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There's a lot to be said for taking a bit of time out to reflect and rebalance.

It's been a busy few months here at *Your Scottish Wedding*, mirroring the wider wedding world in general. As 2022 continues to play catch-up with all the postponed pandemic weddings along with those lucky didn't-have-to-move-the-date couples, the sense of joy is palpable. We're well and truly back to business with weddings to attend, hen dos to plan and places to go!

But if it's all feeling a bit much, I reckon you're not alone. While many are grasping every opportunity to socialise, the thought of planning a wedding on top of returning to "normal life" can be a bit daunting. With that in mind, I've been trialling different ways to reset and get you feeling great both physically and mentally ahead of your big day (p95).

Reflection has also been at the heart of some of our other features this issue. In *Second time around - sorted!* (p32) writer Claire Muir spoke to one bride on the challenges

of planning your second trip down the aisle in your 30s. She discovers just how it feels to prepare a fresh celebration of love and avoid falling into "I told you so's" with a partner who hasn't done it before. And in *When wedding industry insiders say 'I do'* (p20), married suppliers share the best bits of advice they received ahead of their own big day, along with the one thing they wished they had done differently so you can hopefully avoid the same pitfalls. My advice - if deep down you want a bit of bling, embrace it!

But while hindsight is great, we're also looking forward this issue... Forward to the amazing new dresses hitting the bridal boutiques this autumn (p48), the trends we can't get enough of - like have you considered how to scent your wedding (p102) - and all the cool décor ideas you need to see.

So, once you're feeling suitably zen and ready to take on some fun wedding planning, sit back and enjoy your latest copy of YSW. Happy reading and see you next time,

Katie

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CONTENTS



38

16 IN THE KNOW

All the latest news of must-visit wedding shows, special appointments and revamps to help plan your big day

17 THE 'I DO' DIARY

YSW bride-to-be Jennifer dishes all on her magical Disneyland Paris proposal while newly-wed Sophie shares her final stages of planning in the run-up to her August wedding

20 TAKE IT FROM US

Married wedding industry insiders talk us through the best snippets of pre-marital advice they ever received... and the things they wished they'd done differently

22 HEAVENLY CREATURES

Step inside the beautiful greenhouse and gardens at Dunskey Estate for an ethereal styled photoshoot

28 TENDER LOVING WEDDING STYLE

As she hits the year countdown to her own wedding, style blogger Rachel Lawler of *Tender Loving Style* talks us through her wedding trend do's and don'ts

32 SECOND TIME'S A CHARM

Is planning your second wedding in your 30s very different to your first trip down the aisle? Writer Claire Muir speaks to one bride on what it's like to do it all second time around

Fashion

38 LA DOLCE VITA

Effortless Italian glamour is the name of the game in this shoot for Taller Marmo's first bridal collection - Sposa 01

46 THE BIG INTERVIEW

She's the designer behind Mirka Bridal Couture and With Love, Mirka - Mirka Jankowska sits down for a chat about her inspiration, green credentials and favourite styles this season

48 FRESH IN STORE

This autumn, brides can expect rails and rails of new loveliness in the shops, so designers and Scottish bridal boutiques let us in on the secret of their new favourites

52 ASK THE EXPERT

Planning a wedding that sticks to all your vegan principles? *Your Scottish Wedding* columnist Rachel Scott Couture guides us through all the exciting new dress options

Groom's Room

58 DRESSED TO IMPRESS

You've got your outfit but what about all the finishing touches to elevate the look? Check out our edit of seriously stylish accessories



64 HIGHLANDWEAR SOS

What side do I wear the sgian dubh on? Do I need flashes? And just how many buttons are you meant to do up? Relax, we've got you covered with our handy guide

Mums

72 FAMILY MATTERS

Whether you're a stickler for tradition or would rather die than have your dad walk you down the aisle, we've got all the advice to help you negotiate the role of your parents in your big day

Be Inspired

83 THE NAME GAME

Entering into marriage can make for a moniker minefield. So just how will you be known once you say 'I do'?



106

Laura A. Tilman Photography



102

86 DEVINE BRIDE ON...

Our resident wedding planning expert Laura Devine turns her attention to wedding food and just how to keep your guests well-fed and happy

95 GAME ON!

If wedding planning is taking its toll, read on for expert advice and support on how to get you feeling physically and mentally ready for the big day

102 SCENTS OF OCCASION

FYI, scenting your wedding is one of the hottest trends right now. Turn here for everything you need to know on creating the right ambience and finding the perfect perfume

106 BEST LAID PLANS

We took one amazing converted factory and got the experts to style it three ways for totally different décor looks. Check out the stunning results

126 GET READY FOR YOUR CLOSE-UP

We explore all things engagement shoots and why you should definitely consider one



Your Wedding Day

130 PLANNED TO PERFECTION

134 LIFE'S A BEACH

138 AT LAST

142 TO HAVE AND TO HOLD

146 RUSTIC LUXE

150 A BICYCLE MADE FOR TWO

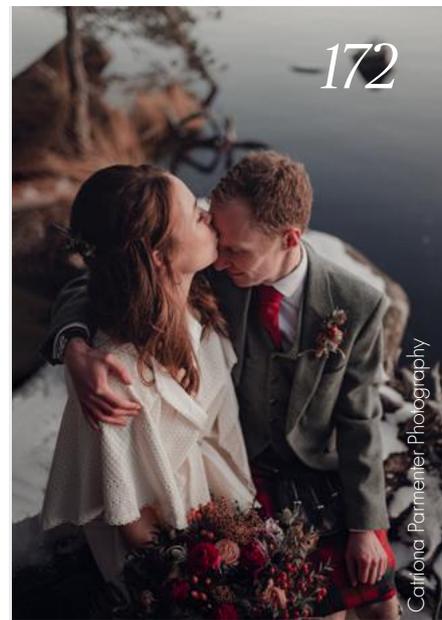
Your Scottish Venues

156 SCOTTISH VENUES NEWS

Your round-up of need-to-know stories and dates for your diary from around the country

160 JUST FOR YOU

For a wedding venue you can truly put your stamp on, it's got to be exclusive use. Check out just some of our Scottish faves



163 PROPOSE A TOAST

Brian Baxter the Highland Wedding MC tells us why hiring a toastmaster might be one of the best wedding decisions you make

166 ISLAND DREAMING

Head of editorial Katie Bletcher heads to Skye to discover not one, but two, perfect wedding locations with The Sonas Hotel Collection

172 WINTER WONDERLAND

This couple stole away to the Dell of Abernethy for a beautiful al fresco winter wedding

178 ALL ABOARD!

Edinburgh's luxury floating hotel Fingal was the romantic location for Pippa and Paul's glorious family-orientated celebration

194 YOU ARE MY MOON AND STARS

A Valentine's weekend wedding at a country mansion with a reception in a stylish tipi? We're down for it



198 YSW ON TOUR | BALLINTAGGART

Writer Claire puts this foodie venue to the taste test and finds out it's everything a couple with fine fare on their mind could wish for

208 KEEP THE FAITH

Whatever type of ceremony you plan on having, religious and formerly religious buildings boast some of the best architecture going. Check out these six beauties

212 HOMETOWN GLORY

Kathleen and Liam may live in Switzerland but only a big Glasgow wedding would do when it was time to get hitched

228 SHINY, HAPPY PEOPLE

They said they were going to have a small registry office wedding in Kent but things took on a wild elopement feel when Brittany and Jack came across Monachyle Mhor



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A romantic close-up of a bride and groom about to kiss. The groom is on the left, wearing a dark suit and white shirt, leaning towards the bride on the right. The bride is smiling, wearing a white wedding dress with lace detailing, a necklace, and earrings. The background is softly blurred.

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For all the latest news from the Scottish wedding industry, we've got you covered

Across the pond

Did you know, you don't have to be in Scotland to find your perfect kilt outfit? After the success of a previous visit to New York City, the team at **MacGregor and MacDuff** are jetting off again, bringing their expert kilt fitting service to the Big Apple and Toronto. It's actually a bit of a homecoming as one of the company's founders, Mr Scollin, was an American who, together with Mr MacGregor, wanted to create a top class kilt shop.

North American customers keen to be kitted out in Highlandwear can book an appointment where the expert stylist

will get to know their requirements, suggest options and discuss tartans before taking their measurements. Following the fitting the stylists will send all the details back to the Glasgow team who will create their perfect outfit before sending it direct to their door. Sounds like the perfect way for expats or people with Scottish heritage to celebrate their roots! If you or a loved one would like to secure a Toronto or NYC appointment email

info@macgregorandmacduff.co.uk



Celebrate the celebrant

Congratulations to **Louize Hollywood, Citation's** wedding manager. Louize has been planning weddings for over 15 years and loves her job but she's now added another string to her bow, becoming a celebrant with Independent Humanist Ceremonies. "I'm always looking to further progress my skills and experience and a natural move for me was to do something else within the wedding industry, and humanist celebrant was really the perfect fit," she says. Louize explains the celebrants of Independent Humanist Ceremonies pride themselves in providing a unique wedding experience with greater flexibility but always ensuring each ceremony is

exactly the way their couples want it.

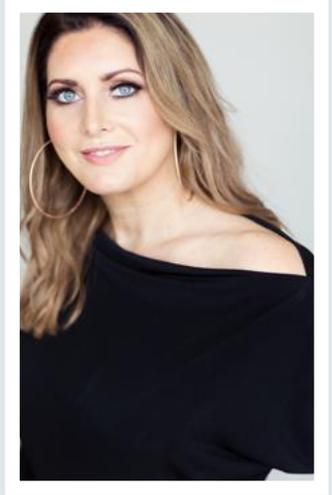
And if Louize is planning your wedding at Citation you'll be relieved to know she's not going anywhere.

"Both are completely separate roles but complement each other as I now have experience and knowledge in every part of the wedding," she says. "So, when I'm not planning my beautiful Citation weddings I will be off at a venue somewhere conducting a wedding ceremony."



