates walking to the top, and there are abundant photo opportunities, especially in the surrounding barley fields.

**I was brought up on a farm.** In the summer, I would have my friends round for drinks and parties on the outdoor decking. Consequently, the idea of an informal, alfresco party with all our nearest and dearest really appealed to me.

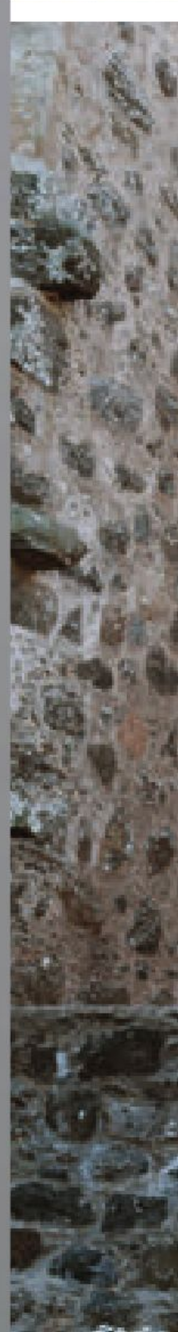
**I always envisaged flowers as being an important part of the occasion.** I already followed local florist Trina's Art & Flowers on Instagram, and after meeting with Trina, the ideas came alive. Her attention to detail must





Photographer's favourite image

"We like to sneak away with the newlyweds for a few photos as soon as possible after the ceremony. It's hands down our favourite part of the day, and allows us to capture those precious 'just married' moments [left]. It also gives the couple a bit of space from guests for it all to sink in. Nina and Fraser were so sweet and effortlessly glamorous to photograph."
***Russell Hogg, Aboyne Photographics***








# Nina Batty & Fraser Baird

19th July 2019 at The Barn at Barra Castle, Aberdeenshire

Photography by *Aboyne Photographics*

be commended. She excelled herself with our feature ladder-arch at the top of the aisle.

**Fraser and I are notorious for having tequila when we go out.** We decided to surprise our guests with a display of tequila shots and a sign reading: 'Take a shot and take your seat'. Needless to say, it went down a treat with them. It's probably also why our Polaroid guestbook is filled with drunken messages that made for very funny reading the following morning.

**I hadn't dreamt about my ideal wedding dress from a young age like a lot of girls do.** That said, I had an inkling that I wanted something fitted. Ivory Grace is a beautiful little boutique in Aberdeen and the third shop that I visited. I was instantly smitten with the Stephanie Allin dress I tried on.

**Looking back, our main highlight was seeing one another as I walked down the aisle.** We had both waited so long for that moment that it was thrilling finally laying eyes on each other.

**I was surprised at how relaxed the rest of the day was.** Everything fell into place. It genuinely was a massive party with all our friends and family, which was the best feeling ever! →



### *Need to know*

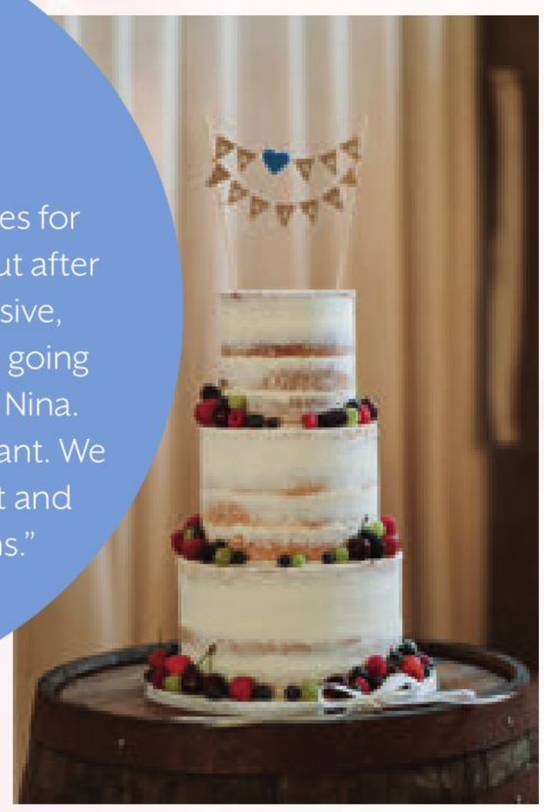
ENGAGEMENT TO WEDDING 19 months
BUDGET Undisclosed
NUMBER OF GUESTS 142 with 20 more in the evening
FIRST DANCE "Our band Sneaky Treacle performed their own version of Sigala's *Came Here for Love*," says Nina






## *Biggest bargain*

"We looked at old-fashioned bikes for sale to add a decorative touch, but after realising they were quite expensive, Fraser found a second-hand one going dirt cheap on Facebook," recalls Nina. "After a lick of paint, it looked brilliant. We added a cute basket at the front and our florist dressed it in blooms."


















"OUR MAIN HIGHLIGHT WAS SEEING ONE ANOTHER AS I WALKED DOWN THE AISLE. WE HAD BOTH WAITED SO LONG FOR THAT MOMENT "





## Address book

VENUE The Barn at Barra Castle
*www.barracastle.co.uk*
PHOTOGRAPHY
Aboyne Photographics
*www.aboynephotographics.com*
CELEBRANT Sharon Short
*humanistassociationscotland.com*
CATERING AND FURNITURE HIRE Country Flavours of Alford
*countryflavoursofalford.co.uk*
BRIDE'S DRESS Ivory Grace
*www.ivorygrace.co.uk*
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES Hobbs
*www.hobbs.com*
CAKE Cakes by Kirsty
*facebook.com/Cakesbykirsty*
FLOWERS Trina's Art and Flowers
*www.trinasartandflowers.co.uk*
STATIONERY Love Paper Co.
*www.love-paper.co.uk*
FILMMAKER Simple Wedding Films *www.simplevideo.co.uk*
CEREMONY MUSIC Myke Black
*www.mykeblackmusic.com*
RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT
Sneaky Treacle
*www.sneaky-treacle.com*
HAIR Michelle Reid
*facebook.com/MichelleReid weddinghairaberdeen*
MAKEUP Tracey Cepeda
*traceycepedamua@gmail.com*

### Couple's favourite image

"It's too hard to select just one but we both are fans of this shot [left] as it captures the moment we officially became husband and wife so well. Russell and Laura Hogg, the duo behind Aboyne Photographics, made us feel so comfortable; we laughed from start to finish. We adore our pictures and their style of photography, and would 100% recommend them to anyone looking for natural and timeless wedding images."
*Nina and Fraser Baird*

## Steal THEIR STYLE

*Stockists on page 288*



Lillis sage green embellished dress, £125, **SistaGlam**



Bespoke table centre flower arrangement, £POA, **Trina's Art & Flowers**




Bespoke chip-board wedding sign, £POA, **Love Paper Co.**



Monroe crepe gown by Stephanie Allin, £POA, **Ivory Grace**




Illustrated floral invite, £3.99, **Ginger Ray**

Three-tier naked cake, made to order, **Cakes by Kirsty**






Caterham, from £225 to hire per day, **Highland Caterham Hire**

# Throw in LOVE

A cascade of autumn foliage sealed this pair's opulent nuptials at two of Perthshire's most luxurious locations. Chris reveals how they pulled the wedding together in just three months...

**On our first date in February 2011,** we went to Dunblane Hydro for a drink, then drove to Cromlix for the afternoon. Little did we know that we'd return to those special places eight years later to marry and celebrate.

**Douglas popped the question with a diamond ring in February 2015 at Cromlix.** I said yes, of course! He has been the biggest support to me, dependable through the good times and the bad; together, we make a strong, successful team. After the engagement, wedding planning admittedly went on the back burner as we focused our time and money on house renovation projects.

**But in May 2019, we decided it was high time to make getting married a priority!** From the outset, we knew we wanted to host our ceremony and meal at Cromlix, then head on to Dunblane Hydro for the reception. As we booked just three months ahead, it was difficult to find a Saturday slot available at both venues. We compromised by moving the date to a Friday which, in the end, still worked perfectly.

**Initially there was a lot of thought and discussion over my outfit.** I am gender fluid, meaning at times I am Chris and other times Fiona [inset left], depending on the social situation at the time. Many guests had assumed I would arrive as a bride, but I made the decision to get married as Chris primarily due to my two young sons, Ruben and Leon, and close elderly family members attending. I wanted them all to see me as how they generally know me.





Couple's favourite image

"Our first kiss as a married couple was bliss, as I'm sure you can tell from this pic [below right] that shows the smiles and joy from everyone else in the room! Gary Bonar came highly recommended, having recently been the photographer at Kevin Bridges' wedding. His natural and professional approach was exactly what we were looking for."
*Chris Davidson*







# Chris Law & Douglas Davidson

27th September 2019 at Cromlix and DoubleTree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro Hotel, Perthshire

Photography by
***Gary Bonar Photography***

**Atelier Rahman's design and creation of my wedding outfit definitely exceeded all my expectations.** The bespoke outfit reflected some feminine aspects of my gender, with a gorgeous, bejewelled full-length train.

**Friendship, love, partnership, commitment and togetherness are very important to us.** That's why we chose to have a humanist ceremony. Celebrant Gerrie Douglas-Scott of Celebrate People has been a friend for many years and was invaluable, not just for putting together our ceremony, but more generally as a knowledgeable guide, giving us advice, tips and contacts throughout the planning process.

**Neither of us expected to be so nervous reciting our vows.** Gerrie calmed us down and took us through it a step at a time. As it turned out, the highlight of the day was Gerrie announcing us as 'Mr and Mr Davidson'.

**My mum made a lovely, heartfelt speech, getting everyone very emotional.** At the end, she proclaimed 'raise your glasses to the happy couple, Mr and Mrs Davidson'. Everyone laughed along with mum saying 'Mrs' in error! →



### *Need to know*

**ENGAGEMENT TO WEDDING** 4½ years. "House renovations kept us busy and took all of our investment in the meantime," laughs Chris
**BUDGET** £25,000
**NUMBER OF GUESTS** 42 all day; 70 more at reception
**FIRST DANCE** *L-O-V-E* by Nat King Cole

### Top tip

"Invitation 'politics' can be difficult when it comes to weddings. Don't be afraid to make it exactly what *you* want, having only those you'd like attending," muses Chris. "Keep a wedding planner or diary. It kept us focused and was helpful to look back at, checking bookings and expenditure."





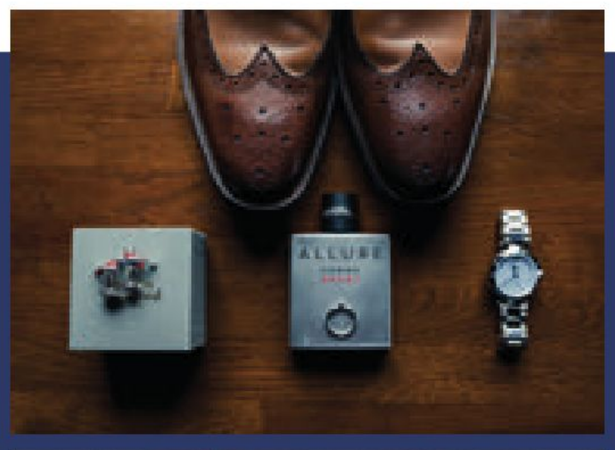


### Photographer's favourite image

"This particular photo [right] stands out because it was one of the first I took of the newlyweds in their couple's session. Ordinarily, it takes a wee while for people to warm to the camera, but Douglas and Chris just looked great right from the get-go – and they didn't even have a pre-wedding shoot."

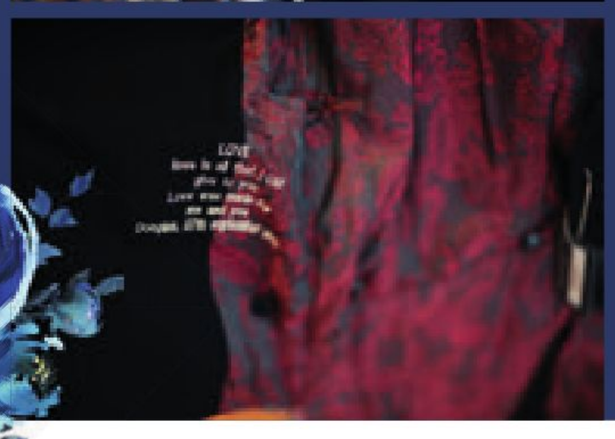
***Gary Bonar, Gary Bonar Photography***

## "NEITHER OF US EXPECTED TO BE SO NERVOUS RECITING OUR VOWS. GERRIE CALMED US DOWN AND TOOK US THROUGH IT A STEP AT A TIME"







## Address book

VENUES Cromlix *cromlix.com;* DoubleTree by Hilton Dunblane Hydro *doubletreedunblane.com*
PHOTOGRAPHY Gary Bonar Photography *www.garybonarphotography.com*
CELEBRANT Gerrie Douglas-Scott, Celebrate People *www.celebratepeople.co.uk*
CHRIS'S OUTFIT Atelier Rahman *www.atelierrahman.com*
DOUGLAS'S OUTFIT Stewart Highland *stewarthighland.co.uk*
PAGEBOY ATTIRE Neil Selbie and Co. *www.neilselbie.com*
CAKE Cakes and Craft *www.facebook.com/cakes.falkirk*
FLOWERS Fleur de Lis Florist *www.florist-scotland.co.uk*
VENUE DECOR Eze Events *www.facebook.com/EzeEvents*
CEREMONY MUSIC Harpist Carole Miller *www.harp2ewe.net*
MAKEUP Hayley Hunter Makeup *www.facebook.com/hayleyhuntermakeupandnails*
FILMMAKER Sunstar Video Productions *www.sunstarvideos.com*
TRANSPORT SRR Wedding Cars *srrweddingcars.com*

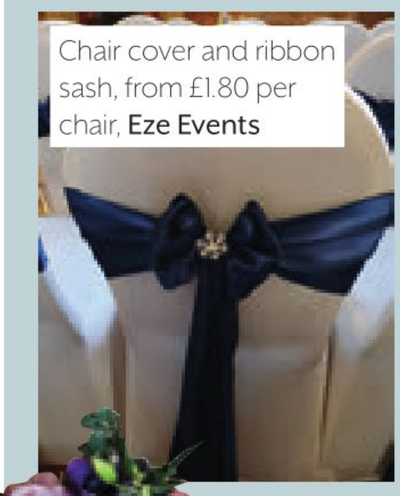
## Steal THEIR STYLE

*Stockists on page 288*



Davidson Ancient tartan woollen sash, £55, ScotlandShop.com

Hunting MacDonald kilt outfit with green tweed jacket, from £80 to hire, from £1,299 to buy, McCalls

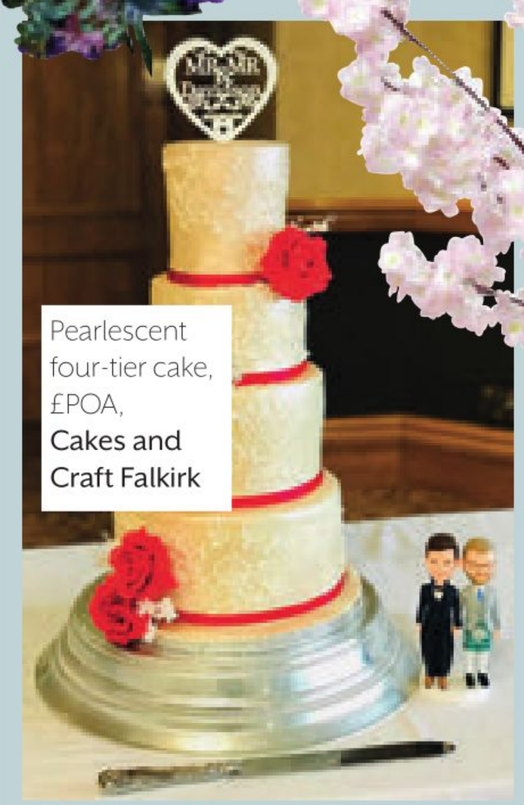


Chair cover and ribbon sash, from £1.80 per chair, Eze Events



Personalised cake topper, from £189.95, Minify Me

Bouquet, made to order, Fleur de Lis Florist



Pearlescent four-tier cake, £POA, Cakes and Craft Falkirk

Light pink artificial blossom tree, £59.99, Homescapes Online


ABOYNE | Photographics
Web: www.aboynephotographics.com | Tel: 07787 259120 | E-mail: info@aboynephotographics.com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# A Northern STAR

A former *TTKS* journalist and graphic designer respectively, when Nicola and David got hitched in the Highlands, safe to say it looked divine. The bride divulges how foliage and feminism came together on their big day...

We got engaged in September 2018 and told everyone the following month. It gave us time to have my engagement ring custom-made by Katie Lees Jewellery, so we'd be able to show it off at the same time as announcing it to our family and friends.