Sheer luxury

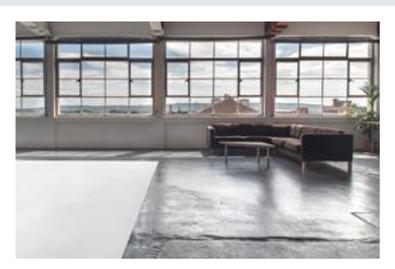
Get your diary out for one of the hottest tickets this autumn as the **Luxury Scottish Wedding Show** heads to Hopetoun House on Sunday 23rd October. The event, which runs from 12 noon to 4pm, is set in one of the country's finest stately homes for the afternoon, helping couples create the wedding of their dreams. This is your opportunity to see what a wedding at Hopetoun could be like, organised by the wedding manager and Heritage Portfolio, the exclusive catering partner. You'll get to meet handpicked luxury wedding professionals, and there will also be a platinum partner area, presentations by the Humanist Society Scotland, you'll receive a glass of fizz upon arrival and you can enjoy live entertainment throughout the show. Sounds like the perfect afternoon for a spot of wedding planning. To get your hands on a ticket head to the Luxury Scottish Wedding website.



Star treatment

AMM-azing news - from September **AMM Hair & Makeup Team** will have a fantastic new Glasgow studio where they can host trials and consultations with their clients, as well as training days for the 20-strong team.

To ensure you get the total star treatment ahead of your big day, the team is collaborating with some of Scotland's top wedding photographers who can shoot your final bridal look. You'll also have the chance to try on high-end accessories and AMM merchandise, and meet director Anne Marie McElroy and her styling team. Anne Marie says, "The new space allows us to collaborate and give the best possible bridal experience before your wedding day. We will schedule your trial and consultation and can arrange a photographer to capture the look, and offer some hand-picked local suppliers' accessories."



The light-filled studio on Glasgow's Crownpoint Road has easy access to public transport and on-street parking. You can book an appointment by emailing janice@ammteam.co.uk

'I do' diary

Bride **Jennifer** shares her proposal story and wedding dreams while newlywed **Sophie** tells all about the final stages of planning

Jennifer & David



Jennifer and David start their 'I do' diary with a fairytale proposal at the happiest place on earth!

Jennifer and David first got together last April when they were introduced by his sister,

but they'd actually bumped into each other before in a pet shop and bonded over their love of sausage dogs.

Fast forward to February and they were off to Disneyland Paris. Jennifer was actually hoping David would propose there as she is "Disney mad", but she didn't know for sure. Then on their third day he surprised her. "The proposal was amazing, the dream for me," she says. "We were in front of the castle and I was trying to get a selfie - known to be my obsession - and then I turned around to see David on his knee, with a ring, asking me to marry him," she smiles. People started cheering and Jennifer admits it was all a bit of a blur. "David says the first words out of my mouth were 'that's hilarious!'" she says. "It was a very special moment."

This couple are actually planning a short engagement with the date set for 10th December at the Busby Hotel. Some to-be-weds may find the short timeframe daunting but luckily Jennifer used to work in the wedding industry and is pretty organised. "We wanted to get married this year and loved the idea of it being near Christmas so that we could have all the pretty decorations," she smiles. "I love Christmastime. Within about two weeks we had the whole day sorted."

Jennifer and David are planning a big wedding with 110 day guests and another 40-50 at night. "We had no idea we knew so many people!" says Jennifer. They're now on to the fun details like choosing colour schemes and no doubt the next three months will fly in!



Sophie & Chris



Sophie and Chris got hitched last month at Venachar Lochside! We caught up with them in the weeks running up to the big day.

This English couple fell for Venachar Lochside the first time they visited, though Sophie admitted planning from afar was quite difficult. "Not having any local recommendations or suppliers I knew was quite tricky," she said. "Although we are very happy with the suppliers we have chosen."

Among them is their awesome florist Sunflower and the Bear. "They have decorated our venue so many times and know it very well so we are very happy they are able to provide our flowers and do some decorating," said Sophie. However, she stressed they wouldn't go over the top; "We didn't want to take away from the natural beauty of it."

Sticking to the overall feel of their venue they swayed towards rustic elements with shades of green. "Our venue has beautiful wooden tables that we didn't want to cover," said Sophie. "We will be using lots of eucalyptus too!"

The couple came up for a visit a few months before their August date and got to try their amazing wedding menu. They were really impressed and as they're vegetarian they made sure there would be two veggie options - either beetroot wellington or tian of cous cous. Another big selling point of the venue was its super-cute pony truck to serve drinks from! And they also booked in a dessert table with cake pops, cakesicles and marshmallows for toasting. They hired a caricaturist and giant garden games to keep everyone entertained, and put a lot of thought into their music. "We have painstakingly chosen every single song with a mixture of songs we really like and music that will hopefully have everyone up on the dance floor and having a great time," said Sophie.

We can't wait to see the pics! Look out for their wedding feature in the January issue.



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When industry insiders said 'I do'

Reflecting on their own weddings, team YSW and friends share their best pre-marital advice - *and explain what they'd do differently if they could turn back time!*

Director of Luxury Scottish Wedding, **Tom Goodfellow** married **Drew** during summer 2008. They said 'I do' at the ever-charming Kinkell Byre in St Andrews, near the Fairmont where they first met as part of the team working on the opening of the hotel.

BEST ADVICE I GOT:

"To do it **our way** - to go with what felt right and what felt natural. So, after looking at two city centre venues, we decided to go back to our roots. We're both farmers' sons and I enjoyed the annual barn dance on our farm so that's what we did - but on someone else's farm. This was long before barn weddings were trendy and cool, by the way!"



WHAT I'D CHANGE:

"We spent too much time over-thinking what our guests would like."



Tim and Susie Maguire, humanist celebrants at Celebrate People, said their vows at Monachyle Mhor in December 2014. Here, Susie steps back in time to reflect...

BEST ADVICE I GOT:

"To **relax, enjoy every moment and not worry** about the small things. Before I trained as a humanist celebrant I ran an event management company, so I've spent my life looking after every minute detail before events. On my wedding day I deliberately chose not to do that. Instead, I enlisted the support of friends and family, trusting them to make it the perfect day, and it truly was."

WHAT I'D CHANGE:

"I honestly wouldn't change a thing. I felt so happy and relaxed, and enjoyed every minute."



Pearl & Plum Photography



Geebz Photography

Wedding planner, consultant, coach, and celebrant **Oskar Gilchrist-Grodniki** married *Edinburgh Wedding Directory's* **George** in Edinburgh on a crisp and bright day in January 2018.

THE BEST ADVICE I GOT:

“Setting up a **wedding email address** for all wedmin. Planning can get busy, and this kept us in control of all the communication. Also, we’re quick to make plans separately so having everything in one channel allowed us both to be on top of it all.”



Geebz Photography

WHAT I'D CHANGE:

“*Videography. We genuinely thought we didn't need it but, on reflection, should have invested in capturing our day on video. Still images are amazing, but it'd be great to hear the cheering at our ceremony again or the speech from the family member who's no longer around.*”

Katie Bletcher, head of editorial at *Your Scottish Wedding*, and husband **Graeme** tied the knot in August 2013 at her family church in Northern Ireland before celebrating in a converted mill.



Emma Jane Photography

BEST ADVICE I GOT:

“My older cousin reminded me there was no need for nerves. He told me **‘Everyone’s on your side,** willing you to have the best day ever!’ And he was right!”

WHAT I'D CHANGE:

“I wanted a very rustic theme with lots of hessian, slate and mismatched jugs filled with loose flowers. I took that pared back look through to my bridal hairstyle and kept accessories really dainty when a sparkly hair vine or comb could have given it some added oomph. I wish I'd gone for some bling!”



Emma Jane Photography



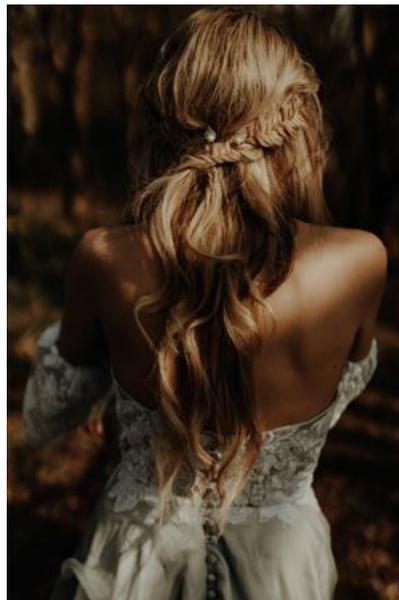
Heavenly creatures

Angels and fairy queens reign supreme in this stunning styled shoot at Dunskey Estate. Fairytale loving to-be-weds, here's all the inspiration you need for some seriously romantic styling. Horse optional.