**The venue was the first thing we settled on.** We both knew we wanted to get married up north. David's from Inverness and I'm from Glasgow, but I didn't fancy a city-centre wedding. The idea of exposed beams and foliage tickled my fancy, so that's where my Googling started. I typed in 'exposed beams Inverness' and, miraculously, The Stables at Cromarty Arts Trust came up.

**It's a wonderful building.** With its white brickwork and long, dark wooden beams, it was the perfect fit for our vision. It only caters for five weddings a year which gave us an air of exclusivity. What's more, we could have the place all to ourselves, meaning everyone around us was part of our wedding.

**Alicia MacDonald at Fuze Ceremonies married us in a humanist ceremony.** She took the time to get to know us, which we really appreciated. We met up with her and talked through our relationship and chatted over email regularly. She worked with us to develop a script and was really supportive of our decisions for our ceremony.

**Before we got engaged, I was writing for** *Tie the Knot Scotland***.** It meant every day at work was an opportunity to get ideas for my wedding. I felt drawn to a natural, green aesthetic, while David is mad into bikes. To bring our interests together, I bought lots of silk flowers and wrapped them around two of his bicycle frames.

**As David is a graphic designer, he designed our stationery.** For place settings, everyone's name was written in a different typeface that he felt suited them. When the placecards were turned over, on the back was the name of the typeface, the weight it was printed in and the size of type. It was a great talking point for guests and something for them all to treasure.

**I made the wedding cake as I love baking.** I whipped up my signature madeira sponge with raspberry jam and buttercream and decorated it with fresh flowers. Admittedly, it was pretty manic setting it up at 7am on the day, but I don't regret doing it.

**I took inspiration from Meghan Markle and walked myself halfway down the aisle.** I've always felt independent and identify as a feminist, but I still wanted to include my dad in the aisle walking











## Couple's favourite image

"This picture [below] is so powerful to me. Cromarty felt like it belonged to us that day. There were hardly any people around and we roamed the streets, with Simon taking amazing pictures as we went. It also shows off the amazing jacket that Rosie [*TTKS*'s features writer] personalised for me. I absolutely love it and it matched my bouquet."
***Nicola Smith***

# Nicola Smith & David Hamilton

26th October 2019 at The Stables at Cromarty Arts Trust, Inverness-shire

Photography by
***Simon's Studio***

tradition, as I knew it was important to him.
**I haven't changed my name since marrying David.** I'm still Nicola Smith and probably always will be. I've had the name for 29 years and changing it didn't feel right to me. Luckily, David's not bothered about me keeping my name, so I didn't feel pressured to change it or any guilt for not adopting his surname.
**Neither of us enjoy posed pictures, so we wanted someone who could record our day in an artistic way.** Simon Lees' (of Simon's Studio) photography is so unique. A lot of my family had never seen anything like it. His skill at capturing moments of emotion are second to none. I remember feeling completely elated all day, which is clearly visible in the pictures. I have a double chin from laughing in so many of them!
**We enlisted a lot of our friends to help on the day.** David's friend Tristan is a sound engineer so he was our DJ. It was incredible what he did with just two speakers. Our friend Blair was our master of ceremonies. To make his announcements, he rang a bell. It was hilarious!
**Note to brides-to-be: you won't sleep the night before the wedding.** I had to stop looking at the clock when I saw 2am, because I had to be up at 7am. For some crazy reason you won't be tired the following day. So don't fret if you can't drift off the night before. →

### *Need to know*

**ENGAGEMENT TO WEDDING** Just over a year
**BUDGET** £16,000
**NUMBER OF GUESTS** 50 all day, with an extra 15 in the evening
**FIRST DANCE** Glenn Miller's *In the Mood*. "We didn't want anything embarrassingly romantic. This tune got everyone up and was great fun to jive along to," says Nicola



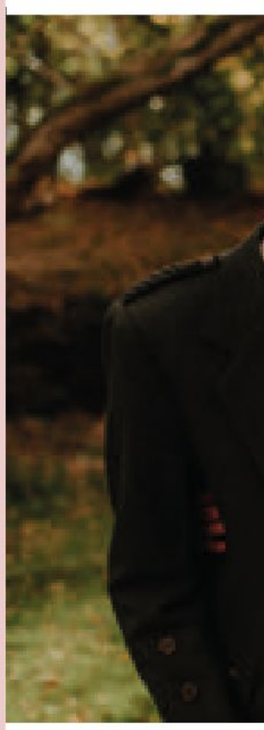




## Top tip

"I hate to break it to you: be prepared for extra expense. It comes from *everywhere*," warns Nicola. "And as most suppliers we encountered only took BACS payments (not credit card), I'd suggest that you need to have money sitting in your bank account when you're ready to book and finalise payments."









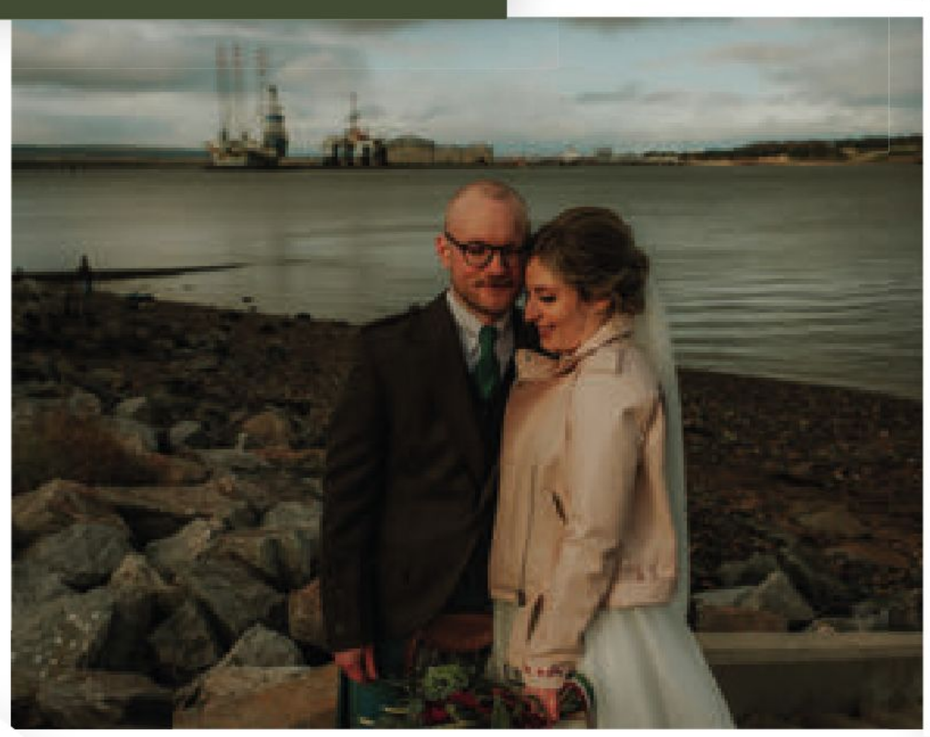
"I MADE THE WEDDING CAKE AS I LOVE BAKING. ADMITTEDLY, IT WAS PRETTY MANIC SETTING IT UP AT 7AM ON THE DAY"



Photographer's favourite image

"I love this photo [above] as it's full of smiles and positive energy. When the confetti floats perfectly, it always produces a special wee moment."
*Simon Lees, Simon's Studio*





## Address book

VENUE The Stables at Cromarty Arts Trust *www.cromartyartstrust.org.uk/the-stables*
PHOTOGRAPHY Simon's Studio *www.simonsstudio.co.uk*
CELEBRANT Alicia MacDonald, Fuze Ceremonies *fuzeceremonies.co.uk*
BRIDE'S DRESS Suzanne Neville at Eleganza Sposa *eleganza.co.uk*
GROOMSWEAR Slanj Kilts *slanjkilts.com*
RINGS Katie Lees Jewellery *www.katieleesjewellery.com*
CATERING Good Highland Food (wedding meal) *www.goodhighlandfood.com;* Cheese and Tomatin (pizza) *www.cheeseandtomatin.com*
CAKE Made by the bride
FLOWERS Magpie Creative (no longer in business)
STATIONERY Made by the groom
VENUE DECOR Virginia's Vintage Hire *virginiasvintagehire.co.uk*
MUSIC Spotify playlists
HAIR AND MAKEUP The Dolls House *www.tdhinverness.co.uk*

# Steal THEIR STYLE

*Stockists on page 288*



Foliage string lights, £8.99, **Ginger Ray**



Amerie gown by Suzanne Neville, from £2,500, **Eleganza Sposa**



SK8 hi-top trainers, £65, **VANS**



Naked buttercream cake, made to order, **Jappacakes**



Pastel pink suedette biker jacket, £44.99, **M&Co.**



[From top] Coronet, from £810, Vertex, from £1,750, and Cherish rings, from £525, all **Katie Lees Jewellery**

[From left] Lexie, £240, Franklin, £285, and Lola dresses, £240, all **Wtoo Maids**



Angela McIntyre &
Lisa McLean

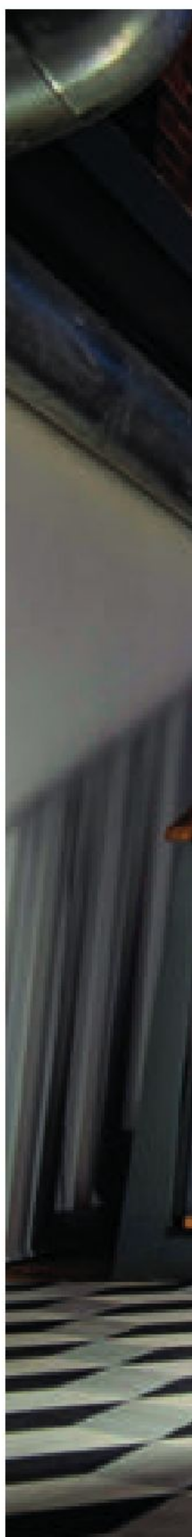
31st May 2019 at Argyle St
Arches, Glasgow

Photography by
***Grant Parfery Photography***

# Everyone's a winner

This pair won their big day at iconic Glasgow venue Argyle St Arches, which put paid to their plans for eloping. "Just don't ask about the engagement," laughs Angela...





**Lisa has never been known** to refuse chocolate in her life, but it was sod's law that I had planted an engagement ring inside a Kinder Surprise (her favourite) on the one day she knocked it back! We'd been having a picnic in the woods near Crieff Hydro and she claimed she was too cold to eat it. I presented it to her again at various points throughout the day, but to no avail. There came a point when I had to pretty much force her to take it! After she said yes, we had such a laugh about the whole scenario.

**We originally thought about eloping and having a party when we returned.** Neither of us had wanted a big wedding at all, but as you can see, our plans changed quite dramatically.

**We entered and, amazingly, won a competition to hold our wedding at Argyle St Arches!** It was a place we were considering anyway, seeing as – in its former incarnation – it was the location for our first date. We loved how different it was from other venues we'd looked at and how handy it was in terms of location.












**We asked a wonderful celebrant called Rachel Middleton from Middleton Life Celebrations to lead our service.** She is simply born to do what she does. Not only did she make our ceremony so personal, she also had our guests laughing and crying throughout. We decided to light a candle of remembrance at the start to commemorate those who couldn't be there on the day, and included a handfasting as well.

**Before the wedding, she asked us both to send her five things we loved about each other.** These were kept secret until we read them out that afternoon. We had no idea what the other had written and we felt so emotional when Rachel shared these with us. There were some laughs in there too, mind!

**The 'big white wedding' wasn't for us.** In the dark, subterranean setting, we thought an enchanted forest-type vibe would work well instead, with lots of fairylights, flowers and a blossoming ceremony arch. The venue's staff were fantastic and went above and beyond, adding extra lights and decorations to make the place look amazing.

**We entrusted the design of both our dresses to the talented Wendy Harman at Flossy and Dossy.** My rainbow underskirt and multi-coloured buttons on the back of my sleeves made the look more me and I totally loved it, while Lisa said that swooshing around in her blue skirt and fluttery sleeves made her feel like Stevie Nicks!

**Gordy is a DJ helped to give our guests a night they wouldn't forget.** We asked them in advance to send us three songs they would like played at our reception, meaning that there was music for every taste. →




### *Need to know*

**ENGAGEMENT TO WEDDING** Just over two years
**BUDGET** "We didn't really set one. We just tried not to go overboard," says Angela
**NUMBER OF GUESTS** 70 all day, with 80 more at night
**FIRST DANCE** *Everywhere* by Fleetwood Mac

### Couple's favourite image

"We just wanted one nice picture to put up in the house, but thanks to Grant's outstanding work, we still can't decide which one we like best. This shot in particular [left] is so different. I think it's down to a combination of the angle, the background, the umbrellas and that you can see both our dresses. I also jokingly said to Grant that every time I look at it now, I feel like a Disney princess!"
***Angela McIntyre***







## Star supplier

"Photographer **Grant Parfery** was brilliant from start to finish. He felt like he was one of our guests rather than a supplier. Not only did he make us feel so relaxed, everyone at the wedding raved about how nice a guy he is. Grant captured more than we imagined possible and has given us memories that we can look back on forever."



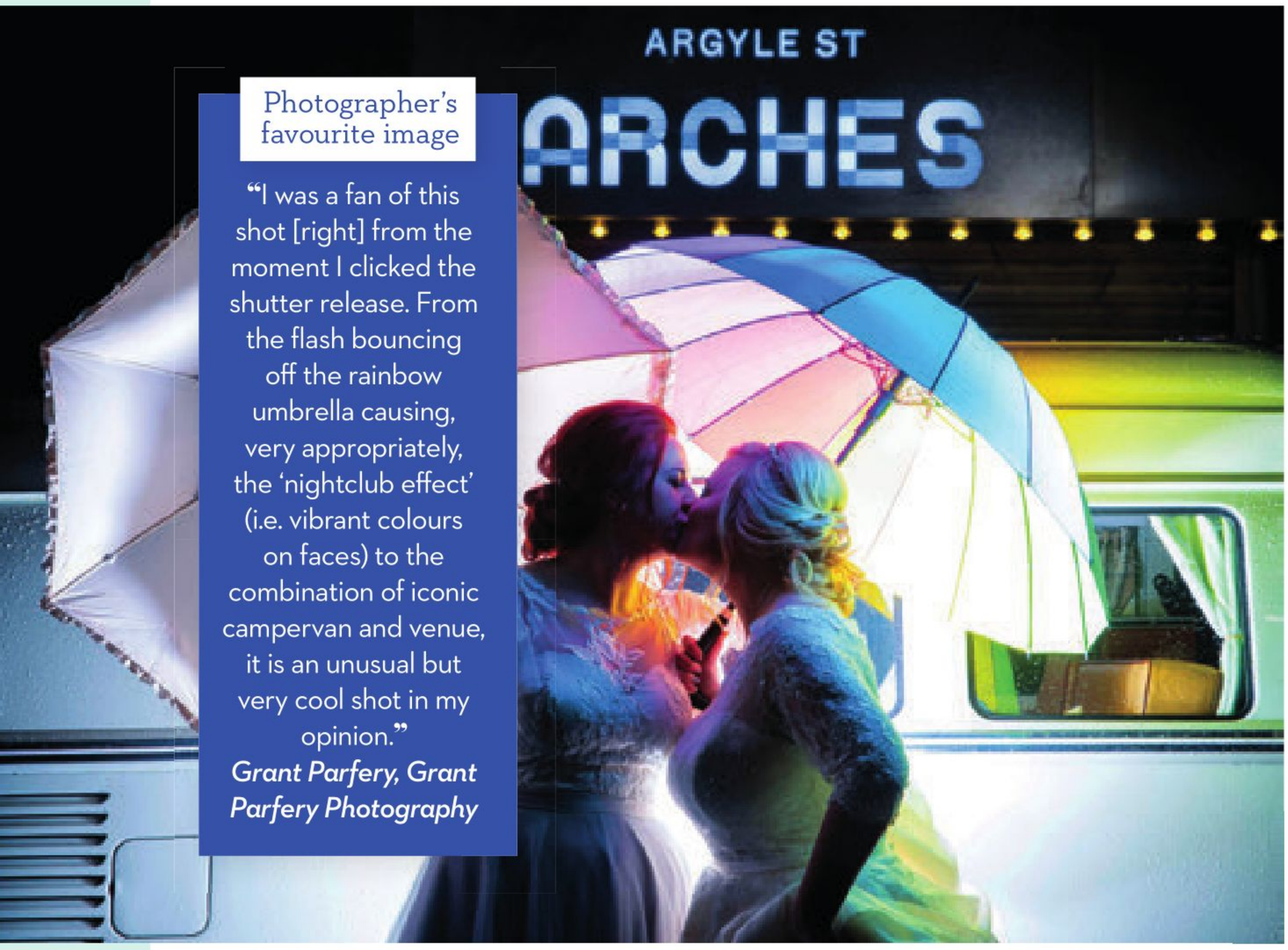








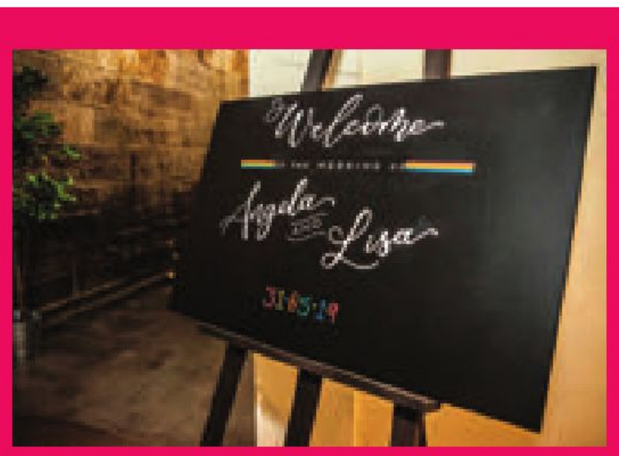



**Photographer's favourite image**

"I was a fan of this shot [right] from the moment I clicked the shutter release. From the flash bouncing off the rainbow umbrella causing, very appropriately, the 'nightclub effect' (i.e. vibrant colours on faces) to the combination of iconic campervan and venue, it is an unusual but very cool shot in my opinion."
***Grant Parfery, Grant Parfery Photography***