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Lena Sabala** Photographer







VENUE

Dunskey Estate

MAKE-UP

Makeup By Leigh Blaney

HAIR

Chloe Scarlett Hair

HAIR ACCESSORIES

The Lucky Sixpence

HORSE

Adventures Of Huckleberry Pie

MODELS

Claudia Mckenzie

Gillian Cheung

CLAUDIA OUTFIT

ASOS

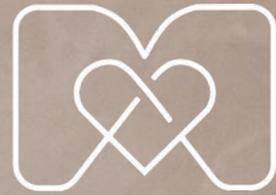
GILLIAN DRESS

Flossy And Dossy



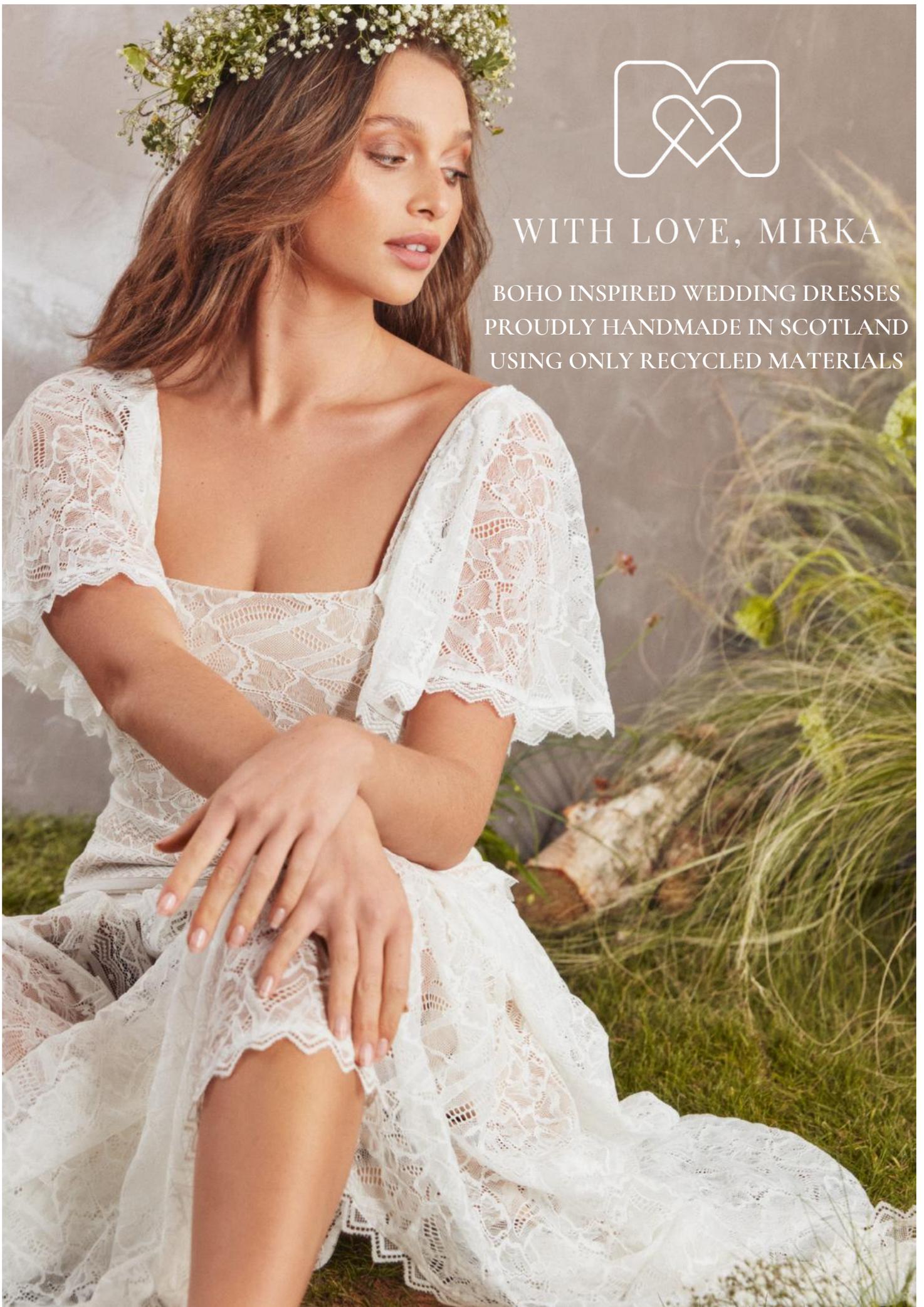
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Tender Loving Wedding Style

My wedding trend do's ✓ and don'ts ✗

With only a year to go until her wedding, top Scottish style blogger Rachel Lawler of *Tender Loving Style* shares her wedding trends rundown

"I can't quite believe I'm now on the one-year countdown to saying 'I do'. Since getting engaged in 2018 (and a pandemic-postponed wedding later), it's crazy to now look at my initial Pinterest boards of my décor inspo.

Trends have changed, as has my entire wedding vibe and even the way I find inspiration. Pinterest will always have a place, of course, but TikTok is now my digital go-to in wedding décor ideas. After hours of scrolling, reading YSW and talking to other brides, I've whittled down the things I will - and won't - be doing for our wedding.



Don't... favours

It's not that I have anything against little bags of tablet or the like, but I've just been at too many weddings when the favours the couple have put money into have been left behind. We decided early on we wanted to spend on something else and it was actually on TikTok that I found @whathannahdoes, a Scottish live event artist who draws all of your guests, which are then printed out so everyone gets their own personalised drawing to take home - such a cute keepsake that people will actually hold on to.



Do... a wedding scent

I love when you spray a certain perfume or light a certain candle and the scent just takes you back to a particular memory. I think the idea of 'scenting' your big day is simple but so effective. I plan on finding scented candles I love to have lit throughout the room (I would totally love to create my own, but also don't want to stress myself out!). I also want to find the perfect wedding day fragrance to wear on the day and on honeymoon: the search is on!



Jorum Studio





Do... an unplugged ceremony

Whilst this isn't a new trend by any means, I am passionate about no phones in the ceremony. No one wants their wedding photos ruined by your (well-meaning) auntie, who has whipped out her full iPad to capture a very blurry shot of you walking down the aisle. We'll be politely reminding guests at the start that we'd love them to be fully present during the ceremony, and - for the photos they do take post-ceremony - we will be asking them not to post any until we have posted ourselves.

"No one wants their wedding photos ruined by your auntie whipping out her full iPad to capture a very blurry shot."



Don't... mix tables

So, I totally understand why some people decide to mix up the seating plan to help guests get to know each other, but making small talk with a table of strangers has never been my vibe. Maybe I'm just a creature of habit, but nothing makes me happier when I go to check where I'm sitting at a wedding and find I'm seated with my friends or family. After 2+ years of pandemic, I'm seeing all social settings as the ultimate catch-up with loved ones and will be seating my guests beside the people they actually know.



Do... a rehearsal dinner

When I say the term 'rehearsal dinner', all I can think of is Phoebe and Mike from *Friends*, but I guess this is also the best way to describe what we're planning the night before! Our venue has a private dining room so we thought it would be the perfect way to start the wedding celebrations by having a dinner with our parents, siblings, bridesmaids and groomsmen. I'm totally set on going a little OTT with plenty of personal touches and - of course - a fabulous all white outfit!"



"Nothing makes me happier when I go to check where I'm sitting at a wedding and find I'm seated with my friends or family."

Love Beth – Design Co table plan | Laura A Tilman Photography

Find out all about scenting your wedding on page 102



8-9
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TICK OFF YOUR TO-DO LIST AT THE SCOTTISH WEDDING SHOW!

Mood boards at the ready – **The Scottish Wedding Show** is coming back to the SEC Glasgow, 8-9 October 2022.

With over 200 of the country's hottest suppliers on-hand to show you how they can make your big day unforgettable, and plenty of features to get your creative juices flowing, it's the perfect way to supercharge your wedding planning.

So assemble your bridesmaids, gather the groomsmen and get ready for a day full of wedding inspiration!

LIVE CATWALK SHOWS



Get ready for the ultimate dress inspiration! Take your seat in our fabulous catwalk and see the largest bridal collection in Scotland in a professionally produced catwalk showcasing outfits for brides and grooms-to-be, their mothers, bridesmaids, flower girls and page boys - it's a show not to be missed. Performances take place at 11am, 1pm and 3pm each day, and will feature ranges from Angelique Lamont, Reeta Fashions, Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo, Catwalk, Kilts 4 U, MacGregor & MacDuff, Carriage & Castles and many more*.

* Participants subject to change



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Treat yourself to VIP tickets and enjoy a little touch of luxury. Our VIP visitors get fast track entry, a glass of bubbly, access to the VIP Lounge, seats in the front two rows of the Catwalk Show, and more! But hurry – availability is very limited.

LET'S TALK TYING THE KNOT



The Let's Talk Tying the Knot stage will play host to a curated programme of drop-in talks and Q&As covering various aspects of your wedding day - and importantly your wedding planning. With industry experts and trendsetters guiding you through everything from personalising your ceremony and making your wedding stand out, to picking your photographer and videographer, pull up a pew and get set to make your wedding planning a breeze.

LIVE BAND SHOWCASE

How do you pick a wedding band without seeing them perform live on stage? Trick question – you don't need to, because at the Live Band Showcase, you can see some of Scotland's leading musicians performing live! Join us throughout the day and find the perfect band or choir singer for your special day.



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If you're opting for an outdoor wedding (or a venue with lots of outdoor space) then we've got a whole area dedicated to the quirky ideas that will really make your wedding stand out. From ice cream and mobile bars to alpacas – there's something for couples with even the biggest imaginations!



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Second time around - SORTED!

Being a second-time bride in your thirties can feel overwhelming for many reasons - but it's beyond worth it, says happy newlywed Rebecca. She walks Claire Muir through her positive and inspiring journey while our trusted experts provide top, mind-easing tips...

"It's an inexplicable thing, getting married again. It's like being completely overjoyed with happiness whilst unlocking part of your brain to remember things you'd rather forget... The spreadsheets, the planning 'politics' and the stress!" smiles Rebecca, who married the love of her life earlier this year. "It's natural to think; 'I can't do this again' and I initially wanted a small wedding but really, I knew it wouldn't have been right for us. We love hosting and having people around us. And our loved ones would have been heartbroken not to have been there - they badly wanted to see us get married! It's a special feeling when people want to share your joy, so we found a middle ground."

So, full steam ahead - but how can a bride who's 'been there, done that' avoid making her partner

feel inexperienced? "Planning any wedding is difficult and yes, it was hard not to say; 'I told you so' sometimes," admits the bride. "But I took a deep breath and remembered it wasn't fair to get annoyed. We still faced the same challenges all couples do - budgeting, numbers, décor - and we needed to experience these things together as part of the process."

Meanwhile, as fear of judgement crept in - "I had to make a conscious effort not to tell every supplier it was my second wedding" - Rebecca realised that past experiences may make you who you are, but they don't define you. "My partner's loved ones saw the stability and happiness we found in each other and were incredibly kind and accepting," she remembers.

Organising a hen party took a little more persuasion as - driven by guilt - she was determined to avoid a big, expensive

celebration. She needn't have worried, though, as the consensus from her girlfriends was (quite rightly) "whatever makes you happy". With that in mind, her bestie set about planning a "dinky away hen" followed by a home get-together with all of the girls attending the wedding. "Hen parties are, of course, about the bride. But they're also about people meeting

each other before the wedding. Bringing my friends together - old, new, and those I'd grown close to through my husband-to-be - was so much fun."

Dress shopping take two probably feels daunting and you may even question whether you're entitled to make an elaborate, gorgeous bridal statement - do you need to tone it down this time? Certainly not, says this bride, who used her experience to take back control. "I wore what I wanted, feeling like me without judgement of how I should look. I wanted to celebrate my style and present myself as the most 'me' my fiancé had ever seen!"

On reflection, Rebecca is full of wise words, particularly as she struggled to find much age-appropriate support while planning her second wedding. "It's natural to be apprehensive,"

says Rebecca. "But when somebody asks you to marry them, they're fully accepting everything about you. And that's what matters - not the opinions of others. If you're struggling, be honest with

those you're close to and let them help. A problem shared is a problem halved, and I promise they'll help you see reason. Overall though, second time wedders - you're going to feel a huge amount of support and an outpouring of love! So, enjoy it, cherish your cheerleaders and share your joy. In celebrating your love, you might just be giving somebody else a bit of hope."

"My partner's loved ones saw the stability and happiness we found in each other and were incredibly kind and accepting."

Rebecca

"We've married thousands of couples over the years and about half include a partner who has done it before. And guess what? There are no rules!"

Gerrie Douglas-Scott,
Celebrate People

"In celebrating your love, you might just be giving somebody else a bit of hope."

Rebecca

Take it from the EXPERTS

“You’ve done this before and your experience will only put you in a better place to get started. Set aside time to discuss your dreams and expectations with your other half. If you feel strongly about an element of the wedding from your experience, explain why and ask them what they think. Finally, set up ‘wedmin’ days to ensure both of you play the same part in planning.”

Oskar Gilchrist-Grodnicki, The Wedding Guru - Oskar

“It’s super-important to celebrate finding love again. Think; ‘How amazing I’m getting to do this all over again with the right person!’

We love second time brides as they know exactly what’s important and who they want to share their day with. Skin and hair prep is just the same as first time round -

pampering on the run-up and activating your senses on the day using beautiful candles, perfume and music.”

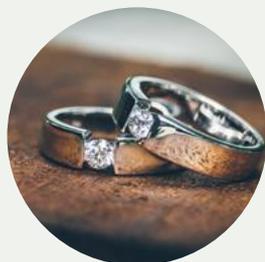
AMM Hair & Makeup Team



Gerrie and her wife Susan

“Your last marriage was not a failure - it showed you who and what you really want in your life and loves. We’ve married thousands of couples over the years and about half include a partner who has done it before. And guess what? There are no rules! It can be useful to look at differences between relationships. Why does this one make you want to remarry and how can you reflect that in your ceremony? You could consider using humour... If you were both married before, is this a hat trick? Was your first a ‘dry run’? Or should the past stay firmly in the past? Find a celebrant who’ll listen to what you do and don’t want to say.”

Gerrie Douglas-Scott, celebrant at Celebrate People (and second-time bride)



“At the end of the day, your best man or maid of honour is there to lend support, help out and make sure the day goes as you hope. I certainly wasn’t concerned with judgement and I’m sure most others would feel the same. I was just happy my friend had found happiness.

A second hen/stag party is a chance to celebrate and have those who mean most to you meet before the wedding, so embrace the opportunity!”

Peter Yule, second time best man

“In our eyes, there’s no shame tied to being married more than once. Every person’s life journey is different and we should celebrate that! Regardless of how many times you may have walked down the aisle, every bride deserves to make a statement with her bridal style - never compromise and always be true to yourself. And don’t be fearful of your bridal appointment. We’re here to help you feel confident, relaxed and fabulous.”

Hollie Connelly, June Brides

“Our audience is probably slightly older than the average - but I have no idea how many of those brides are having their first or second wedding. To me, it makes no difference. At 30, you have much more of a sense of who you are, your personality and individual style. If you have finished one relationship, this is your fresh start. And your dress choice should symbolise that.”

Mette Baillie, Freja Designer Dressmaking

“It’s entirely normal for anyone on their second marriage to have feelings of vulnerability. There is risk but from this there is also great reward. Putting any fears or judgemental voices in their place is important. You both have the right to seek happiness and to love again. To dress up as much or as modestly as makes you feel your best. To have a lavish party or to slip away quietly with only your witnesses. Talk to each other about how you would like to do this and not to have external voices having an undue influence.”

Dr Linda Gibson, clinical psychologist

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Fashion







THIS PAGE Taller Marmo Los Corales Kalton (£1,360). OPPOSITE PAGE Top Left, Taller Marmo Gina Spirito Dress (£1,150), Top Right, Taller Marmo Mila Dress, (£2,050).



La dolce vita

Inject some Italian style into your wedding look with Taller Marmo's first bridal collection - Sposa 01. Sleek and relaxed silhouettes are enhanced with romantic trains and classic corsetry, while gold and silver thread, feathers and fringing bring the drama.



THIS PAGE Top Left, Taller Marmo Hayworth Dress (£1,225), Top Right, Taller Marmo Ubud Spirito Dress (£1,700), Bottom Left, Taller Marmo Mia Blouse (£340) and Gardner Skirt (£725).
 OPPOSITE PAGE Taller Marmo Mrs. Ross Forever Kaftan (£1,020).





THIS PAGE Taller Marmo Ubud Dress (£680). OPPOSITE PAGE Top Left, Taller Marmo Yoko Dress (£2,170), Top Right, Taller Marmo Diba Dress (£2,125), Bottom Left, Taller Marmo La Siesta Dress (£850).



MODEL
Emanuelle Lacou

PHOTOGRAPHY
Francesco Scotti

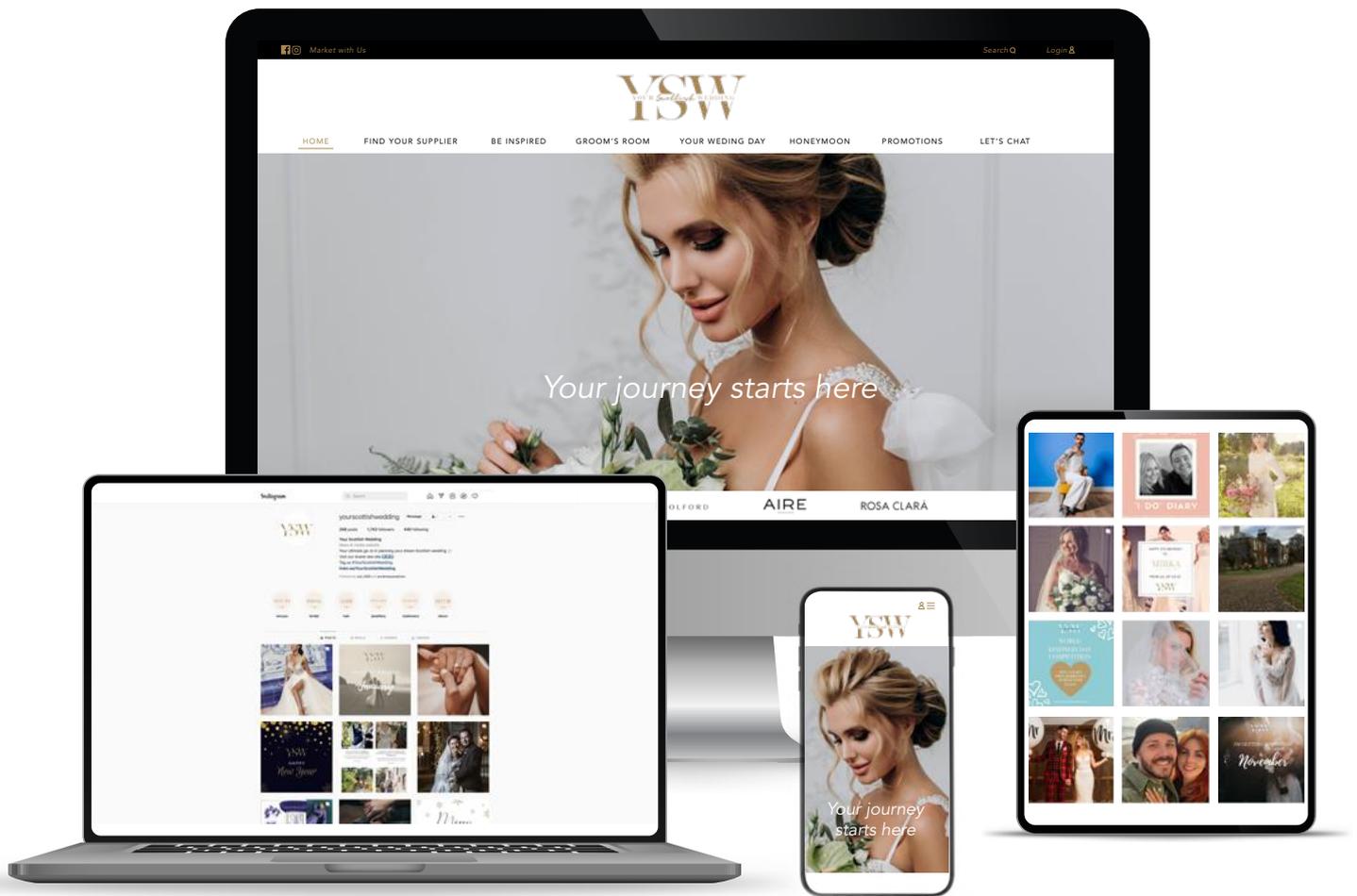
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The **BIG** INTERVIEW with

Mirka Bridal Couture's **Mirka Jankowska**

She says she was born holding a needle and thread, and she took on her first dressmaking commission at just 16. Now, with a second line - With Love, Mirka - on the go, the designer takes time out of her busy schedule for a chat with *Your Scottish Wedding*.

Your Scottish Wedding: *How did you first start working in bridalwear? Did you always know you wanted to design for brides or is it something that evolved over time?*

Mirka Jankowska: My journey with dressmaking started when I was a child! I remember always making dresses for my dolls out of scraps of fabrics and old clothes.

Before I even started sewing school I had my first clients. At the age of 16 I made a first evening dress for a client and then at the age of 26 the first wedding dress - I still remember that one! I think that's when I knew that making wedding dresses and making brides feel incredible was what I wanted to do.

YSW: *Did you work for any other designers before starting Mirka Bridal Couture? When did your own brand begin and was there a particular moment that made you want to go into bridalwear on your own?*

MJ: I started as a bespoke occasionwear designer, then a bridal designer. Coming from a small village I didn't have the opportunity to work for another designer, but my passion and hard work made up for that. I spent years honing in on my craft making bespoke dresses, before I dove into designing my own collections.

YSW: What was the inspiration behind the latest Mirka Bridal Couture range?

MJ: I wanted to offer something different to the designers we stock at the shop who focus on structured, often boned dresses to get those beautiful shapes brides look for.