"THE 'BIG WHITE WEDDING' WASN'T FOR US. IN THE DARK, SUBTERRANEAN SETTING, WE THOUGHT AN ENCHANTED FOREST-TYPE VIBE WOULD WORK INSTEAD"








## Address book

VENUE **Argyle St Arches**
*argylestarches.com*
PHOTOGRAPHY
**Grant Parfery Photography**
*grantparferyphotography.com*
BRIDES' DRESSES
**Flossy and Dossy**
*flossyanddossy.co.uk*
CELEBRANT **Rachel Middleton, Middleton Life Celebrations**
*www.mlc-celebrant.uk*
CAKE **Three Sisters Bake**
*www.threesistersbake.co.uk*
FLOWERS AND VENUE DECOR
**Dainty Pig Designs**
*www.facebook.com/daintypigdesigns*
STATIONERY **Eden + Always Wedding Stationery**
*www.edenandalways.co.uk*
FAVOURS **LaB6 candles**
*lab6candles.co.uk*
RECEPTION ENTERTAINMENT
**Gordy is a DJ**
*www.djglasgow.co.uk*
TRANSPORT
**Ecosse Classic Wedding Cars**
*www.ecosseclassiccars.co.uk*
HAIR **Carol Zarebski Hair**
*www.facebook.com/CarolZarebskiDuffyhair*
MAKEUP
**Mitchell & MacInnes Makeup**
*mitchellandmacinnesmakeup.com*

# Steal THEIR STYLE

*Stockists on page 288*

**Photo:** thegibsonsphotography.co.uk



[From left] Helene silk and beaded lace dress, £1,800; Asta tulle skirt, £1,000, and beaded crop top, £300, all **Flossy and Dossy**



Baby Truth Sparkles dress, £35, **Monsoon**

Bouquet, made to order, **Dainty Pig Designs**



Volkswagen Splitscreen bus, from £325 to hire, **Ecosse Classic Wedding Cars**



Candle favours, from £4.25 each for 25, **LaB6**



Cake, made to order, **Jappacakes**

Rainbow Cannon Shooter, £2.49, **Ginger Ray**

# On top of the world

Becca and Al's love- and laughter-filled Perthshire wedding was the party of a lifetime, culminating in the newlyweds dancing on the shoulders of guests. The bride looks back....

## Becca Rankine & Al Conroy

25th May 2019 at Fortingall Village Hall, Perthshire

Photography by
***Eilidh Sutherland Photography***





**Al and I visited Skye in May 2018.** The plan was to climb up one of our favourite mountains, Sgurr nan Gillean, and watch the sunrise over the Isle of Raasay, where my family have had a home for years. After a few hours' sleep, the alarm woke us at 3am to hike to the summit. Just as the sun was coming up, Al got down on one knee and proposed. As if it couldn't get any more romantic, the ring had been designed by him and was a representation of the view of the mountain we were standing on, as seen from the beach in front of our house. It was the most perfect proposal in the most gorgeous of locations.

**We had our hearts set on a venue that we could have complete free rein over.** We also wanted something that had a bit of character and an element of fun. Fortingall Village Hall delivered on all of these. Its exposed roof rafters give the impression of an upturned boat, and dressed with a fairylight canopy, it really came to life.

**I knew the minute we got engaged I wanted Eilidh Sutherland Photography to capture our nuptials.** She had photographed my sister's wedding and recorded the day amazingly. She strikes the right balance between co-ordinating and directing photos to get the best shots, and





Photographer's favourite image

"We whisked Becca and Al out during the dancing because the rain had stopped and the light was *epic*. Without any prompting, they gave me five minutes of hilarious photos [left], which have ended up being my favourites of the whole day." ***Eilidh Sutherland, Eilidh Sutherland Photography***









"THE CAKE WAS THE FIRST TO GO. NEITHER OF US REALLY SAW THE VALUE IN SPENDING HUNDREDS ON SOMETHING THAT MAY GET WASTED"

blending into the background to capture those special candid moments.

**My dress was the biggest bargain.** By some incredible stroke of luck, pre-loved store Bliss Studio in Edinburgh had a second-hand Anna Campbell gown in exactly my size. I'd fallen in love with the Australian designer's sparkly and flowing gowns on Pinterest. It was the first dress I tried on and I didn't want to take it off. Probably the easiest shop in the history of brides!

**We didn't bother with a cake.** Neither of us really saw the value in spending hundreds on something that may get wasted. We're a pretty minimalist couple so didn't want anything fussy or formal, and wanted to eliminate unnecessary frills.

**I designed our stationery** – and have since started an Etsy business called A Line in the Sky based on the designs.

**We decided to have our mums walk down the aisle, arm in arm, ahead of the bridesmaids.** Al's dad sadly passed away a number of years ago and it was important for me to include both mothers in the ceremony.

**That portion of the day was particularly poignant.** Seeing all of our friends and family smiling back at us and sharing in such a wonderful moment was unforgettable. →

### *Need to know*

**ENGAGEMENT TO WEDDING** One year
**BUDGET** £18,000
**NUMBER OF GUESTS** 140 all day
**FIRST DANCE** "We started with a ceilidh to get everyone up on their feet, but our first dance as a couple was *Eternal Flame* by The Bangles. We love singing along to it, but took it one step further and had the karaoke words on a projector for folk to join in," laughs Becca



## Star supplier

"**Bespoke Catering & Events** were out of this world," enthuses Becca. "They ran most of the day post-ceremony and things just 'seemed' to happen around us; tables would appear and disappear without the flow of the day being interrupted at all. Then there was the food: wow. It was delicious – right down to our Viennetta dessert!"

















Couple's favourite image

"We know this isn't a traditional 'favourite wedding' photo [left] but we adore it, as it really sums up the whole day for us: the two of us on a high, surrounded by our incredible family and friends, all having a great time. It just fills me with love every time I look at it."
*Becca Rankine*









## Address book

VENUE **Fortingall Village Hall, Perthshire**
PHOTOGRAPHY
**Eilidh Sutherland Photography**
*www.eilidhsutherland.com*
CELEBRANT **Ashton Easter**
*humanistassociationscotland.com*
CATERING **Bespoke Catering & Events** *bespoke-catering.com*
BRIDE'S DRESS **Bliss Studio**
*www.blissstudio.co.uk*
GROOMSWEAR **McCalls**
*www.mccalls.co.uk*
RINGS **The Third Aye**
*www.thethirdaye.com*
FLOWERS **Coach House Flowers**
*www.coachhouseflowers.com*
STATIONERY
**Designed by the bride who now has her own Etsy shop**
*www.etsy.com/market/line_in_sky*
VENUE DECOR **Gordon's Cater Hire** *www.gordonscaterhire.co.uk*
CANOPY LIGHTING **Steve Page Lighting** *dundeecentral.co.uk*
DRINKS RECEPTION AND CEILIDH BAND **Celtic Heat**
*www.celticheat.co.uk*
HAIR **Laura Anderson**
*lauraandersonbridalhair.co.uk*
BAR MANAGEMENT
**Daisy Fay's Wedding + Events**
*www.instagram.com/daisyfaysstirling*

## Steal THEIR STYLE

*Stockists on page 288*




Scottish Munro cards by Line in the Sky, £12.95, **Etsy**



Sorrento dress with hand-embellished bodice and fitted crepe de chine skirt, from around £2,300, **Anna Campbell**

Stanford dress in Rose Gold, £70, **Chi Chi London**

Botanical bottle vase, from £2, **The Wedding of My Dreams**

Pillow Talk Beauty Light Wand highlighter, £29, **Charlotte Tilbury**

Izzy champagne sandal, £45, **Paradox London**

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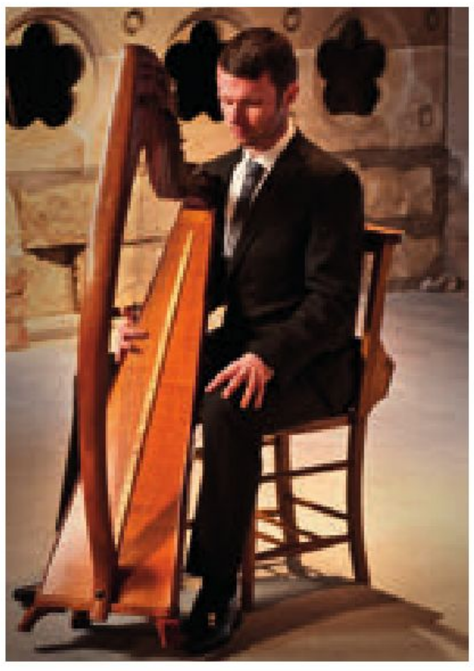
**Pat, Sept 19**

*'He's such a natural talent, his instrumental ability is fantastic and his singing voice is beautiful, some guests commented that it was so good they didn't think it was live at first. We couldn't have asked for a more perfect performance from Declan'*
**Joanne March '17**







declanhegartymusic

Declan Hegarty Music

# Entertainment

Team *TTKS* ponder the musical acts and entertainers they'd line up for their imaginary big days. Hey, these girls gotta dream...


1


1


2


2



Rosie Patrick, features writer

Bring on the romantic harps and soaring vocals for Rosie's fairytale day

## ONCE UPON A TIME

**1.** Any Disney princess worth her salt has got her trusty animal sidekick to hand, so naturally I'd *have* to have a fleet of **BobCat Alpacas** on standby to walk me up the aisle and hang with guests. ***bobcat-alpacas.co.uk***

**2.** I'd trust **WooHoo Band** to capture that brassy, big-band magic from my favourite film soundtracks – and entice my reluctant relatives onto the floor. ***www.woohooband.co.uk***

**3.** My current ceremony song of choice (it changes daily) is the ethereal Josie Dunne's *Same*, and I can easily imagine talented harpist **Sam MacAdam** performing a spine-tingling rendition as I make my entrance. ***www.sammacadam.co.uk***

**4.** I've sung since I could talk, and would definitely want a knockout vocalist. **Leona Marie** has extensive musical theatre experience: I'd love to hear her interpretation of *If I Never Knew You* from *Pocahontas* at the service. ***www.leonamarie.co.uk***


3

**Photo:** derekchristiephotography.com


4



Beth Forsyth, editor

Live music, a first dance surprise, then disco until dawn are all on Beth's list


3


4

## TOP OF THE POPS

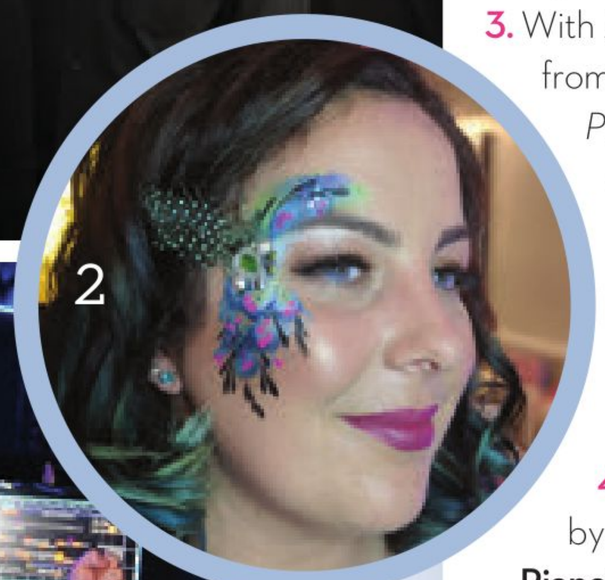
**1.** The ceremony is typically the most emotional part of the day and only a live act can set the scene evocatively. (Let's face it: when have you ever wept over a Spotify playlist?) **Declan Hegarty Music** is not only a maestro at harp and guitar, but his singing voice is *sa-weet*! I'd book him for the drinks reception too and have him perform his takes on *Say A Little Prayer* and *Stairway to Heaven*. ***facebook.com/declanhegartymusic***

**2.** Some of the best gigs I've been to have ended with firework fountains or confetti cannons. I'd make my first dance even more electrifying with indoor pyrotechnics courtesy of **21CC Group**. ***21CCgroup.com***

**3.** I've thrown all sorts of shapes on the dancefloor of their legendary Glasgow club night, so there'd be no better duo than the **Pretty Ugly DJs** to keep the party going until late. Pop-tastic indie disco a-go-go! ***prettyuglyclub.co.uk***

**4.** The Eighties spawned many of my favourite tunes, from *Africa* by Toto to *Cuddly Toy* by Roachford. **Band of Gold's** anthem-driven repertoire has the decade covered. ***bandofgolduk.com*** →







## HERE WE, HERE WE...

**1.** They're a versatile bunch, but I'd be choo-choo-choosing the funk and disco classics amidst **Soul Train's** repertoire, especially sound of the summer Daft Punk's *Get Lucky*. ***www.soul-train.net***

**2.** Announcing 'the glitter bar is now open' won't raise any eyebrows at my wedding. It'd be a bigger surprise that I hadn't enlisted **Give Good Face** to crystallise everyone's coupons. ***www.givegoodface.co.uk***

**3.** With *Loch Lomond* firmly shunned from my playlist in lieu of *Bits n Pieces*, established DJ and GBX understudy **Michael Smith** (available to hire via Neil Drover Agency) could catch my vibe better than any ceilidh band ever could. ***www.neildrover.com***

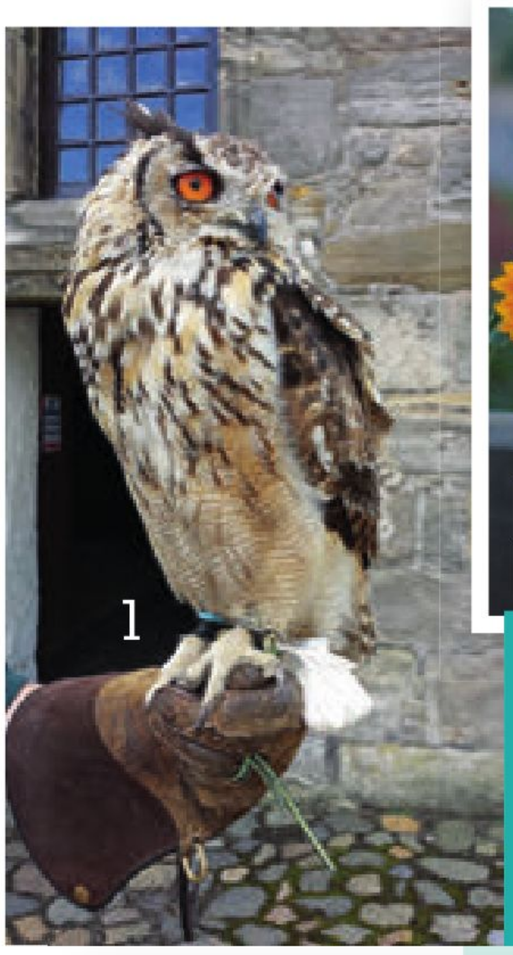
**4.** I've been stopped in my tracks by the twinkling of **Alex Graham Piano's** ivories before. Any pianist that has N-Trance, Chemical Brothers and Swedish House Mafia in their set is higher up on my wedding's guest list than most of my OH's family. ***alexgrahampiano.co.uk***