The latest Mirka Bridal Couture range was a step away from structured gowns and a step into more bohemian and natural style. My focus was on making the silhouettes of the dresses very feminine and a little bit sexy with the expertly placed cuts and lace placements. Some of them focus on giving you length and some on accentuating curves.

YSW: Have you had a particular favourite dress from Mirka Bridal Couture over the years?



MJ: Rosa - she is a breathtaking lace dream! It's the perfect example of how an unstructured dress can be so flattering. The rose burnout fabric in the skirt and the dress have been a total hit with our brides.

YSW: You recently launched the With Love, Mirka collection which puts sustainability at the heart. Why did you feel it was necessary to create this separate line and what was the inspiration behind it?

MJ: With Love, Mirka is my new brand. It's a love letter to our brides and the planet. The idea came to me during the pandemic, when everything stopped for a while, nature had a second to

revive itself. I didn't want to come back after the pandemic with another collection without thinking about the planet. All of our dresses are made using recycled fabrics and we believe we are the first bridal brand to do that.

It's also a completely different business model - our brides can purchase dresses in store and online (even overseas). The whole collection is made using beautiful stretch lace that adjusts to in-between sizes, doesn't crease, and can be packed and taken for a wedding anywhere!

YSW: Are you finding there's a particular type of bride who opts for the With Love, Mirka collection?

MJ: A lot of our brides have been looking for the boho style, that's a little bit more undone and those dresses really attract them in!

YSW: Where do you source the sustainable fabrics for With Love, Mirka?

MJ: This was actually really hard - we have spent countless months liaising with fabric manufacturers to create the perfect fabrics as not all lace can be made with recycled materials. It's also a lot more expensive so all of our orders were around 25% more expensive than if we used the same designs with regular materials. It's worth it in the long run!



YSW: Do you have a favourite With Love, Mirka dress from the collection? What makes it so special?

MJ: Too hard to choose, but if I absolutely have to, Audrey - it's such a showstopper with a daring low back and figure hugging silhouette.

My brides say it's incredibly comfortable due to the style of the fabric.

YSW: Who is the one celebrity bride you wish you could have designed a wedding dress for and why?

MJ: Ok, do you remember the beautiful country wedding of Kate Moss? She wore a stunningly delicate dress, with partly sheer skirt - those daring styles were basically reserved for models back then, and the uniqueness is something I've



always been drawn to.

Currently though - Britney Spears, I'd love to capture how free she is now in a wedding dress for her!

YSW: What's next for Mirka Bridal Couture? Can you give us any hints of what to expect with the next collection?

MJ: Mirka Bridal Couture will continue as a bridal boutique stocking designer gowns and catering to every bride, we want you to feel welcome to try different styles and not be put into one box. I am still making bespoke wedding gowns as always! From customised dresses that are a mix of our designs to entirely new designs.

With Love, Mirka is where you will see future collections designed by me following with the same ethos as our first collection. I truly can't wait to see where this takes us!

— **Don't forget** —

Mirka Bridal Couture also stocks bridal designers Élyssé Bridal, Lanesta and Pronovias as well as Motee Maids for bridesmaids.

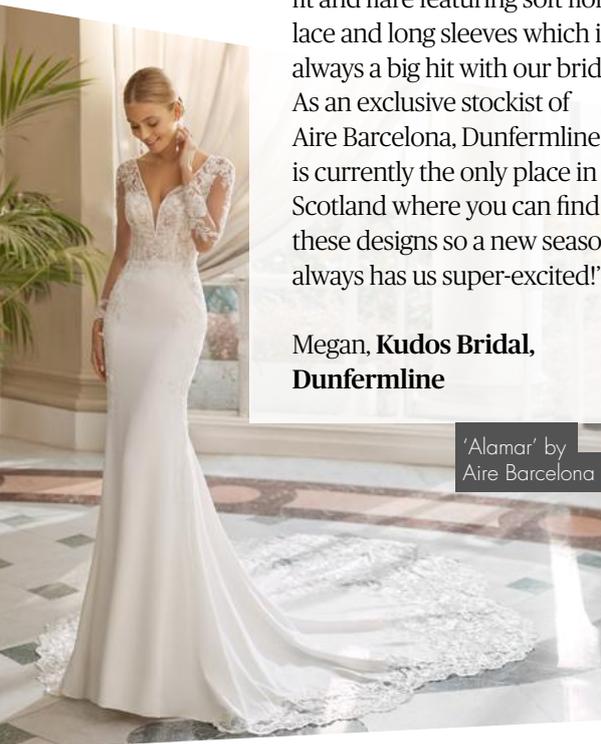
Where to buy: Mirka Bridal Couture, Kirkcaldy
mirkabridal.com

Spanish *flair*

"'Alamar' is a gorgeous crepe fit and flare featuring soft floral lace and long sleeves which is always a big hit with our brides. As an exclusive stockist of Aire Barcelona, Dunfermline is currently the only place in Scotland where you can find these designs so a new season always has us super-excited!"

Megan, **Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline**

'Alamar' by Aire Barcelona



Lady in *red*

"We've seen a huge rise in the number of brides looking for more simple, less embellished styles and Maggie Sottero has managed to hit the nail on the head with this beauty! 'Scarlet' is constructed out of a super-soft stretch satin and boasts a figure flattering ruched bodice and optional front split for added drama. The reason that we're so excited to be stocking this gown is that she also comes in red. It's the perfect choice for any non-traditional, bold bride who would like to wow her guests on her big day! She's also super-chic and elegant in ivory, too! We're expecting Scarlet to arrive in store at the end of September - we can't wait to see her on our rails!"

Megan, **Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline**

'Scarlet' by Maggie Sottero



Dresses to *FALL* for

Top designers and Scottish bridal boutiques share the dresses they're most excited about this autumn

Boho *vibes*

"Our dress 'Rosa' is perfect for a bride seeking comfort and Bohemian flair on their wedding day. It has a perfect juxtaposition of two different lace styles, with the contemporary burnout style rose pattern adding a touch of romance.

Mirka, **Mirka Bridal Couture**



'Rosa' by Mirka Bridal Couture

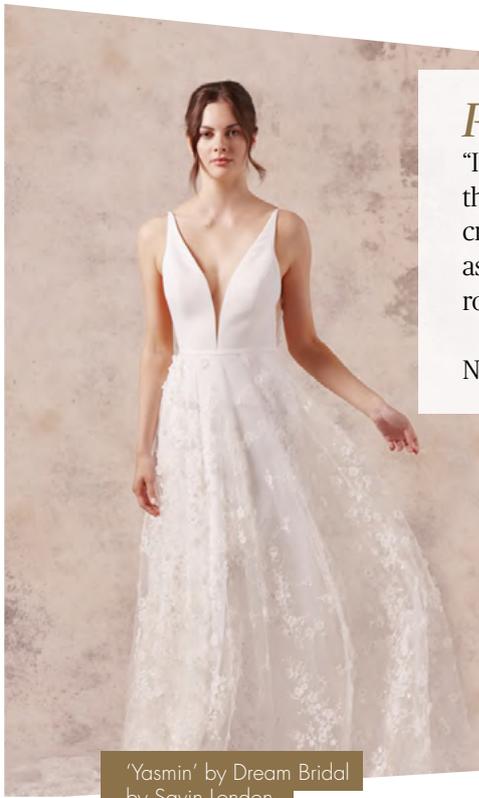
All the *pretty flowers*

"'Audrey' is sure to take your breath away! Its mesmerising rose pattern lacework, fitted silhouette, and illusion backless detail create such a figure-flattering look. It's expertly created using our exclusive recycled stretch lace to enhance and show off your curves. We just love the daring open back on this gown!"

Mirka, **With Love, Mirka**

'Audrey' by With Love, Mirka. Photo: Bernadeta Kupiec Photography





'Yasmin' by Dream Bridal by Savin London

Pure whimsy

"I do love 3D florals on a wedding gown and this gorgeous dress has these in abundance. Featuring a plunge neckline and low back, this crepe wedding gown has a flowing over-layer which moves beautifully as you walk. Perfect for a bride who knows her style and loves a romantic whimsical look."

Naydene, **Sophia Grace Couture**



'Bita' by Calla Blanche

Style it your way

"Exclusively available in Scotland at Sophia Grace Couture, our Calla Blanche gowns are for brides who would love a fashion forward dress. 'Bita' is a fit and flare style gown which features beaded lace, sweetheart neckline, corset style bodice and detachable balloon sleeves - I do love a gown with options!"

Naydene, **Sophia Grace Couture**



'Athens' by True Bride

Greek goddess

"The 'Athens' dress is all about modern simplicity. The luxurious cloudy chiffon is complemented with lightly beaded lace to create an effortless style that works anywhere; whether you're planning a laid-back beach wedding or going for all out glamour, this dress is guaranteed to wow."

Georgia, **True Bride**

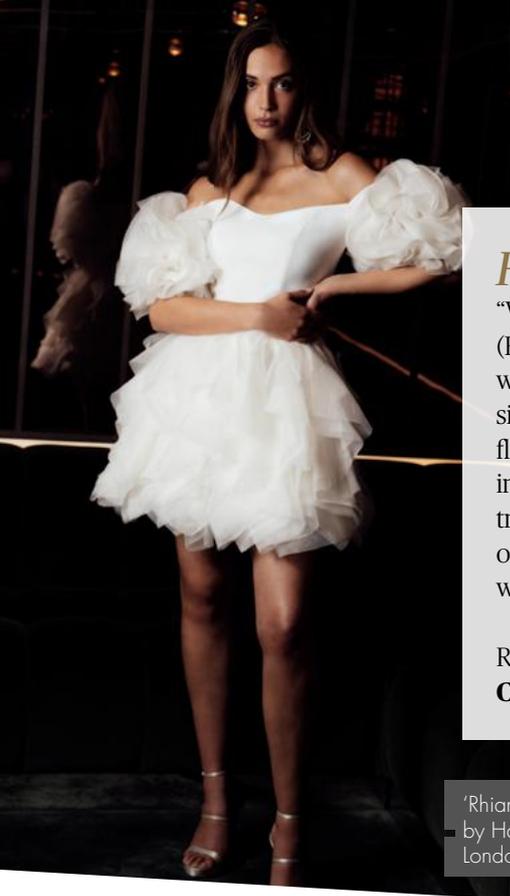
Escape the norm

"Perfect for the bride who wants a more bohemian look, 'Rhodes' is a gorgeous lace style with a detachable soft tulle cape element to give you two looks in one. Complete with our luxury True Curves construction, this style will make you feel as amazing as you look."