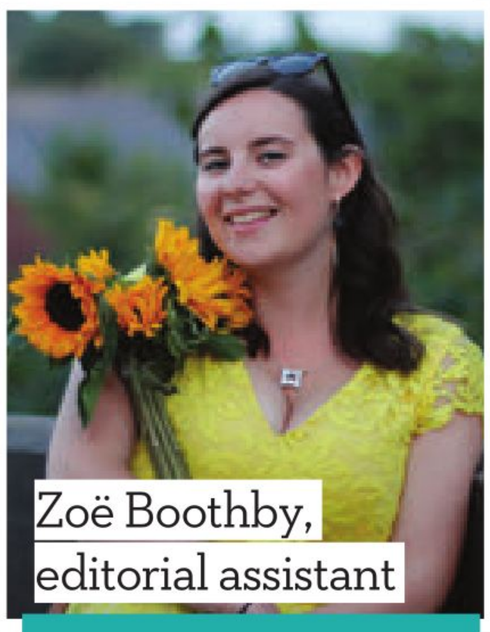


Sarah Gillespie, digital editor

The BPM is staying high at festival fan Sarah's party



Zoë Boothby, editorial assistant

An eccentric line-up of acts is the only way Zoë would have it







## WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

**1.** As someone who is currently considering taking out an annual membership to the Scottish Owl Centre (10/10, would recommend), it goes without saying that I simply *have* to get the birds involved in the big day. I'd get **Elite Falconry** to keep loved ones entertained during drinks with some fluffy bois. ***www.elitefalconry.com***

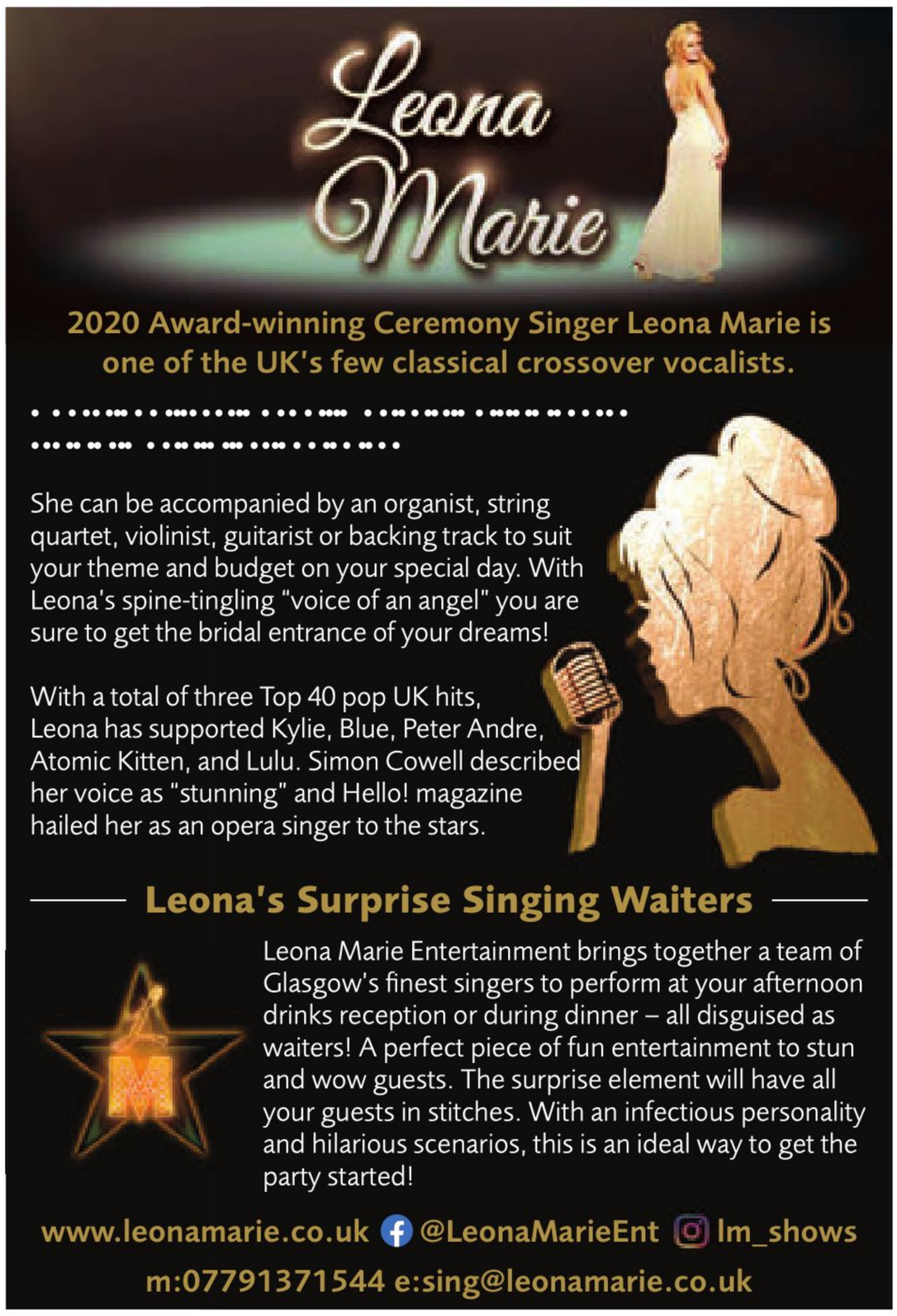
**2.** You could say I enjoy a good ceilidh: last time I stripped the willow, I ended up falling flat on my face and bruising my chin. Hopefully I could stay on my feet through a set from **Reel Time Events**. ***reel-time.co.uk***

**3.** A big chunk of my friends and family are English, so I'd definitely have to play up my Scottishness to mess with them. Enter the **Billy Connolly Tribute Show** (represented by agency Warble Entertainment), which celebrates The Big Yin with jokes, stories and music. ***www.warble-entertainment.com***

**4.** If my guests are anywhere near as gullible as me, they'll love oohing and ahhing over magician **Jody Greig's** fabulous tricks during lulls at the reception. First, however, he'll have to magic up an emotionally available man for me to marry... ***www.jodymagician.com***




Photo: facebook.com/VictoriaLitsterPhotography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Nailed down your venue? Use it as a springboard to inspire your transport options. *Zoë Boothby* is revved up and raring to go....



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***www.starcarhire.co.uk; www.crieffhydro.com***

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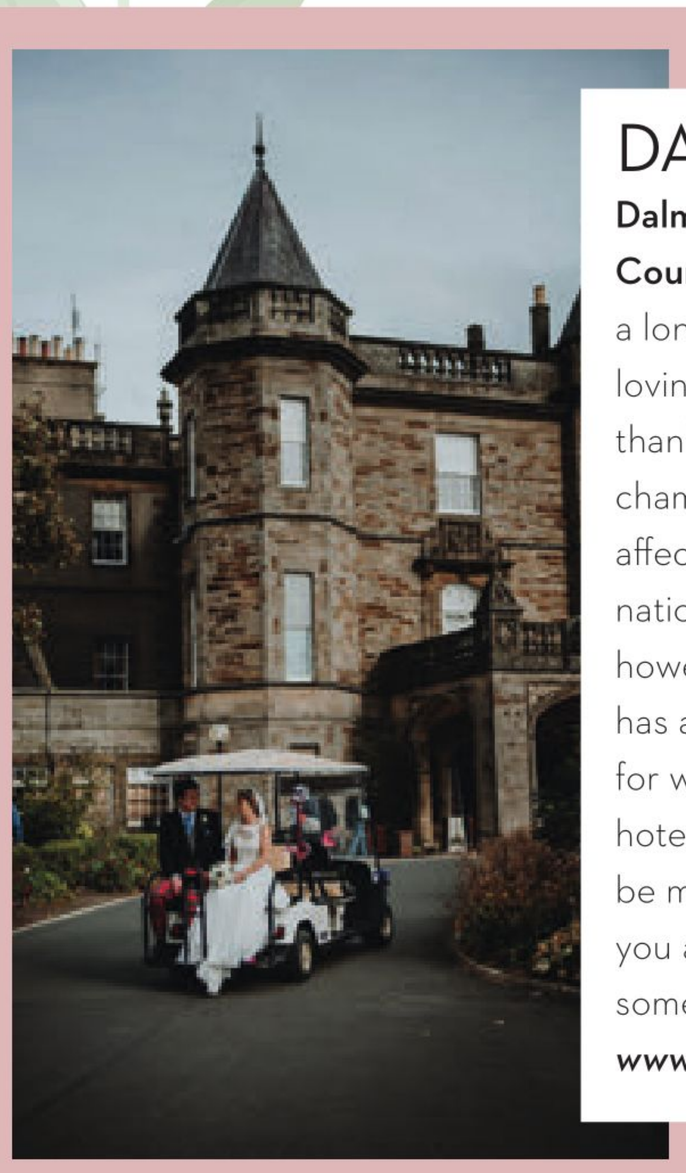
***americanclassicweddingcars.co.uk; www.clunycastle.com***



### DALMAHOY

**Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club** has been a longtime hit with golf-loving brides and grooms, thanks to its two on-site championship courses. The affection for Scotland's national sport is so strong, however, that the venue now has a dedicated golf buggy for weddings hosted at the hotel. Meet Wendy, who'll be more than happy to ferry you about (and pose for some pics along the way...).

***www.dalmahoy.co.uk***



Photo: 1500photography.co.uk

### PALLADIUM EXECUTIVE HIRE

Opulence is the name of the game at The Corinthian in Glasgow. Indulge your inner diva courtesy of the in-house champagne fountain. We recommend turning up looking suitably bougie in **Palladium Executive** Hire's Rolls-Royce Phantom. Money might not buy you happiness, but we bet this blinging baby comes pretty close.

***www.palladiumexecutivehire.com; www.thecorinthianclub.co.uk*** →

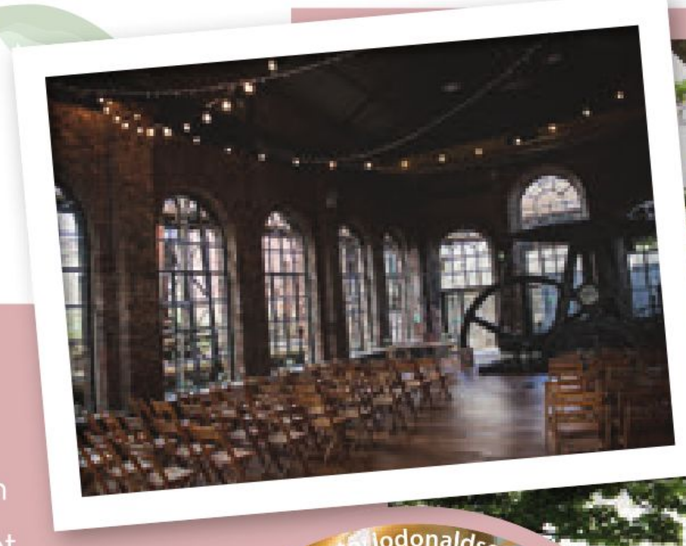


## DUMFRIES LIMO COMPANY

The recently renovated Hetland Hall Hotel requires an equally modern ride to get you there. Arrive looking unapologetically glam by hitching a lift in one of **Dumfries Limo Company's** black Hummers. Attempt to contain your excitement as you try to peer in the tinted windows. Get in, honey, we're getting married. ***www.dumfrieslimo.com; hetlandhallhotel.co.uk***







## THE RED BUS

Vintage-loving brides and grooms, listen up: make tracks to Midlothian's best-kept secret, the National Mining Museum Scotland, for its breathtaking brickwork and vast arched windows. For similar bygone feels, only a Routemaster from **The Red Bus's** fleet will do – feel like you're stepping back in time as you embark on one of these charming lovelies. Toot toot. ***www.theredbus.co.uk; nationalminingmuseum.com***







## WEST COAST MOTORS

Planning a remote wedding in the Scottish wilderness, at the secluded Dunans Castle for example [far right], is all well and good – until it comes to organising the logistics. Banish any transport-related woes by boarding the troops onto one of **West Coast Motors'** slick vehicles. That way you can be gathered round the firepit toasting marshmallows at midnight, and tucked up in your own bed come 1am. Bliss.

***westcoastmotors.co.uk; wildweddingscotland.com***








## MCDADE'S

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# Cakes

It's a classic for a reason, so what do you need to know about the traditional white bake? *Zoë Boothby* makes it all clear here...



Liggy's Cake Company, *liggyscakes.co.uk*

Butter & Bodoni, *butterandbodoni.com*

Liggy's Cake Company, *liggyscakes.co.uk*

# All white on the night

**In 2020, weddings are all about the individual.** Don't believe us? Just take a look at how many venues sell themselves on their 'bespoke' offerings, or the number of brides and grooms we talk to who advise you to remember, above all, that it's *your* big day (spoiler alert: it's all of them).

As much as we admire this commitment to self-expression, we do occasionally find ourselves filled with heady nostalgia for the good ol' days, when not everything had to be a statement on 'who you are as a couple'. Sometimes you can't go wrong with tradition. "In the same way that ivory dresses will always be synonymous with marriage, the big white wedding cake is often what our clients have dreamed of since they were children – they are iconic in the w-day world," smiles Liggy Rennie, the baking maestro behind Liggy's Cake Company.

Keeping your bake classic doesn't have to mean uninspired, however; suppliers can still be creative, even in the absence of colour. "Today's white wedding cakes don't look anything like their counterparts from previous decades, as designs have been given a modern update while still retaining the traditional milky shade," considers Laura Japp over at Jappacakes.

So what little touches can really elevate the look of a white cake? "The great thing is that this blank-canvas style will make any adornments really stand out," says Butter & Bodoni's Lauren Rand. "A few metallic details or even white-on-white textures, such as bas relief or stone effect, can add a bit of personality while still maintaining a clean design."

"Incorporating a bit of lustre (edible shine) and some ruffles, flowers, sequins or glitter can really give a cake a luxurious feel," adds Laura.

## PALE AND INTERESTING

White bakes have some distinct advantages over colour. "Mixing and matching different textures works a treat when it's a white cake, whereas with colour you have to be careful, or it can all start to look a bit too much," shares Liggy. "Plus they can work out cheaper, as you don't have the added cost of colouring the fondant, which we do by hand."

Your cake doesn't just have to photograph well: it's got to taste good too, but banish any thoughts of boring, staid fruit varieties from your mind. "White-on-white bakes lend themselves extremely well to bold, sculptural styles, and these couples tend to be out-there with their flavours as well," Lauren says.

Laura concurs: "The modern practice of using white-chocolate ganache under white sugar paste means any colour of cake can be hidden beneath and no-one will be able to spot the difference." So don't think twice, it's all white.



Jappacakes, *jappacakes.co.uk*



Special Days Cakes, *specialdayscakes.com*

White has proven itself as the ultimate wedding colour, but that does not mean dull designs. Here's five fresh takes on the most traditional of cake hues



Ruby & Pearl Cake Art,
*rubyandpearlcakeart.com*



Wedding Cakes by April Cottage,
*weddingcakesbyaprilcottage.co.uk*



Liggy's Cake Company,
*liggyscakes.co.uk*

## 1 Gilded



Photo: martinvenherm.com



Liggy's Cake Company,
*liggyscakes.co.uk*



Rosewood Cakes,
*rosewoodcakes.com*



Special Days Cakes,
*specialdayscakes.com*



High Class Cakes,
*highclasscakes.com*



Jappacakes,
*jappacakes.co.uk*



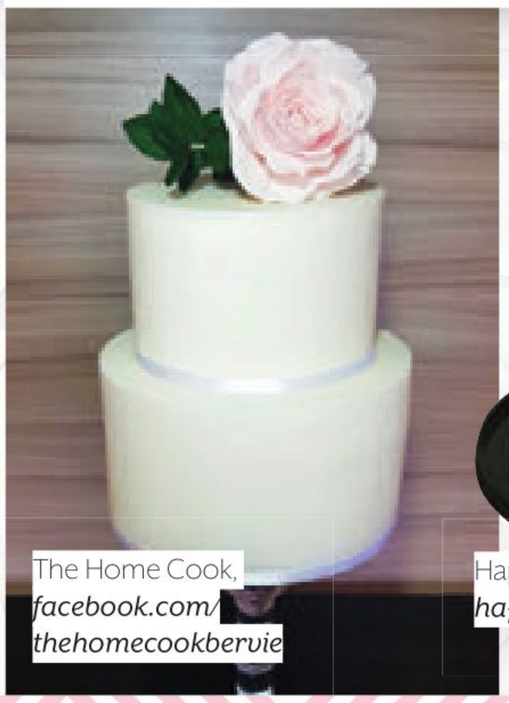
Love Laura Lane,
*facebook.com/LoveLauraLane*

## 2 Multi-textured



Gorgeously Sweet Cake Emporium,
*facebook.com/Gorgeouslysweet*

## 3 Foliage



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*facebook.com/thehomecookbervie*



Happyhills Cakes,
*happyhillscakes.co.uk*




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Love Laura Lane,
*facebook.com/LoveLauraLane*