Georgia, **True Bride**



'Rhodes' by True Curves



Fashion baby!

“We’re getting the ‘Rhianna’ (Riri) skirt in - full froth with layer upon layer of silk organza shards. Fun, flirty high-end design with interchangeable tops for a transformable look. Definitely one for the fashionista bride who knows her couture.”

Rachel, **Rachel Scott Couture**

‘Rhianna’ skirt by Halfpenny London



A touch of *pink*

“I love ‘Katya’ by Temperley London - (we’re the only stockist in Scotland). Adoring the iconic Temperley styling with story-telling details through the hand stitched intricate embroidery and bead work. Adding in a splash of vibrant colour for unique personality and that quirky couture Rachel Scott touch!”

Rachel, **Rachel Scott Couture**

‘Katya’ by Temperley London

Your Scottish Wedding’s HOT LIST

Here are even more of the gowns that have caught our eye this season

Simple lines

Fresh for Andrea Hawkes’ 2023 Amaryllis collection, we’re slightly obsessed with the simplicity of the ‘Honey’ dress’ cut. The pared back square neckline corset leaves all the wow factor to the back with its cute wide strapline. We’re loving the gathered pleats and billowing skirts. Perfect for dancing the night away.



‘Honey’ by Andrea Hawkes

The Italian job

TBH we could have chosen any number of gowns from the Nicole Milano 2023 Symphony of Arts collection, which previewed at Barcelona Bridal Fashion Week 2022, but for the sheer joy and sense of fun it had to be ‘Esmeray’. The layers of frothy tulle, daring side split and oversized corsage on the hip put it firmly on our wish list.

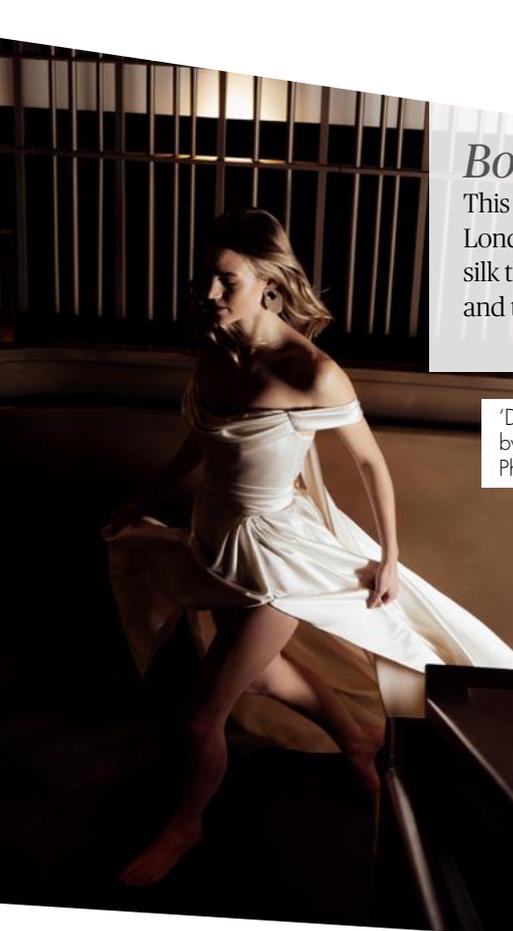


‘Esmeray’ by Nicole Milano

Bombshell

This is one of our standout looks from Halfpenny London's latest Wonder collection. With that liquid-look silk that drapes effortlessly over every curve, the side split and the concealed pockets it's an absolute winner.

'Dove' corset and 'Dove' skirt
by Halfpenny London
Photo: Zach & Grace



Suits you

For the bride who's just not into a full-blown wedding dress or favours making something of a fashion statement we give you the 'Everleigh' jacket and trousers from Temperley London's SS23 Serendipity collection. The cut is faultless and that jacket is giving us major Bianca Jagger vibes.

'Everleigh' jacket and
trousers by
Temperley London



Princess bride

When only a ballgown will do we're loving this amazing OTT creation from Demetrios. With skirts for days, that huge ruffled tulle hemline and an exquisitely beaded corset this gown will ensure your wedding is remembered for years to come. Just check the width of your aisle!

'AM08' by
Demetrios



Supermodel style credentials

Supermodel and body activist Ashley Graham has once again teamed up with bridal giant Pronovias for their second campaign together, creating luxury wedding looks for every bride, whatever their shape and size. Like all the dresses in the Pronovias Group portfolio, the collection is available in an extended size range, ensuring every bride can find their dream dress. We particularly love the 'Skye' gown with those sheer balloon sleeves, elegant v-neck and beautiful appliqué.



'Skye' by Ashley Graham x Pronovias



Ask the expert

Rachel Scott Couture

explains why brides searching for a vegan wedding dress have never had so much choice

“Silk - and particularly silk satin - has long been a staple of bridalwear thanks to its beautiful lustre, sheen and flowing drape. However, if you're a vegan it's potentially a massive no-go. Here's why...

SILK PRODUCTION

Before we can really look at the vegan alternatives to silk we need to acknowledge where it comes from and what makes it not vegan-friendly. Silk comes from the cocoon of the silkworm as it prepares to transition from larvae into moth.

Silkworms eat continuously for about a month before constructing their cocoon, surrounding themselves entirely in a single continuous silk strand measuring up to 100 metres! To extract that sought-after strand the cocoon must be unravelled. However, to keep the thread in one long length the silkworms must be removed without breaking the cocoon. Unfortunately, that's normally by boiling the cocoons

and of course killing the worms in the process. So, if silk is out for vegan brides, what are the alternatives?

THE ORIGINAL PLANS B AND C

It's well known I'm a great advocate for never letting any element of your wedding fashion style feel like a compromise, and you especially shouldn't be adversely limited by something as fundamental as your animal welfare beliefs! What can you turn to if you decide against silk?

In truth, there have technically been two vegan alternatives to silk satin for at least the last century - polyester and viscose. Artificial fibre polyester is of course entirely vegan, although historically it's often been given a bit of a bad rap when directly compared to the luxurious finish of pure silk. Personally, I can see merits in both, depending on whether you want the structure and uniformity of a synthetic polyester or the draped fall and irregular sheen of silk.

Then there's viscose - sometimes called rayon - a semi-synthetic fibre manufactured by regenerating cellulose from wood pulp. Interestingly, it's not considered either fully natural or fully synthetic since, even though its raw products are natural, it still needs a huge amount of chemical treatment and manufacturing to produce viable fibres.

But now, as more and more people are choosing a vegan lifestyle, consumer demand for a wider range of fibre options is also increasing and where there's a demand there will be companies willing to invest in providing a supply! Thank goodness, as the more options and choices we all have the better - after all, what bride ever wanted to be limited to just two options?! So, let's get inventive!

THE NEW WAVE OF ALTERNATIVES

As we ask more questions about

our impact on our environment, we naturally have a desire to find solutions and alternatives.

With my training in textile fabric science and background in fabric and garment production, I've always been fascinated with fabrics and new fibre technology - satisfying both my secret inner science geek and indulging my bridal fashionista side! Essentially you need a cellulose to create a fibre, whether it's entirely natural like cotton or linen or needs more manufacturing like viscose, where a plant-based substance has been broken down with chemical processing. So, in theory, if you can break a natural material down to pulp and extract the cellulose then ta dah - you have a fibre!

Although still relatively in its infancy as far as production scales go compared to traditional silk, wool or even synthetic fibre production, the vegan fabric ball is very much rolling and gaining momentum.

So what's the vegan future?

OH CREPE!

The 'Dopamine' dress by Rolling in Roses has a gorgeous drape with ultra-fluid movement made in viscose crepe back satin - created from the by-product remains of the cotton plant after the cotton buds have been picked. This fabric has a fractionally more textured look and feel than silk satin thanks to its shorter fibre length but that equally has the bonus effect of making it potentially more forgiving on the figure than silk!

PEACE SILK

So technically this isn't vegan since it's still produced from an animal, but I think peace silk is worthy of note here since the cruelty element is removed. The silkworm is allowed to complete its life cycle and emerge from the cocoon before the silk cocoon fibres are extracted. In emerging from the cocoon, the moth does break the silk thread, resulting in shorter fibre length which in turn means it can be a little harder to get quite the fabric stability and flawless lustre compared to cultivated silk. But ultimately not a great compromise if preserving the life of the silkworm is the crucial factor for you.

Vivienne Westwood's Mini Cocotte can be made in peace silk



GOT THE BOTTLE

The 'Obsession' dress - also by Rolling in Roses - is made from recycled plastic bottle Charmeuse satin (yes, that's actually a thing!) The bottles are reclaimed from the ocean and the charmeuse weave ensures the same lustrous sheen of satin but with a lighter weight. The feel and handle of this fabric is so similar to silk satin that they're almost indistinguishable.



Rolling in Roses 'Obsession' dress

ORANGE IS THE NEW SILK

Made in orange fibre satin from the by-products of the juice-making industry, come Rolling in Roses' 'Anise' cami and 'Beloved' trousers. The remains of the orange that would otherwise have been wasted are made into pulp, that can then be processed into a viable fibre. It has the most glorious sheen with a finish that is a little more 'mother of pearl hint of multi-colour' compared to 100% silk satin.



Rolling in Roses 'Flowerdeep' dress



'Anise' Cami and 'Beloved' Trousers



Rolling in Roses 'Dopamine' dress

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

Rolling in Roses' 'Flowerdeep' dress is made from organic cotton lace over rose petal satin - a satin fabric woven from organic rose petals. Definitely sounds wonderfully romantic and feminine having your dress made from rose petals for your wedding day!