Butter & Bodoni,
*butterandbodoni.com*

Truly Scrumptious Designer Cakes,
*trulydesignercakes.co.uk*

The Home Cook,
*facebook.com/thehomecookbervie*

Special Days Cakes,
*specialdayscakes.com*

Happyhills Cakes,
*happyhillscakes.co.uk*

## 5 Hint of a tint

Rosewood Cakes,
*rosewoodcakes.com*

**Photo:** martinvenherm.com

High Class Cakes,
*highclasscakes.com*

Wedding Cakes by April Cottage,
*weddingcakesbyaprilcottage.co.uk*

Suzanne Esper Cakes,
*suzanneespercakes.com*

**Photo:** craigevasanders.co.uk

Gorgeously Sweet Cake Emporium,
*facebook.com/Gorgeouslysweet*

A Bonnie Wee Cake,
*abonnieweecake.co.uk*

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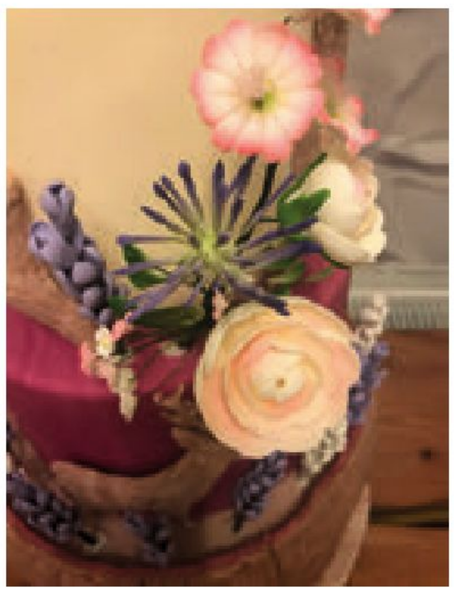
High Class Cakes





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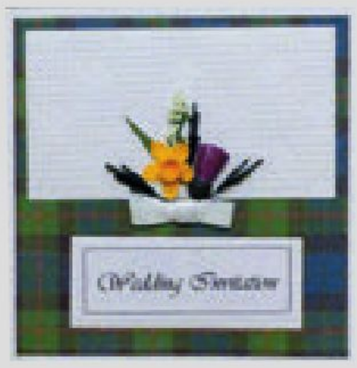


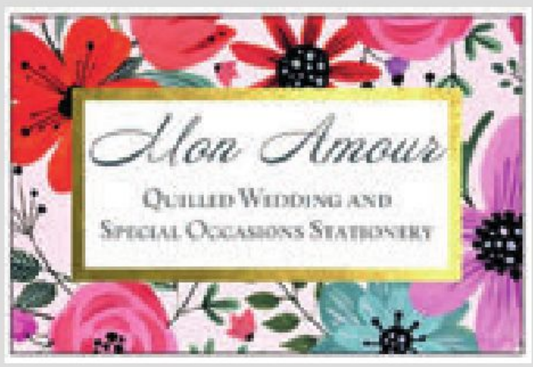








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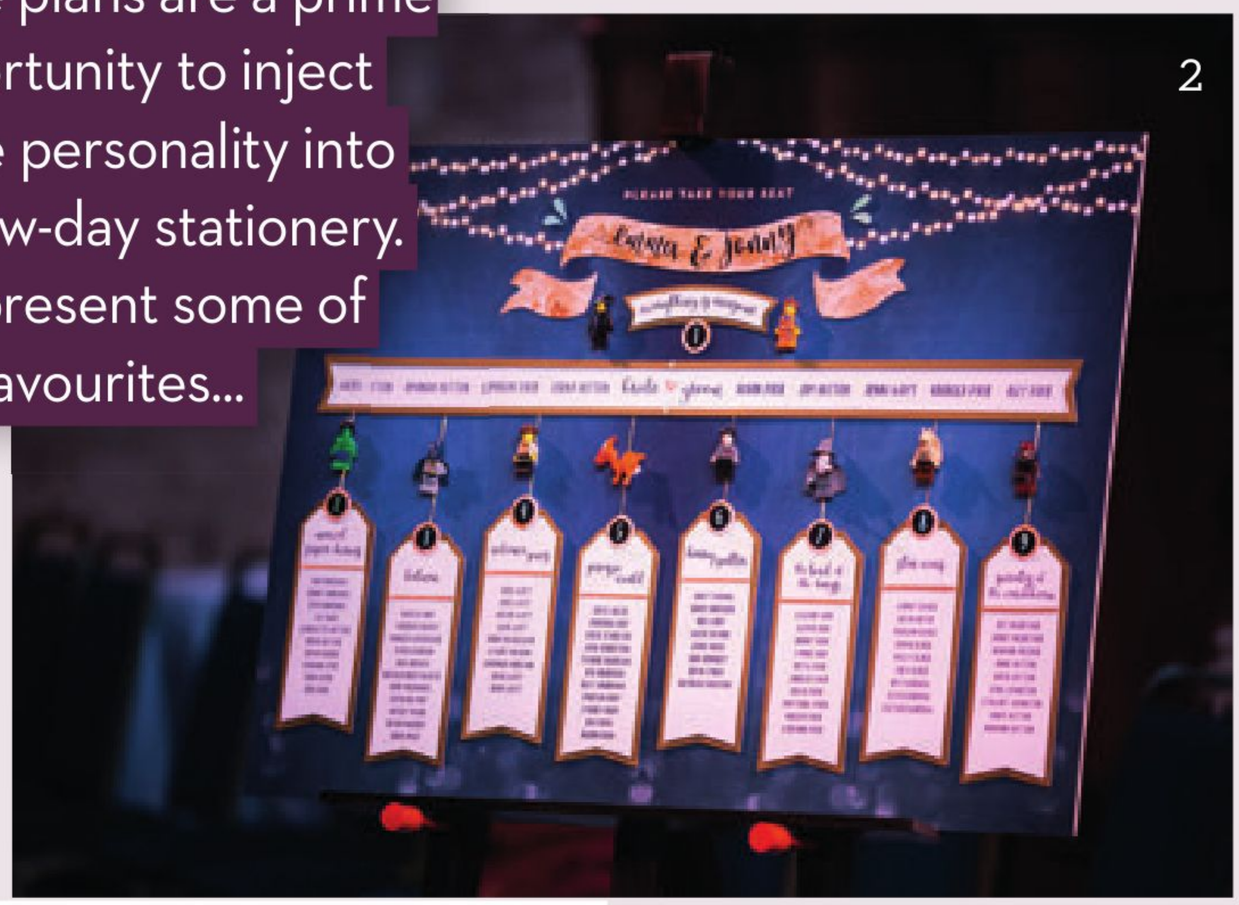
# Stationery

Compiled by *Zoë Boothby*

Table plans are a prime opportunity to inject some personality into your w-day stationery. We present some of our favourites...





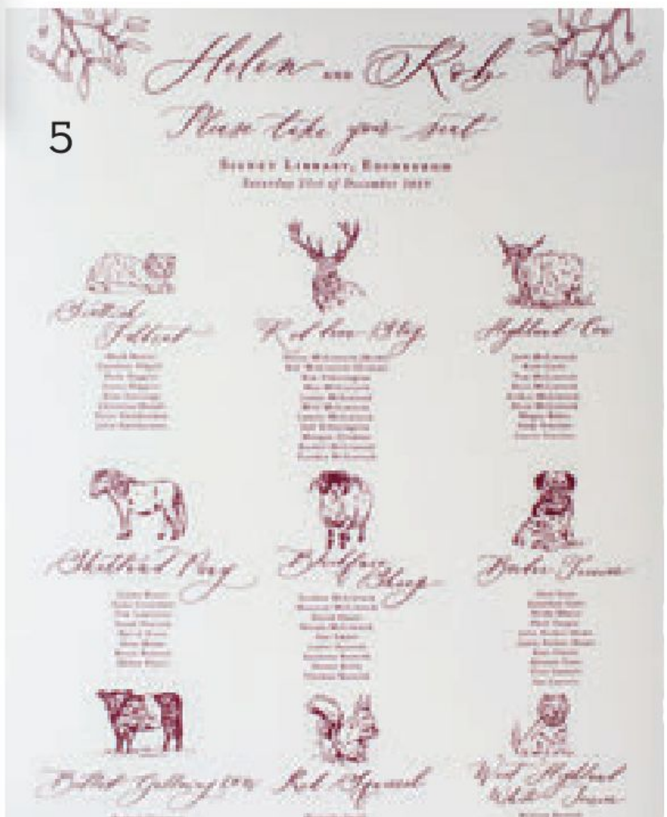











## PLEASE *be seated*




**1 Paper Skeleton** fashioned this celestial design from moon shapes, brass dreamcatchers and tassels the bride sourced from Dubai **2 Two Tabbies** wanted to pay homage to Emma and Jonny's Lego theme, so incorporated real figurines **3 Mon Amour Wedding Stationery** specialises in classic-style seating plans – we're certainly enamoured of this colourful number **4** A star-spangled beauty from **Two Tabbies**, with polaroids and names on luggage tags. Roadtrippin' all the way **5** This groom's job as a vet was **Laura Elizabeth Patrick's** starting point: she sketched each of the animals and drafted the calligraphy elements by hand **6** Mythical elements from *Harry Potter*, *Game of Thrones* and others were the basis for this geek-tastic take for some sci-fi-loving clients of **Origami Fox 7** For minimalistic chic, you can't go wrong with **The Unlikely Painter's** pared-back oil on wood with copper leaf, entwining the 'modern and bold' brief with traditional elements **8** Amber and Richard enlisted the help of **Wedding Artwork by Daria**, who crafted this stunning illustration of their wedding venue, Blair Castle

***Stockists on page 288***

## CREATIVE FLORIST

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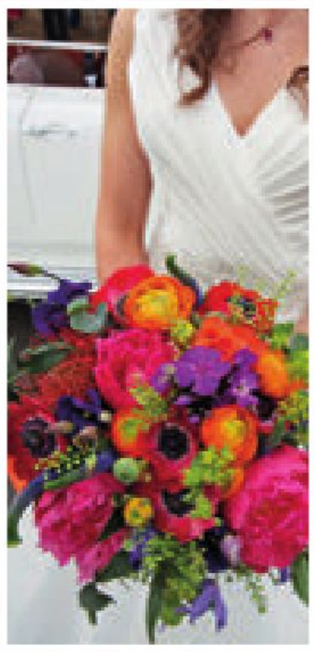

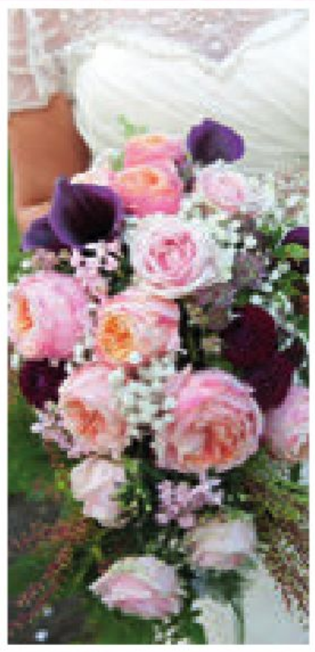

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# Flowers

As the floristry business gets to grips with its eco responsibilities, *Zoë Boothby* learns more about the grassroots movement to put homegrown flowers at the heart of your bouquet



# Green fingers

[Above] The pampas grass and faux blossom of **Supernova Wedding Design & Flowers**' arch makes this a high-impact piece with little impact on the environment *(supernovaweddingdesign.co.uk)*

Photo: smphotographyx.com

**How do you 'do your bit'?** Maybe you've given up dairy, or now only eat meat a couple of times a week; perhaps you buy from your local zero-waste shop, or you've swapped fast fashion for second-hand clothes. Whatever it is, I think we'd all agree that sustainability is no longer a 'trend' but a way of life we all have to adopt.

Wider political and systemic change is urgently needed, of course, but we can't leave it all for Greta Thunberg to sort out – which means we have to examine the damage weddings can do to the environment. And nowhere is this issue more pressing than when it comes to flowers. "Thanks to bridal magazines and blogs, many more of us are aware of the floristry industry's impact on the environment, especially through its use of floral foam," says Ashley Bryden at Clydebank's Fleur & Blume.

Floral foam? Let Lauren Printy Currie of Days of Dahlia explain: "Floral foam, or oasis as it's known, is the green blocks hidden at the bottom of almost all flower arrangements. It's a type of plastic (phenolic resin, in case you're wondering) which, despite its attractive green colour, is *not* biodegradable. And, when the foam is soaked to prepare it for use, microplastics pass into the water system and directly contribute to marine contamination."

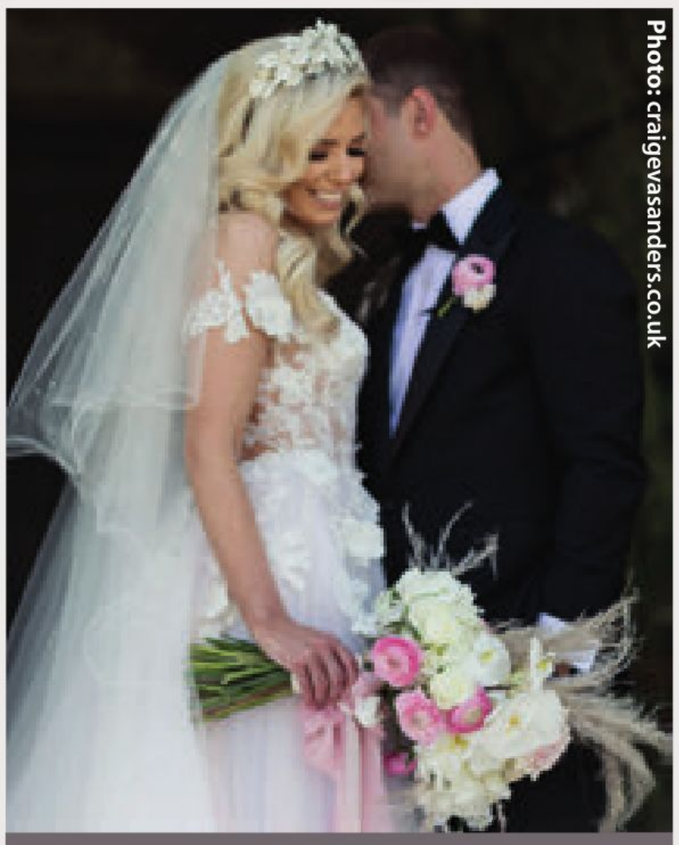

Photo: craigevasanders.co.uk

[Above] Check out these pretties from **Supernova Wedding Design & Flowers** *(supernovaweddingdesign.co.uk)* [Below] A colourful creation from star florist and green crusader **Days of Dahlia** *(daysofdahlia.com)*



Photo: caroweiss.com

Yet, change is coming – as Ashley points out, more suppliers are opting out of oasis altogether, and the Royal Horticultural Society has vowed to ban the material from its shows from next year. As welcome as these steps are, however, there are still things to consider as you plan for your wedding. Here are just some of the ways you can get started.

## ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

The first question you'll want to ask yourself is: do you know where your blooms have originated? "Flying flowers around the world creates a huge carbon footprint," shares Rosie Leslie, owner of Glasgow-based Wild Rose Flowers. "And it's unnecessary as there are plenty of sustainable alternatives. Couples should be aware of where their blossoms come from, and aim to keep them natural and →

seasonal. In the colder months, varieties such as peonies and hydrangeas are flown here from South America, but there are loads of amazing substitutes you could use instead. If you've got your heart set on one particular bloom, why not try a faux version? These can even be mixed in with fresh flowers."

Air miles aren't the only concern. "After mass-produced flowers are harvested they are given a cocktail of chemicals, including being dipped in glyphosate [a weedkiller, banned in some countries] to prevent propagation," Lauren shares. "You need to know what you are handling when you're carrying a bouquet of roses in December. It's hard to believe just how wasteful conventional floristry is, given how beautiful and natural the results look."

That said, in some ways the nature of weddings is actually a godsend for suppliers keen to cut waste. "Events like Valentine's Day and Mother's Day see shops ordering in vast quantities, the transportation of which contributes to a massive carbon footprint," says Ruth Marshall, of Supernova Wedding Design and Flowers. "But we buy our flowers locally where possible and, as an event florist, we are zero-waste as everything is made to order."

And the good news is that pursuing a more environmentally friendly big day is compatible with a lot of the trends we're seeing cropping up across the wedding industry, such as the use of dried flowers. "Using native foliage and grasses is definitely more sustainable as we have a wide range available here in Scotland all year round," agrees Rosie. "Plus, drying flowers is a good way for florists to use up leftover heads as these can be mixed into things like wreaths and table arrangements in the winter months."

## NO PLANET B

On board ideologically but your bank balance is giving you second thoughts? You've nothing to stress about. "Pursuing sustainable practice is less expensive for sure," confirms Ashley. "Floral foam is pricey, switching to kraft paper and cutting out cellophane and tissue paper also makes a massive saving."

On the day itself, it's about being smart and economical with the pieces you invest in: think reduce and recycle. Spend your money on fewer, more impactful


Photo: valentinaweddings.co.uk

[Above] Minimalist touches throughout the venue *à la* **Wild Rose Flowers** will create impact while keeping waste down *(wildroseflowers.co.uk)*

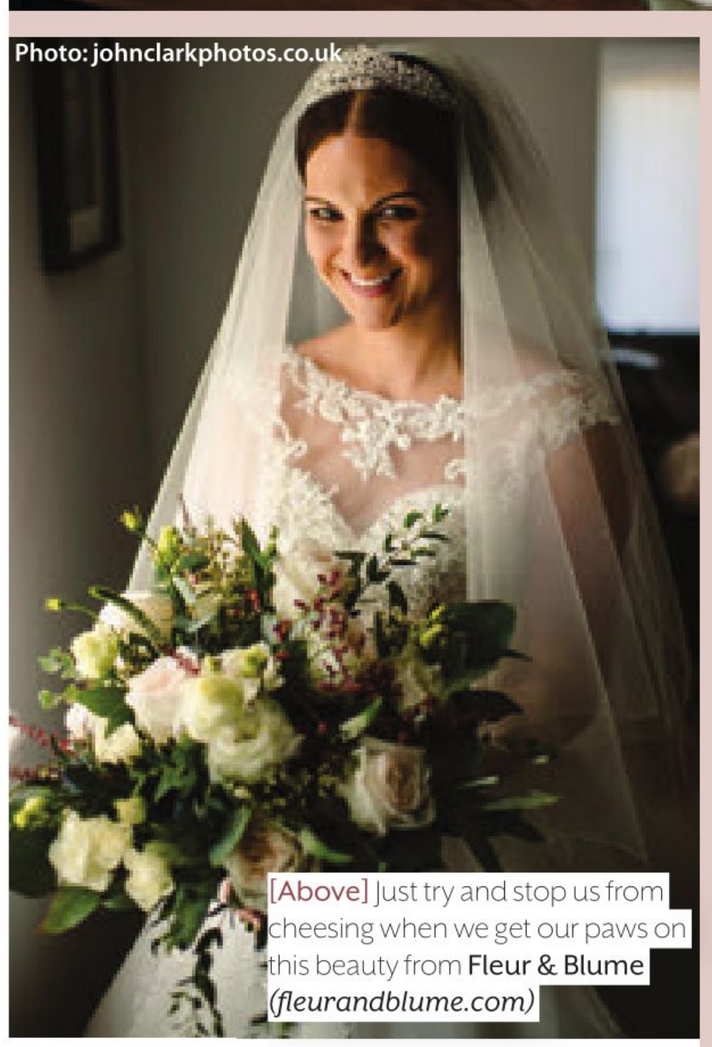
Photo: johnclarkphotos.co.uk

[Above] Just try and stop us from cheesing when we get our paws on this beauty from **Fleur & Blume** *(fleurandblume.com)*

arrangements and repurpose them throughout the day. And don't be afraid to go faux – they are so convincing these days most people won't be able to tell the difference.

"As a hire company, we reuse our products time and time again, which is better for the environment," Ruth confides. "We have cherry blossom trees, a wide selection of flower walls and arches, and some stunning faux centrepiece options."

## TAKE UP THE FIGHT

Florists have told us what they know – now it's up to you to decide how to respond. "Choose a florist who is open about their efforts to act in a sustainable way," challenges Rosie. "It would also be good to see venues encouraging clients to seek out sustainable florists and other suppliers as well – after all, this is an issue for all industries, not just ours."

The best thing you can do, says Ashley, is to quiz your florist on the basics. "Ask where their flowers come from – are they sustainably grown and shipped? Are biodegradable materials used? How are they packaged?"

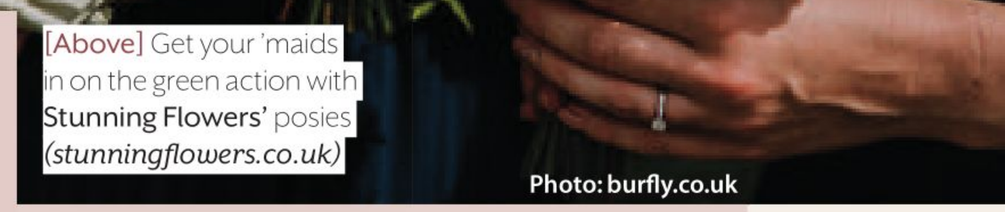
Photo: burfly.co.uk

[Above] Get your 'maids in on the green action with **Stunning Flowers'** posies *(stunningflowers.co.uk)*


Photo: valentinaweddings.co.uk

[Above] A ceremony arch is entirely possible without costing the earth... literally. Just ask **Wild Rose Flowers** *(wildroseflowers.co.uk)*
[Below] Dot some potted arrangements from **Fleur & Bloom** around the venue to impress guests. And look – there's no floral foam in sight! *(fleurandblume.com)*



And reducing waste isn't just a priority before the big day – what will you do with all those beautiful blooms afterwards? Why not spread the love, Ashley suggests: "Some people like to give them to family or to nursing homes and hospitals, or to put them on a loved one's grave."

Or, you could make your own memento, by hanging your bouquet upside down in a warm cupboard and leaving it to dry out. That way, you'll have it to hold forever. ♥

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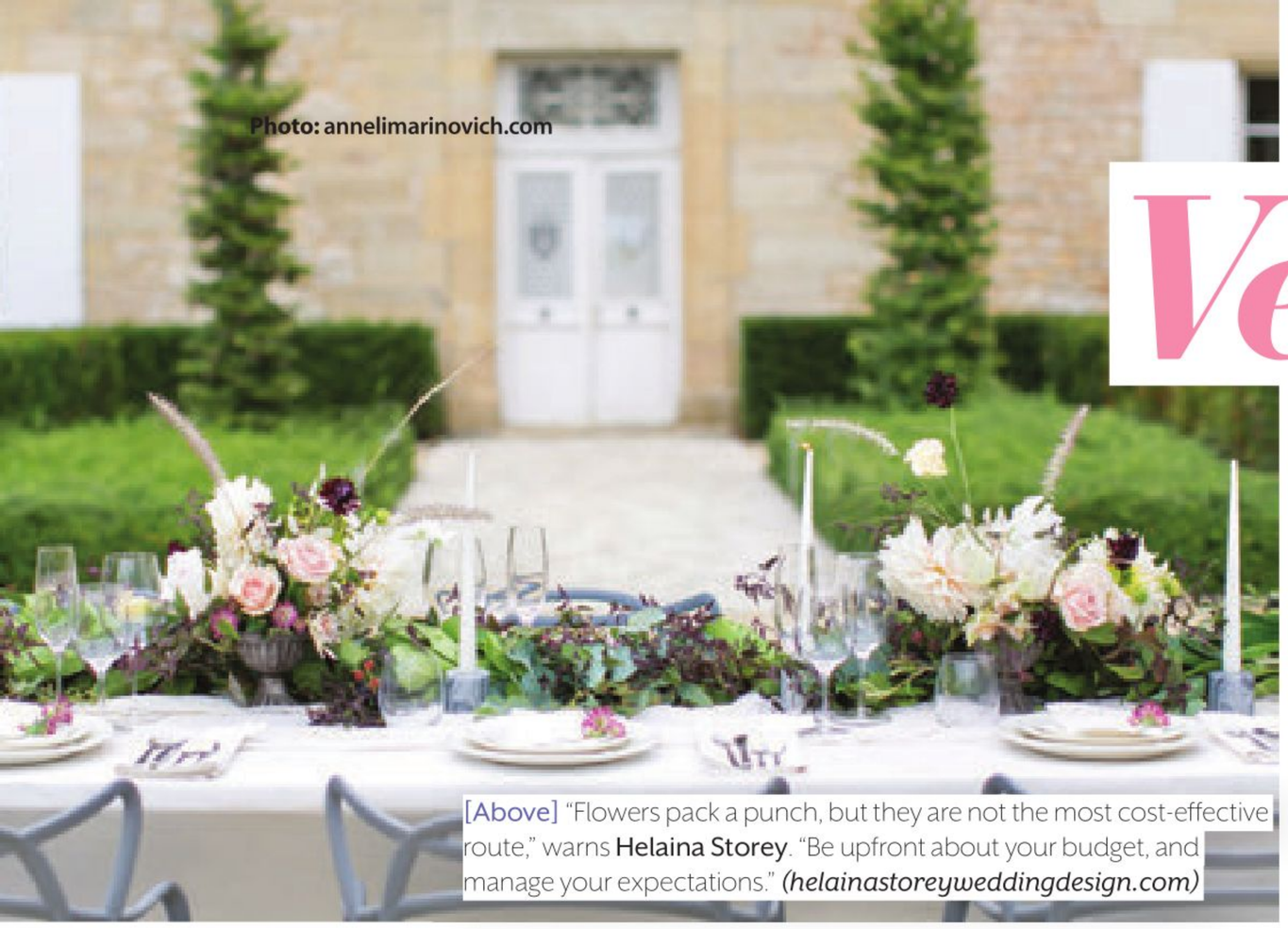

Photo: annelimarinovich.com

[Above] "Flowers pack a punch, but they are not the most cost-effective route," warns **Helaina Storey**. "Be upfront about your budget, and manage your expectations." *(helainastoreyweddingdesign.com)*



[Below] Aim for meaningful features, urges Helaina: "Yes, it's about 'luxury', but it's more about the day reflecting who you are and what you love"

Photo: nastjakovacec.com

# Made of *money?*

# *Venue decor*

## Of all the styling mistakes couples make, failing to budget for it properly is right up there at number one. We get the facts and figures in order

Words by ***Rosie Patrick***

**"I like my money right where I can see it: hanging in my closet."** So said Carrie Bradshaw of her offbeat approach to finance. As soon as she uttered the words, I felt *seen*. No one had ever articulated my own misguided philosophy so accurately. Talk about nail on the head. And while it's never served me particularly well in my life (renting at 31 says it all), it's a mantra that does work when it's applied to your wedding, and its decor.

Stick with me: you see, apart from the holy trinity of catering, venue and entertainment, decor is one of the elements that can have the most impact on the day, being remembered by your guests long after they've leapt into that taxi home. Despite this, we've lost count of the number of couples who've told us they treated it as an afterthought, only to be floored by a late, steep styling quote, or by the sheer amount of time, effort

> "WE'VE LOST COUNT OF THE COUPLES WHO'VE TOLD US THEY TREATED DECOR AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT AND, AS A RESULT, WERE FLOORED BY A LATE, STEEP STYLING QUOTE"

and money required for that 'simple' table plan.

I'm not saying you have to go for broke to finance an outrageous production – far from it – but the setting needs your attention, and allocating even a small part of your spend to the staging will go a long way. Put your money right where you can see it: in your venue.

## A NEW ORDER

I get it. You've just booked your venue and handed over a sizable chunk of your hard-earned savings. It's alarming, and the last thing you want to do is think about parting with even *more* cash. But the sooner you get the styling wheels in motion, the better placed you'll be. All it takes is a rearrangement of your priorities. "It may sound obvious, but the starting point for any venue design process is →




[Above] **Party People** emphasises this venue's fabulous stained-glass windows with bright paper lanterns and strings of fairylights *(partypeople-online.com)*

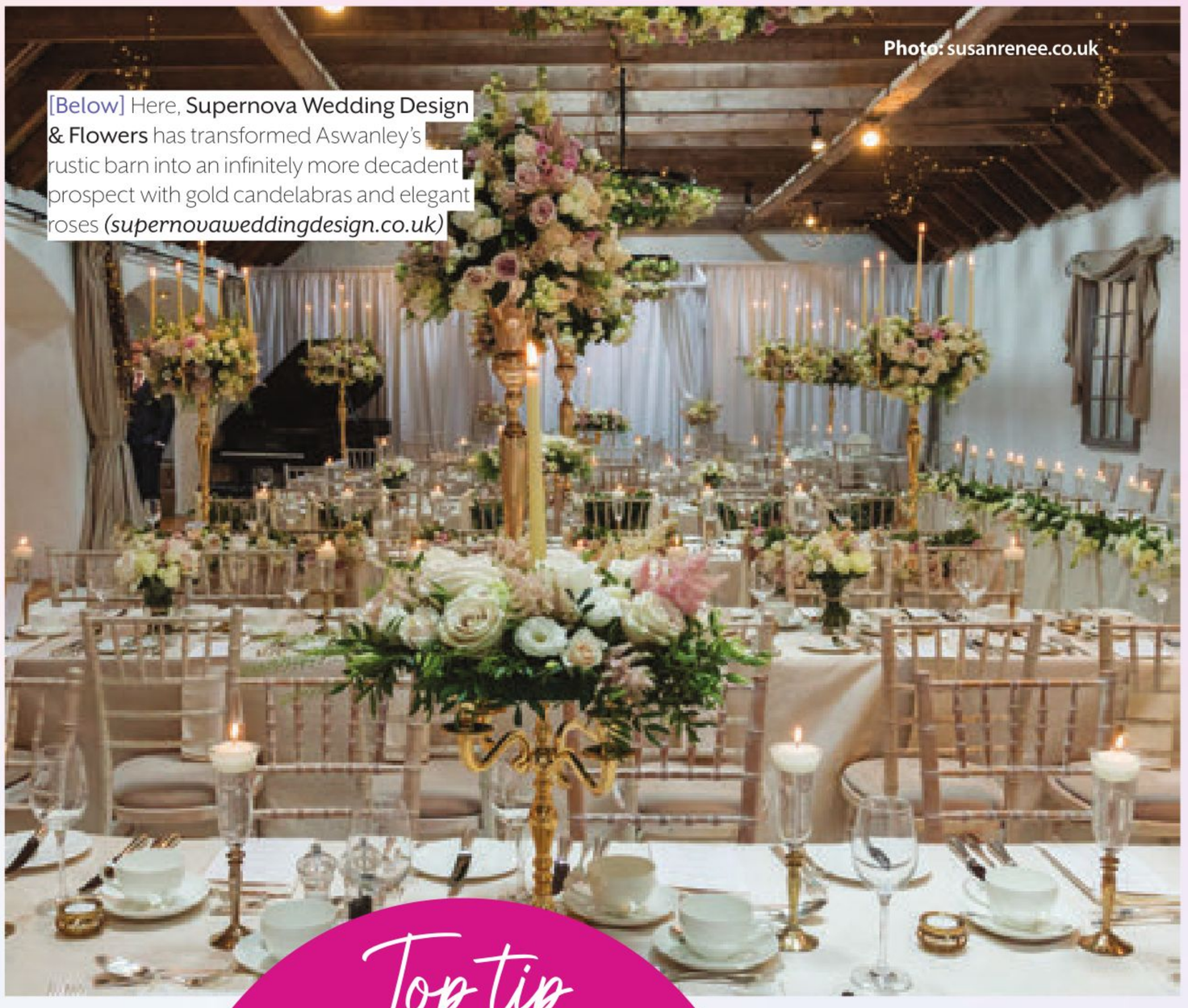

Photo: susanrenee.co.uk

[Below] Here, **Supernova Wedding Design & Flowers** has transformed Aswanley's rustic barn into an infinitely more decadent prospect with gold candelabras and elegant roses *(supernovaweddingdesign.co.uk)*

the venue itself," stresses planner and stylist Helaina Storey. "It's an absolute must that any visual elements of your event complement their surroundings, so straight after securing your venue is the time to think about your decor."

For Ruth Marshall at Supernova Wedding Design & Flowers, the journey kicks off even sooner. "Styling your day begins the minute you start to consider your venue," she insists. "What do you love about it, and how will you decorate the different spaces?"

What's more, much like the venue, the styling will have a knock-on effect on the rest of the day. "So much of the overall style will feed into other elements," notes Natalie Mieszek of Lemonbox Studios. "The bridesmaid dresses, stationery and florals are all dependent on it. It's sensible to think about it as a whole, rather than as a separate entity. Set funds aside for styling when drafting your initial budget."

## WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?

At that, you've duly sat down in front of the spreadsheets, but your mind is blank. What if you haven't the foggiest clue how much you should be saving for decoration? Don't worry, you've got company. "Surprisingly, when I ask what their budget is, most couples say they don't have one," admits Elaine Scott, the brains behind Make I Do Wedding and Event Styling. "A lot depends on the venue and what it supplies, but typically if I am providing aisle decor, a backdrop, table plan, signage and centrepieces, it can be between £200 and £500 in a hotel or a castle.

"If I'm styling an empty sports hall, or a barn, however, I need to do much more. This could then include fairylights, ceiling drapes and entrance decor, meaning it can cost between £1,000 and £2,000."

At this point, you'll have to iron out what your wedding needs and, more crucially, what you can afford. "Here at Party People, we can cater for all budgets," reassures stylist John Dornan. "We've worked on nuptials with just a few hundred pounds to spend, to celebrations that cost thousands. We can advise how to get the most bang for your buck, whether that be £300 to £600 for something low-key, or £2,000 to £6,000 for a more extensive design. A bigger budget will allow you to add things like lighting and higher-end centrepieces to really take the venue to the next level."

Ask yourselves this: what are you working with here? Are you planning on hosting both your ceremony and reception in the same space? Have you booked a venue package? If so, what does this include? What specifically do you need a stylist to help with? How much, if any, are you prepared to DIY?