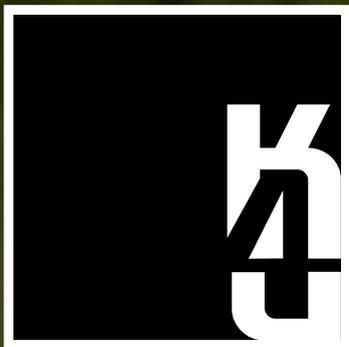
THE INFORMED CHOICE

One thing we do need to be conscious of is just because a fabric is vegan - or a cruelty-free version of silk - doesn't mean it's also ethically or sustainably produced. Make sure you know what's important to you, balance up the pros and cons and make an informed decision for you. Ultimately, it's personal choice whether you go for silk or not, but at least now being a vegan no longer limits your fabulous choices. Go on, indulge, and enjoy your endless dress options wrapped in that rose petal satin!"

Groom's Room







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The quirky sporran in Highland Coo, bringing out the rust tones in the tartan adds a real statement piece to the outfit.

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Whether you choose to go super-smart on your wedding day or opt for a more informal look, **Kilts 4 U** can kit you out with everything you need to look your best

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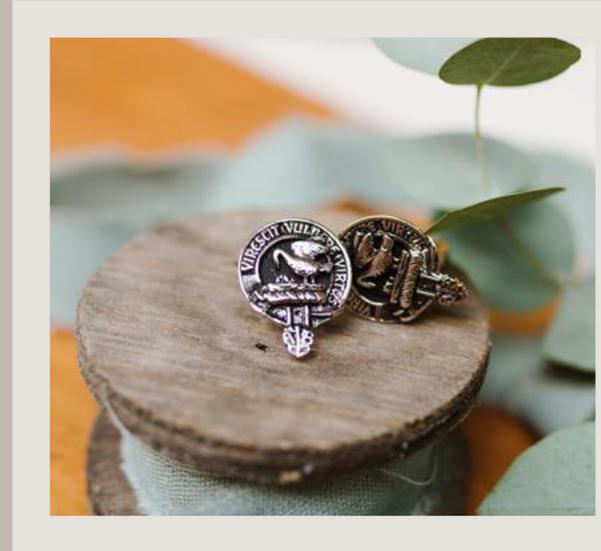
LOOK 1, Top Left: Handmade inlaid Hebridean Heather tartan brogues (£299.00), Hebridean Heather tartan tie (£29.99), colour matched stag emblem luxury sporran (£249.00), Hebridean Heather hip flask (£39.99) and Hebridean Heather ceremony hand fastening (£25.00). This range is available in all Kilts 4 U tartans. **LOOK 2, Top Right:** Luxury lambswool Rangers Football Club tartan throw (£125.00), Rangers FC plaid brooch (£39.99), Rangers FC sgian dubh (£64.99), Rangers FC handmade sporran (£299.00), Rangers FC kilt pin (£29.99), Rangers FC belt buckle (£39.99), handmade inlaid tartan shoes in Rangers FC tartan (£349.00). The shoes are available in any tartan and 12 colours of leather. Kilts 4 U is the only official supplier of this range, available direct from the stores or rangerskilt.co.uk. **LOOK 3, Bottom Right:** 12 bore bullet cufflinks (£34.99), handcrafted leather hip flask (£49.99), horn keyring (£9.99), natural horn kilt pin (£29.99), bullet cufflinks (£29.99) and natural horn cufflinks (£29.99). **LOOK 4, Bottom Left:** Shamrock crested sporran (£299.99), shamrock crested sgian dubh (£64.99), Celtic Football Club official tartan tie (£29.99) and shamrock crested kilt pin (£29.99).

Head to the Your Scottish Wedding website to read more about football team tartans and accessories.



Purples, greys and silver tones combine with horn and semi-precious stones in this on-trend edit from Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers

Top: Handmade exclusive Highland Mist tartan rose (£30.00). **Bottom Right:** Dress sporan in grey fur and chrome cantle (£195.00), exclusive Highland Mist tartan tie (£25.00), handmade sgian dubh crafted by Norman Milne from Scottish wood and semi-precious stone (£700.00), antler kilt pin with purple stone accent (£45.00). **Bottom Left:** Tartan tie (£25.00), and rose as before.



We love it when grooms match their look to their surroundings and **MacGregor and MacDuff** have curated looks for both a rural and rustic wedding or a more formal affair



Top left: Arran Mist tie (£50.00), wooden sgian dubh (£49.00), racoon fur silver celtic cantle sporan (£295.00), wooden kilt pin (£21.00), Arran Mist hip flask (£25.00). **Top right:** Clan crest cufflinks (£23.00). **Bottom:** Ring bearer cushion (£40.00), Silver Mist hip flask (£25.00), mini quich (£14.50), clan crest kilt pin (£23.00), bulldog knot cantle sporan (£260.00), Silver Mist bow tie (£35.00), clan crest cufflinks (as before).

Opt for tan leather and wood for a laid-back look or go all-out suave in silver and black, courtesy of **Stewart Highland**



Top: Semi dress sporran in tan leather, metal rim and brown musquash (£229.00), thuya burl wooden handled sgian dubh with metal cap (£55.00), stainless steel and tan leather thistle etched 6oz hipflask (£30.00). **Bottom:** Dress sporran with chrome cut out filigree cantle and black seal skin (£360.00), palladium stag antler kilt pin (£20.00), mechanical pocket watch with cut out Roman numeral front (£105.00).

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Learn exactly how to wear your kilt outfit correctly with our team of Scottish experts



MacGregor and MacDuff

Kilt up

“A kilt can be an extremely versatile outfit choice. If you want to stand out, add a fly plaid to your outfit. A piece of material matching your kilt, it’s draped over your shoulder and designed to represent the top half of the great kilt. At a wedding, plaids should only be worn by the groom.”
Sarah McKay,
MacGregor and MacDuff

AVOID THE PITFALL

Don’t wear your kilt too low or too high. It should sit at the top of your kneecap.

Flashes

AVOID THE PITFALL

Don’t forget to include them! They’ll help keep your socks up and add a splash of colour.



MacGregor and MacDuff

AVOID THE PITFALL

Make sure they mirror the colour of your jacket, perfectly framing the kilt and sporran in between. And put on your socks before your kilt!

Socks

Tied up

“Tie fashion has changed dramatically over the past two seasons. Matching tartan or tweed ties are far more popular than colour-matched ruche or cravat ties, or bow ties.”
Iain Carlton, Kilts 4 U



Kilts 4 U

AVOID THE PITFALL

Make sure the tie knot (or central part of the bow tie) meets the button on the collar of your shirt. Otherwise it sits ‘off’ and can ruin your whole look!

Waistcoat

AVOID THE PITFALL

Make sure you’re more comfortable when seated by leaving the bottom button undone.



Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers, photography by Rose and Julien

Showstopping sporrans

“The sporran is dictated by your jacket. With Prince Charlie or Argyll, you’ll want a dress sporran (metal cantle, your choice of fur and bells/tassels). With tweed, options are more open - full dress, semi-dress or day sporran.”
Gordon Nicolson, Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers

AVOID THE PITFALL

Wear it in the correct place. Too high and it’s a bum bag; too low and it’ll knock your knees.



Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers, photography by Rose and Julien

Avoid all the pitfalls on your big day with *Kilts 4 U's* new 'at the venue fitting service'

Remembering exactly how to tie your brogues, where the plaid goes and just where the top of your socks should sit can be a lot to remember, especially when you add in a dose of pre-wedding jitters. With that in mind, Kilts 4 U has introduced an "At the venue fitting service" - quite simply, you can book one of the retailer's experts to come to your venue or home to ensure you and your groom squad look picture perfect

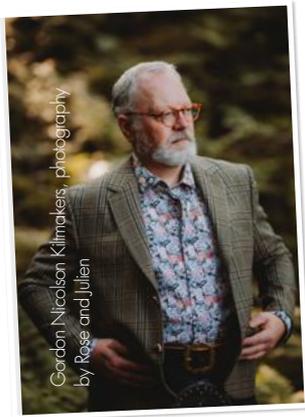
before your nuptials.

Owner Iain Carlton explains, "We see many, many wedding photographs when enormous amounts of money, time and effort have been spent but the outfits are badly worn. Sadly, these cannot be taken again or recreated."

Those who go ahead with the new service can collect their outfits two days before the wedding, as normal, and are urged to try them on that evening. That way, any

last-minute size changes can be sorted the day before the wedding. Then on the big day, your Kilts 4 U expert will join you wherever you're getting ready to get you and your guys kilted up.

Grooms should note that this service is only available to Kilts 4 U customers; a standard minimum charge applies if you're within 20 miles of the Kilts 4 U store, and a further charge outwith. Terms, conditions and charges also apply.

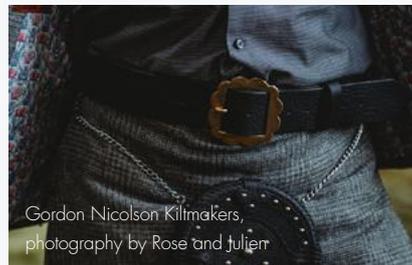


Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers, photography by Rose and Julien

Shirt styles

"The shirt is a simple staple that ties a look together. We've created looks around everything from classic white wing collar shirts to crazy floral shirts. Keep smart but don't be afraid to put your own spin on things."

Gordon Nicolson,
Gordon Nicolson
Kiltmakers



Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers, photography by Rose and Julien

Belt

AVOID THE PITFALL

Match your belt to your buttons. Chrome buttons? Choose a chrome buckle. Likewise with bronze and antique alternatives. There are lots of designs so take time to choose your favourite.



MacGregor and MacDuff

A shoe in

"Choose from ghillie brogues (no tongue and long laces wrapped around your calf) or day brogues (more like normal suit shoes). Alternatively, personalise your look with tartan brogues or different coloured leathers."

Sarah McKay,
MacGregor and MacDuff

AVOID THE PITFALL

Go for wing collar shirts with bowties; Edwardian collar shirts with cravats and standard collar shirts with straight neck ties.



MacGregor and MacDuff

Sgian Dubh

AVOID THE PITFALL

Place your sgian dubh on the correct side. If you're left-handed, it goes in the outside top of your left sock. Right-handed? Right sock.

Which jacket?

"Formal affair? Pair your kilt with a Prince Charlie or Argyll jacket and waistcoat. These are your most traditional kilt jacket options. For semi-formal, choose a contemporary tweed kilt jacket."

Sarah McKay, MacGregor and MacDuff

AVOID THE PITFALL

Remember the golden rule: Never button a kilt jacket at a wedding!