"There are many factors," agrees Helaina. "Is it a straight-forward setting up of your own props and decor on the morning of the wedding, or a more complicated arrangement of pieces you might be hiring in, with a changeover of the room? Or, is it a full design and styling service you require, whereby the stylist will brainstorm, develop and execute the concept on your behalf from start to finish, taking on board any decor-related suppliers required to bring the whole vision to life?"

Speaking of liaising with other suppliers, this is potentially an area in which you could save, if you have a multi-hyphenate at the helm. Many companies, like Supernova for instance, will take care of your flowers as well as your decor, in one fell swoop:

### Top tip

"If your venue already provides certain items, and they are compatible with your vision, they could be useful," says Natalie Mieszek at Lemonbox Studios. "At the same time, don't feel you have to use absolutely everything that's supplied. Just updating the chairs and napkins, for example, can a make a massive difference."



Photo: helenabrahamphotography.com

[Above] Gleneagles is even more opulent with draped chiavaris and soft candlelight courtesy of Supernova *(supernovaweddingdesign.co.uk)*

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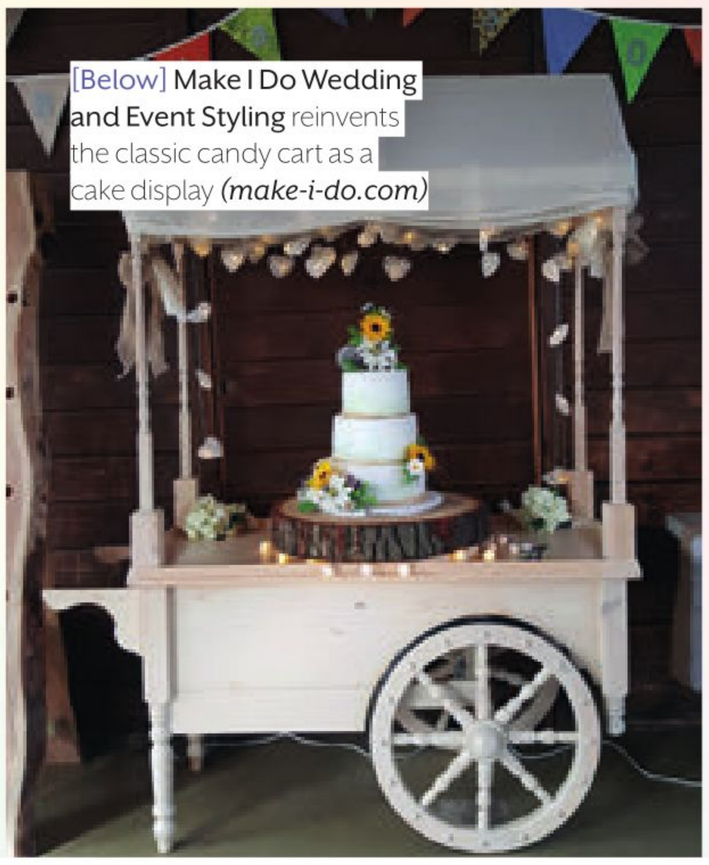
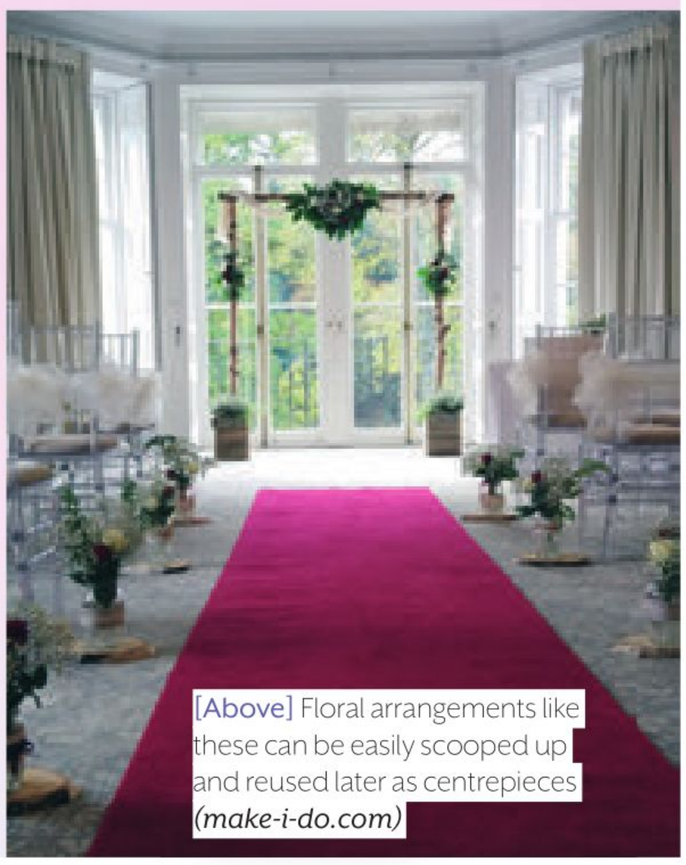


[Below] **Make I Do Wedding and Event Styling** reinvents the classic candy cart as a cake display *(make-i-do.com)*



[Above] Fairylight branches make for a lovely but inexpensive arch *(blackorchidevents.com)*



[Above] Floral arrangements like these can be easily scooped up and reused later as centrepieces *(make-i-do.com)*



[Above] Colourful accents needn't cost the earth – a minimal green and white scheme suits this verdant outdoor ceremony location *(partypeople-online.com)*

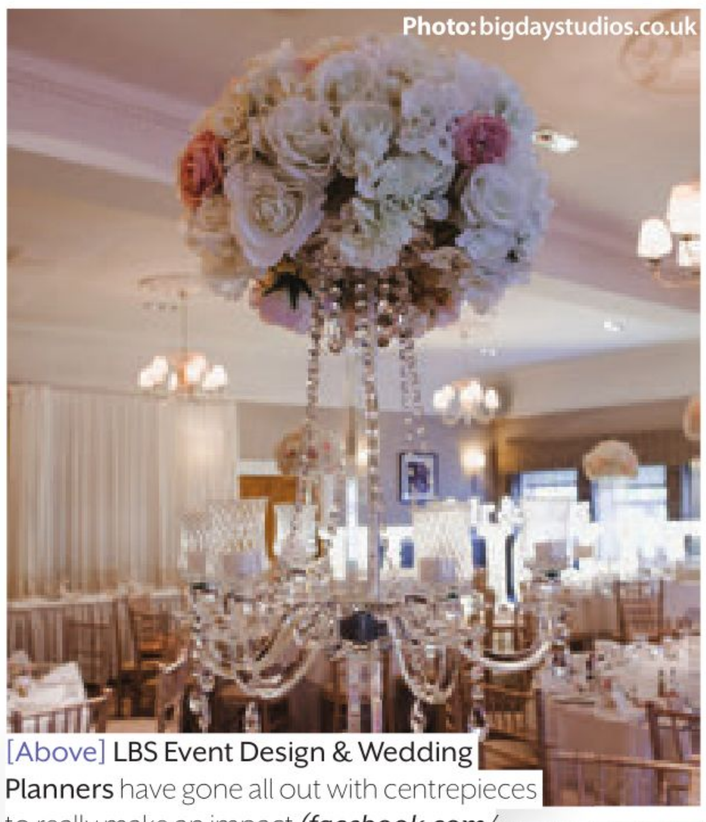


Photo: bigdaystudios.co.uk



Photo: missgen.com

[Above] **LBS Event Design & Wedding Planners** have gone all out with centrepieces to really make an impact *(facebook.com/lbseventdesignweddingplanners)*



[Above] A canopy of trailing blooms and Edison bulbs is a directional design solution for a narrow table *(lemonboxstudios.com)*

"Some clients like to mix and match suppliers, which is fine, but the majority prefer a clear-cut service from one of our award-winning designers," explains Ruth.

Other firms deliver both planning *and* styling. "This is a very effective way to benefit from a fusion of logistical and organisational expertise, giving you better value for money," points out Helaina. Two birds, one reasonably priced stone.

## ASSET MANAGEMENT

As with any aspect of your wedding, making the most of your budget should be your main concern, and limiting your spending to only the hardest-working props and features is your ticket to maximising that moolah. What do the experts recommend?

"If you have a restricted budget, focus on your flowers and centrepieces, as these will make the greatest impression," Ruth stresses. "Fresh flowers are, in my view, fundamental, as is candlelight – and loads of it, even in summer. It's so atmospheric. Floor-length linen and stylish chairs are also definite necessities so that it all looks co-ordinated." Think too, she advises, about pieces that can be repurposed throughout the day: "Statement aisle decor can be added to tables, so that costs are kept under control when you're based in the same venue all day."

Modest additions are nothing to be sniffed at, assures John: "The biggest difference is made by linen and lighting. These two things combined can lift a tired or dull room. For the transition between ceremony and reception, you generally only have a short window of opportunity, and for this I'd suggest mood lighting, which you'd have turned off during the service and then switched on during the meal. It's an efficient way to completely changes the ambience."

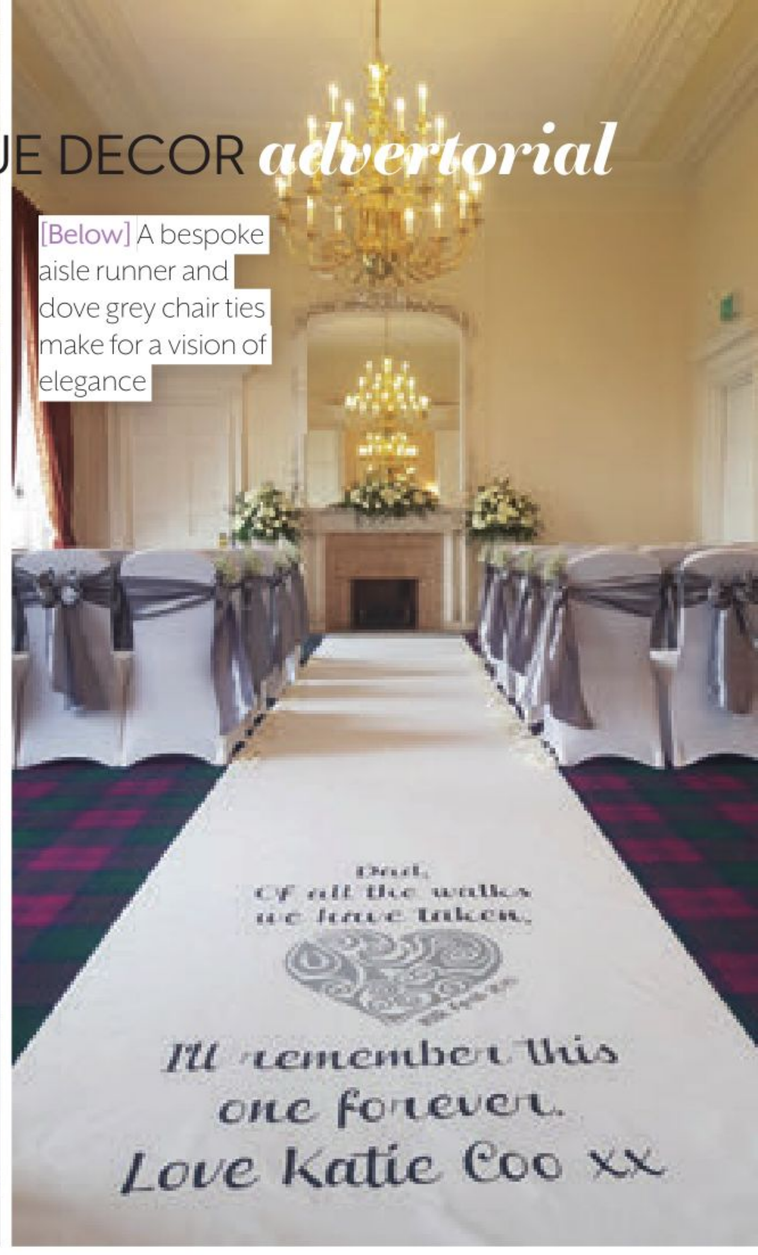
"Fairylights can do so much for a venue, making it literally sparkle," Elaine offers. "Hanging them in window frames for the evening when the light fades is very pretty. I also have some rustic chandeliers with drops of flowers and lights, and greenery, like ivy and tree branches, which can highlight an entranceway.

"Ultimately, though, don't feel pressured into spending money on things just because it's what everyone else is doing. Make your own choices."

"Comparison is the thief of joy," chimes in Helaina. "Style your day within your means and stay true to you." ♥



[Below] **Party People** can make a marquee marvellous with draped chair covers, a fairylight canopy, illuminated letters and gorgeous cherry blossom centrepieces




[Below] A bespoke aisle runner and dove grey chair ties make for a vision of elegance

# READY *to party*

Since its launch, Party People has established itself as one of the go-to names for wedding styling and decor hire in Scotland. Company director John Dornan tells us how the business has grown from garage start-up to award-winner....



[Below] **Party People** also offer incredible big-day florals in conjunction with **The Flower Studio** *(flower-studio.co.uk)*

**After being inspired** by one of Canada's premier event organisers while out there visiting in 2010, John Dornan had the dream of running an event rentals company. "When planning a wedding, there's no room to gamble – it has to be 100% right first time," says John. "My plan was simple: we'd research, source and offer the absolute best-quality products at the keenest prices and pair those with outstanding service. It meant our customers could forgo their own research and rest safe in the knowledge they were booking items that had been thoroughly road-tested."

And so, Party People launched in March 2011 – although it wasn't plain sailing, as John recalls: "At the start, people just didn't really get what we were trying to do. My first two big investments were a fairylight-and-hanging-lantern ceiling canopy and some mood lighting. Back then, flower-filled martini vases were all the rage and even chair covers were a hard sell! What we were offering at the time was quite radical. Fast-forward 8½ years and almost every wedding has chair covers and a lot have fairylights. I'm glad that our company can lay claim to being part of that transition in wedding and events culture in Scotland."

Party People is now located in a 3,000 sq. ft. showroom and warehouse in Sauchie, a far cry from its humble beginnings in John's mum's garage. "We outgrew the space within the first few months, then upped sticks to an old boiler room at a former school. We've moved premises three times since, such has been the demand. Even now, we are in the process of acquiring the unit next door to give us a further 3,000 sq. ft. to meet our ever-growing and changing needs."

The company's stock for weddings is unrivalled, providing everything from LED dancefloors and chiavari chairs to illuminated letters, chair covers, mood lighting and much more. "We specialise in fairylight and hanging-lantern canopies and the business now also incorporates a balloon studio," says John. "What's more, after being a florist for 14 years, my wife Sarah opened The Flower Studio two years ago. She's since won 'Florist of the Year (Central Belt)' at 2018's Scottish Wedding Awards." Talk about making the ultimate partnership when it comes to making your special day look amazing! ♥

## PARTY PEOPLE: THE STATS

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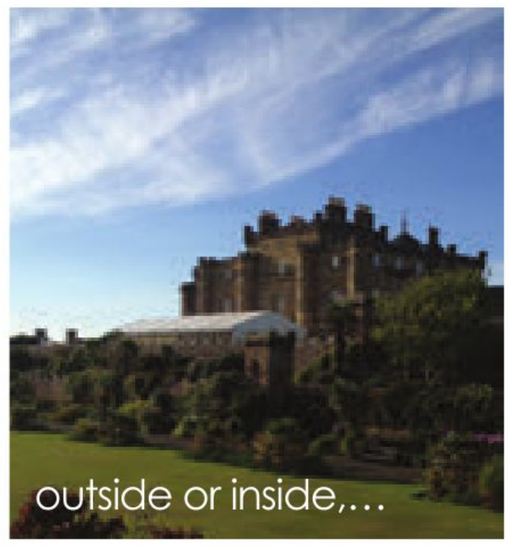





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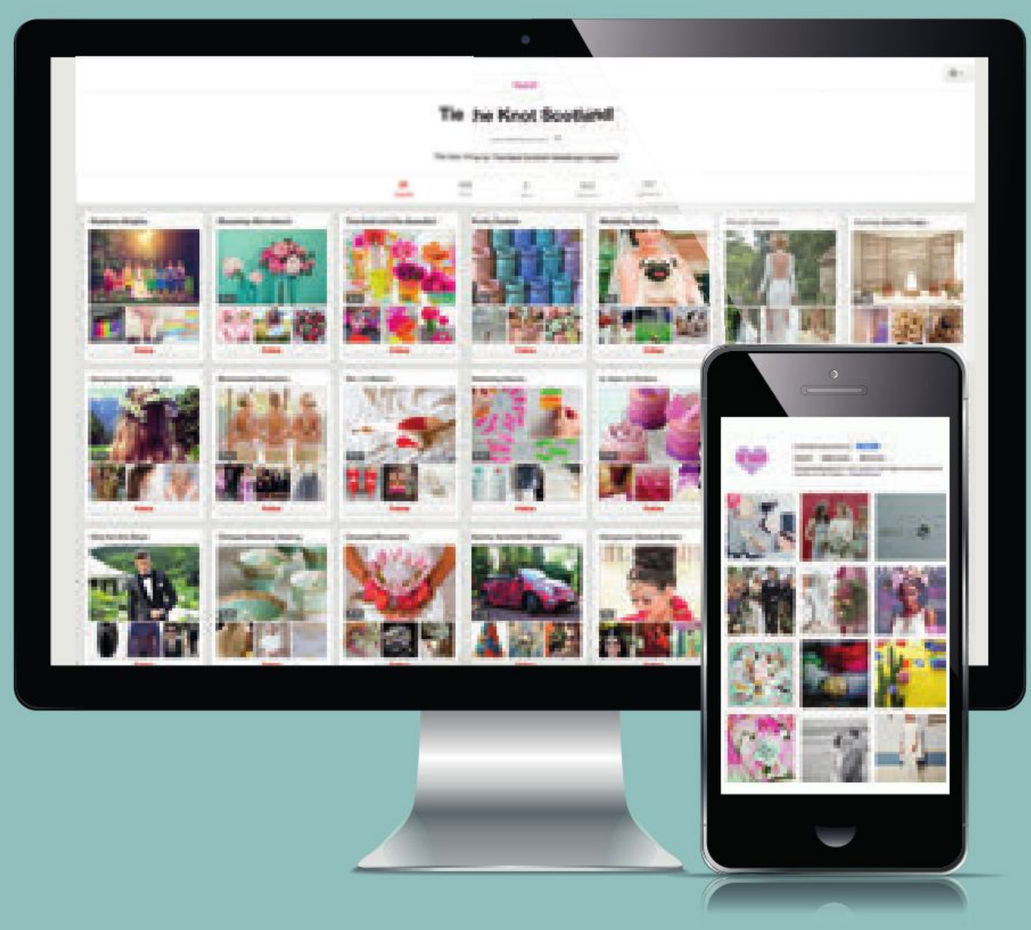

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# Marquees



[Below] Come rain or shine, **Queensberry Event Hire's** sparkling canopy will look breathtaking *(queensberryevents.co.uk)*

Photo: duncanirelandphotography.com

Dreaming of a DIY day under canvas but no idea where to start? Here's *Zoë Boothby*'s guide to getting it pitch perfect

# TENT TOP TIP(I)S

**Never hired a marquee before?** Don't know a yurt from a tipi? You're not the only one. If you love the thought of hosting your celebrations in a big white tent but simply have no idea how to go about it, we're here to acquaint you with some of the basics.

Way before you can think about bunting or where best to hang the glitter ball, you'll need to get your head around practicalities such as terrain, weather and loos. So we asked some of the best in the biz to help us compile a list of essential pointers. Get to grips with these and you'll end up with the right supplier and the winning pitch.

## ASK QUESTIONS

"One of the great things about a marquee wedding is that you have more freedom, but this also means there's a lot to organise yourselves," shares Hannah Gray at Atlas Domes. "Your supplier, however, will have done it all a hundred times before, so don't hesitate to ask for advice or recommendations."

## MEET AND GREET

"You'll want to meet your chosen company twice – once at the site visit (where the supplier will assess the quality of the ground they'll be setting up on) and once when they start building," says Mara Muscel of Helsby Tents. "Having said that, you will talk lots over the phone."

## GET LIT

"Outdoor lighting, such as festoons on giant hooks, are an effective way to create atmosphere, especially when combined with our patio heaters and fairylight canopy," says Will Duncan at Queensberry Event Hire. "Clear roofs are also ideal for bringing in light and making the most of the surroundings."

## HELPING HANDS

"Make sure you have a crew of pals around you to help set up in the days before the wedding," Hannah adds. "Aside from being useful, this can actually be really fun and gives friends and relatives who haven't met before a chance to get to know each other."

## RAIN PAIN

"All of our marquees are 100% waterproof, and we have heaters available if you want to guarantee you'll be toasty and warm," says Mara. "The tent supplier may be able to create short tunnels if needed, while companies like Brolly Bucket rent out beautiful umbrellas and blankets for the walk between the structure and the toilets."

## ACCEPT ADVICE

"Most marquee businesses can source or have contacts for pretty much everything you'll need for the big day," points out Joanne Cox of Olympus Marquees. "If you need something specific, just ask – we're a helpful bunch!"

## BOOZE BIG

"Order plenty of fizz," Hannah recommends. "A marquee often means you have free use of the venue over the whole weekend, so you can continue the party with a barbecue or brunch on day two!" Count us in. ♥



Photo: photographybyvicki.co.uk

[Right] This boho bride looks like the cat that got the cream with **Helsby Tents** *(helsbytents.co.uk)*



Photo: jobradbury.co.uk

[Left] **Atlas Domes** provides a blank canvas that's ripe for accessorising *(atlasdomes.co.uk)*



Photo: dividia.co.uk

[Above] This lush set-up from **Olympus Marquees** is putting us in a tropical mood *(olympusmarquees.co.uk)*




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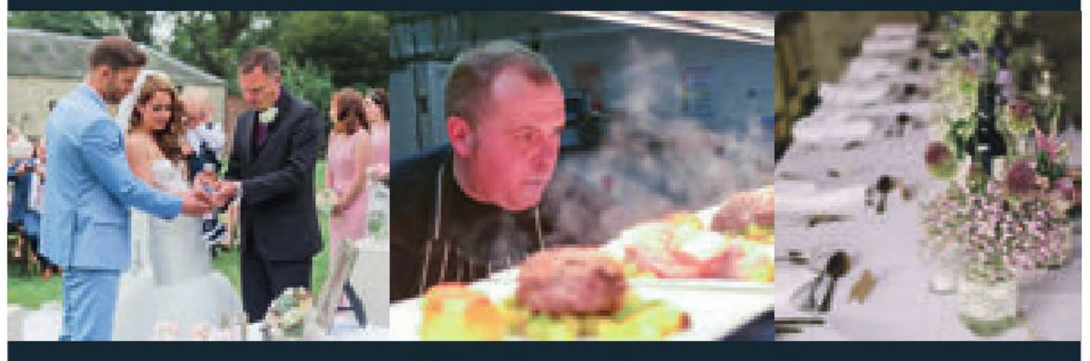

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# Food & drink



[Left] A pretty-as-a-picture pimp your prosecco trolley by **The Little Bar Group** *(thelittlebargroup.com)*

# Happy HOUR

It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it: *Zoë Boothby* feasts on cocktails and canapés as she discovers the secrets to getting your drinks reception off to a flying start

**I love canapés.** Honestly, I think every meal should be made up of half a dozen delicious little nibbles, all beautifully laid out for me to graze on and enjoy at my leisure. Loads of people hate the restaurant world's current mania for small plates (if you haven't heard a waiter say "I'd suggest ordering two to three dishes per person," you have clearly not been dining out lately), but I personally can't get enough of it. It's basically a glorified canapé experience, allowing you to gorge on a variety of tasty morsels without limiting yourself on flavour or overstretching your stomach's capacity. (My bank balance was unavailable for comment at this time.)

You won't be surprised to learn, then, that I think the cocktail hour is far more important than the wedding breakfast itself – the food's tastier, and your guests won't be too drunk to appreciate it. I'm not the only person who thinks this part of the day is generally under-rated. "Drinks receptions are really the first opportunity you get to mingle with loved ones, and the first chance they have to congratulate you," reasons Kelly Naylor, managing director at Bespoke Catering & Events. "The ceremony is often held at an awkward time of the day, when guests won't have had lunch, so this is a key moment to satisfy rumbling tummies."

## CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

If, like I would be, you're raring to get stuck into miniature versions of all your favourite dishes, hold your horses: it's easy to get ahead of yourself, so caterers have a tried-and-tested method for putting together your all-day menu. "We tend to work backwards," explains Kelly. "Working out your wedding breakfast first helps to ensure you won't be repeating anything. For example, if you're having a smoked-salmon starter, we wouldn't recommend a smoked-salmon blini as one of your nibbles. Getting the balance right across the whole event is really important."

When you've got your main meal sorted, it's time to get creative. "We have a set canapé menu which helps couples get a first look at what we can offer; these options can then be altered or we can add in things to suit any requirements," comments Elli Preece at Simon Preece Food Creations. "Some popular choices include mini Yorkshire puds with horseradish mash topped with braised beef, and bruschetta and deep-fried rocket. If you've got a theme for the day, we'd love to come up with exciting new canapés for it."

Looking to blow the budget on bites? Kelly can make it happen: "You could pair your canapés with miniature drinks – we've often served up mini tacos presented with a little Patron bottle filled with a margarita."

On that note, it's not just grub you need to consider: this is booze's moment in the spotlight, so give your selection of libations the attention it deserves. "The drinks reception can help set the tone for the rest of the evening," says Michael Mackenzie of Glasgow's Pure Bartending, which provides mobile bar hire, as well as trained staff. "We can tailor the cocktail menu entirely to the client's preferences, and can even create a signature tipple in honour of the happy



[Above] Take bespoke to a whole new level with an edible cocktail topper emblazoned with your names. Nice touch, **The Little Bar Group** *(thelittlebargroup.com)*



[Below] **Pure Bartending's** talented mixologists will keep your guests hydrated *(purebartending.co.uk)*



[Below] It's not just about the actual drink – **Pure Bartending** can ensure that your bevvy is garnished to perfection *(purebartending.co.uk)*

> "THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO LET US KNOW YOUR BUDGET. WE'LL WORK WITH YOU TO DESIGN A PACKAGE TO MEET YOUR NEEDS"

couple. Remember, guests have come to expect a high standard of cocktail, which our talented mixologists can guarantee with appropriate garnishes and glassware – no one wants a plastic cup anymore!"

What about teetotal or underage guests? Pure Bartending has plenty of mocktails ("They look and taste as good as the real thing, just minus the hangover!"), while Maxine McCourt from The Little Bar Group, which rents out novelty bars, has a number of thirst-quenching recommendations, such as fresh juices with fabulous garnishes and non-alcoholic beer and fizz.

In the way of inspiring entertainment ideas, the experts have seen it all: Kelly tells me about an ice sculpture that Bespoke recently arranged to take centre stage in a sushi station, while Maxine recounts a hilarious event where the couple had arranged archery for their guests. Michael also points out that the flair bartenders he can provide are, quite rightly, a form of entertainment in themselves. We'll take ours shaken, served up with a Harlem Shake, thanks very much.

## RAISE A GLASS

Now, it's time to talk dosh: how much moolah should you be putting aside for cocktail hour? Well, Elli reckons that the drinks reception should account for around an eighth of your overall catering costs. Dividing it another way, Maxine estimates that a third of your drinks budget should go towards this portion of the day. And, as Michael points out, this is the stage of the day where a lot of couples opt to provide their guests with a couple of complimentary drinks before switching to a cash bar later in the evening, so it's imperative you really think about what you're offering. If you have concerns, he stresses, don't be scared to speak to your suppliers: "The most important thing is to let us know your budget and your desired outcome. We will work with you to design a package that meets your requirements."

If you do need to save some cash, Elli suggests limiting your spread: "We would advise serving only four different canapés if money is an issue – it costs less but still gives guests plenty of options. Tartlets and pastry cups are slightly cheaper to make but still appeal to the eyes and tastebuds. Why not have a goat's cheese mousse pastry cup topped with beetroot purée, or a ham hock version with minted peas?"

On the liquid side of things, experienced suppliers have all sorts of hacks to trim costs. "Our 'Personalise Your Drink' stations are a great space for your guests to mingle and create impressive tipples together and can be a really effective addition to the venue's drinks reception package," Maxine considers.

And there you have it – the recipe for a delightful drinks reception. The only problem is that, should you disappear off for photos, you won't be able to enjoy all your hard work for yourself. It's tempting to do a post-wedding shoot instead... ♥

# PARTY TRICKS

KEEN TO JAZZ UP YOUR DRINKS RECEPTION? HERE ARE SOME LEFT-FIELD IDEAS THAT ARE BOTH FUN *AND* A TASTE SENSATION



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## GOING UP




Photo: instagram.com/hilaryduff

**Getting married in your garden** Could Hilary Duff *be* any cuter? The actor wed Matthew Koma in LA in a sweet, front-yard ceremony, wearing none other than Jenny Packham.



The trailing sleeves, the accentuated shoulder... this is what dreams are made of.

**Dancing queen** *Strictly* pro and *The Greatest Dancer* judge Oti Mabuse is as known for her glamorous style as her glittering routines, and we're smitten with this latest on-screen look, created by bridal designer Eliza Jane Howell. It's a ten from us!

**Crisp walls** Doughnuts? Florals? Pah! So last year. Make like Dunfermline newlyweds Charlotte and Gavin Bell, who constructed this masterpiece (right), stacked from top to bottom with bags of the good stuff. Who's for Skips?

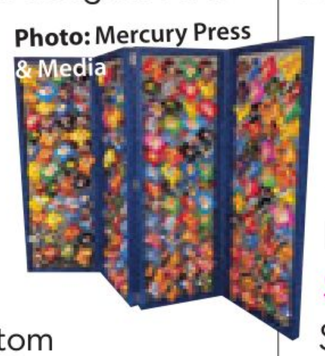


Photo: Mercury Press & Media

**Explosive weddings** Rain is small fry: imagine contending with an erupting *volcano* on your big day? Chino Vaflor and Kat Bautista Palomar married underneath the billowing smoke of Taal, one of the Phillippines' most active.

**Used lingerie**

It's not often we're utterly horrified by a real wedding story (it's a bizarre industry – you get used to it), but one bride's tale of her mother-in-law gifting her the exact underwear she wore on *her* big night, in the hopes of boosting her fertility, is just too weird for words. We'd rather have Gilda & Pearl (above), thanks.



**Screen time** Some things should be sacred, right? Like proposals. If you really want the moment documented, hire a pro, we beg of you, rather than buying this crazy contraption from Rokshok, which hides the ring and films while you pop the Q.

**'Maids gone mental** Bridesmaid Helen Dove has been sentenced at Liverpool Crown Court after convincing her former pal and bride Kimberley Baker that she had been hired by Warrington Borough Council, costing her £50,000 in missed wages at her actual job. The scam began in 2017, when Helen started posing as 15 fake employees, and resulted in Kimberley cancelling her wedding.

**Substandard entertainment** So Adele apparently performed at her best friend Laura Dockrill's wedding to The Maccabees' musician Hugo White, and the envy is real. You taking bookings, love?

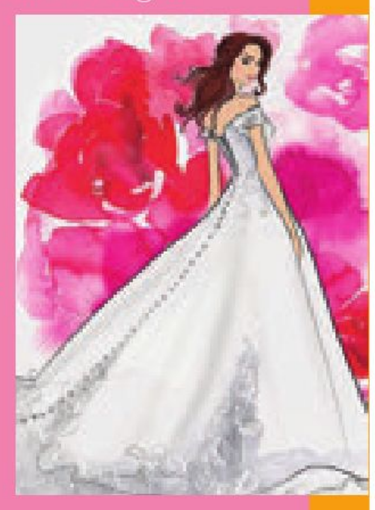


Photo: Shutterstock

## GOING DOWN

### GOING UP

**DISNEY WEDDING GOWNS**



After fashion giant Alfred Angelo went bust in 2017, we had to bid goodbye to its Disney bridal line, the only official collab going. Since then, we've had high-end designer Paolo Sebastian produce a range inspired by the fairytales, but as he's not available in Scotland, our dreams were dashed once again – until, that is, Allure Bridals announced they'd be picking up where Alfred Angelo left off. This spring, you can finally get in touch with your inner Ariel, Belle or Tiana, with exquisite dresses currently in the making.

### GOING DOWN

**LETTING THEM EAT CAKE?**

Digital editor Sarah has long been a fan of unusual-flavoured tipples, and has confirmed that she would, in fact, try this eccentric concoction from indie tea company Bird & Blend (and that she might even pour milk into the brew – interesting...). A blend of coconut and rose caffeine-free rooibos, complete with toasted rice and edible, heart-shaped confetti, a cup of Wedding Cake is certainly more inspiring than your typical Tetley's, and a lot kinder to the waistline than the real thing, but is it a match for layers of buttercream icing? You decide.




## What we've been up to

Highlights from our behind-the-scenes Instagram feed
















**1** New obsession alert: LA-based Casa de Perrin's decadent feed features bird's-eye views of expertly composed tablescapes **2** We had a very special guest on our bridal shoot and we're still not over it. Meet Missy. She was a good girl all day, and posed perfectly in her pretty embellished collar **3** Editor Beth enjoyed an indulgent and seriously Instagrammable breakfast at The Ivy in Glasgow courtesy of Jo Malone London, which was launching its latest lavender fragrance collection **4** Perks of the job, eh Rosie? Our features writer was made up meeting Bonnie the barn owl, Dalhousie Castle's resident ring bearer **5** Beth took a trip through to Edinburgh to talk sustainability with The Wedding Shop. How gorgeous is its Dundas Street shop front?

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