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John Clark Photos

Whether you're sticking with tradition or making your own wedding rules, many couples want to include parents in their big day. Here's how it's done...

First thing's first, let's tackle the elephant in the room... Who pays? And if your parents pay, do they get control over your wedding!? "This is always a tricky one but do openly discuss the financials if your parents ask," advises Laura Devine, owner at wedding planning service, Devine Bride. She says assume you'll be paying, then if parents do offer, it'll be a welcome addition to your budget.

They may ask to fund a specific element of your day - the flowers or dress, for example - which is especially handy for split families. "They'll know their contribution went towards something tangible that brought happiness," explains Laura. Parents may need some education in terms of

wedding expenses, though. Their only comparison will be what they paid many years ago!

"Regardless of who's paying, I always tell my couples; 'Your parents have had their day. This is your time.'"

Laura, Devine Bride

The guest list

Going back in time, parents who footed the bill commonly dictated the guest list - and invitations came from them. According to Louize Hollywood, wedding manager at Glasgow venue Citation, a small parents' list is still common but, of course, this depends on your capacity and budget, and their potential spend.

If they're contributing, Laura suggests giving them a quota of who and how many they can invite. Keep the conversation open, and bear in mind you'll likely need to cater for both sets of parents to keep it fair. Self-funding? "One way of looking at it is making sure they have a good time by allowing them some close friends to celebrate with. Ask for a short list of people and take it from there without any initial promises."

And when it comes to invitations, Laura advises keeping wording simple and inclusive; "Regardless of the bill or split families, the most common at the moment is, "Together with their families..."

Getting wedding-ready

Ahead of the big day, inviting keen mums on your dress hunt is a sure-fire way to include them but how about asking dad too? Bridal boutiques say this is increasingly popular. For something a little extra, Louize suggests wedding showcases, (they'll love a venue sneak peek), or making

memories together at your menu tasting.

“Bring keen parents to wedding showcases or make memories together at your menu tasting.”

Louize, Citation

Laura recommends involvement through errands as opposed to planning (avoiding any cases of ‘too many cooks!’). “Give them jobs - things like picking up suits, dresses, and buttonholes. They’ll take it very seriously. Then on the day, short checklists; ‘Dad, make sure all ushers have a buttonhole on’ and ‘Mum, distribute girl gang wrist corsages.”

Your wedding

When heading down the aisle, couples are bucking tradition - and there’s been a big “push back” about being ‘given away,’ says Hazel Sharp of Humanist Society Scotland (HSS). “Brides don’t want any suggestion that they’re a piece of property that can be bartered. The vast majority,

if/when they choose to walk in with someone, will insist they’re being ‘accompanied’ or ‘escorted down the aisle.”

Her colleague, celebrant Ross Wright, agrees. “I remember a bride who loved her father but chose to make her entrance solo. She was an inspiring example of a strong, independent woman.”

Louize says the traditional entrance remains the preferred option at Citation but couples are increasingly inclusive. “More than ever are changing it up a little - sometimes with both parents, or children. We’ve also had dogs doing the honours!”

She’s seen the trend continue for rituals with parents drinking from the quail and couples giving them gifts during their ceremony. At HSS, Marilyn Jackson says the ceremony often includes a section where “parents are thanked for their love and support, helping their children become the people they each fell in love with, and welcoming them into each other’s families.”

Overall, Laura reminds couples it’s their day. “Regardless of who’s paying, I always tell my couples: ‘Your parents have had their day. This is your time.’”



One of Laura’s gorgeous past weddings.

PHOTOGRAPH: Julie Ann Whyte

MODERN mamas



As family-focused wedding traditions change, so do the ‘rules’ around outfits. Today’s MOBs and MOGs are donning timeless, classy and strictly ‘unmumsy’ attire, sure to make them feel like they’re not just another wedding guest.

“Traditionally, mums might be expected to wear a tailored coat or shift dress with a small, brimmed hat and satin gloves,”

explains Louise Brown at independent ladies’ boutique Catwalk. “Mother-of-the-bride outfits are more youthful nowadays. Ladies are looking for a standalone dress with special features. Think beading, bows, a bateau neckline or a cowl back - plus statement headwear to stand out.”



Designer Sassi Holford’s new ready-to-wear collection (available online or at the London store) is all about elevating these leading ladies. Made to order with sustainability at heart, the Amesbury dress (pictured) is a classic shift that will never go out of style while the Chiswick (pictured), complete with on-trend bell sleeves, is the epitome of motherly sophistication.

“Shopping for mum is an exciting part of the wedding build-up and it’s so special if daughters can share the experience,” adds Louise. “Remember, mum needs to feel comfortable and special so be supportive and enjoy the one-to-one time.”



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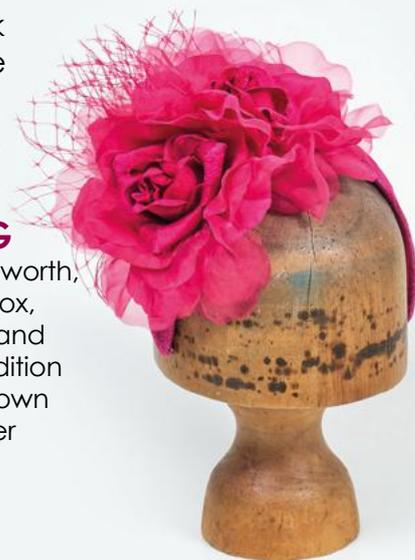
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What's in a *name*?

With Brooklyn Beckham and Nicola Peltz hitting the headlines for both choosing to double-barrel, there's never been a better time to explore the thought-provoking world of newlywed surnames...

As you soak up all the super-fun elements of wedding prep, make sure to spare a moment for the practicalities too - potential name changes for one! As the tradition of one party simply taking on the surname of the other is disrupted by a variety of creative options, wedding suppliers are increasingly asked for their views on how newlyweds should refer to themselves after they're married.

Boasting both personal and professional experience when it comes to this topic TJ Thomson, a celebrant at Fuze Ceremonies, says, "For so many your name is a huge part of your identity. Some will not be bothered either way and others will have very strong feelings on the subject. It's important you don't make assumptions about what your partner will do with their name once you are married. Instead, communication is key. Have

a chat about each other's wishes and expectations."

"We live in a fantastic world of choice and ultimately that choice should be yours and yours alone to make."

TJ Thomson
Fuze Ceremonies

TJ 'went Dutch' when she tied the knot. In other words, she kept her maiden name for work-related matters - "It's Frame, so a bit more unique and I'd already established a career using it" - but took on her husband's

name, Thomson, for everything personal, including her duties as a celebrant.

"This is more formally known as 'going informal', and there have been benefits and drawbacks," says TJ. "This year marks a decade as Mrs T but still the only ID with that on it is my passport... And it took me eight years to get round to changing it! I've been clocking up the birthdays and with a memory not as good as it once was, I get some strange looks when I'm asked my name and get it wrong!"

If you can't decide which way to go, do what feels right for you, advises TJ. "We live in a fantastic world of choice and ultimately that choice should be yours and yours alone to make."



Martin Grant and Laura Morrison, now both Morrison-Grant, were married last August at Crossbasket Castle by George McLean of Fuze Ceremonies

"We try to be equal in everything we do so it made sense to simply put our names together - it shows we've each brought something in creating a new family together. When we told people, they were either positive or already aware of the name style becoming more popular. We've not had any challenges but have been quite lazy and still haven't updated our names in a lot of places! Thinking ahead to future generations getting married, though, it might get quite complicated if people are already double-barrelled... What will they do then?!"

Whatever your surname choice, there are a few things worth knowing...

Keeping your own surname?

In the UK, a third of married women in their twenties choose to keep their maiden name and guess what? It's the easiest option!



To do list: Nothing! You keep your name, your partner keeps theirs and no admin is needed.

Adopting your partner's name

This remains the most popular choice with women more likely to take the groom's name (same-sex marriages tend to have a mix of either adopting their new husband or wife's surname, according to Fuze Ceremonies). But, of course, some wonderfully modern men switch it up and take on their wife's name.



To do list: Inform all official authorities you're changing your name with, such as the DVLA, passport office, banks and any important policies you have, (they'll want to see your marriage certificate to confirm the change). Next, make a list of all the other updates you'll need to make - everything from your e-mail signature to your Boots Advantage Card!

Double-barrelling

This is great for couples who want or need to compromise - and it's an option for one or both newlyweds.



To do list: Simply send copies of the marriage certificate to the relevant authorities along with a letter that details the new name - and the order in which you want it.

"We wanted something that joined both of us in a more equal way but double-barrelling wouldn't have worked with our maiden names. So, we merged surnames using a website name generator."

Helen and Andrew Taison

Combining surnames

Looking for a fresh start? 'Meshing' (combining the surnames of each partner to form a new, shared name) offers reinvention and a symbolic reflection of your union. If you want to keep a link to your previous surname, consider using it as a middle name.



To do list: A Statutory Declaration will be needed to get all records, including your passports, updated with your chosen name. First port of call here? Your local councillor - they have the power to issue this document at no cost. Also check out the Scottish Government website for guidance.

Finally, a word on honeymoons...

Jetting off soon? If your passport is still in date and you have booked your trip in your original name, there is no need to change anything. But if you want to book tickets in your new name, start the passport renewal process in plenty of time because delays are common! You can apply for a new passport up to three months before you marry. You'll need the person conducting your ceremony to sign your application - and note that your new passport will be 'post-dated' so you can't use it pre-wedding.



Meet Mr and Mrs Taison, formerly Helen Margaret Tanish and Andrew James Dickinson. Another Fuze Ceremonies couple, they said 'I do' in Edinburgh in April and created a brand-new surname for themselves

"There were a few reasons behind our decision. Helen always thought it wasn't fair that it's assumed that the wife takes the husband's name. And Andy was married before, so there was already a 'Mrs Dickinson'. We wanted something that joined both of us in a more equal way but double-barrelling wouldn't have worked with our maiden names. So, we merged surnames using a website name generator. After a few attempts, we found Taison and it suited us. We also added our maiden names as an extra middle name and a nod to our biological families. We had every reaction going - Helen's family expected her to do something different while friends liked and understood the idea. Andy's family were more confused and offended but have eventually come around - maybe because it's too late now for them to change Andy's mind!"



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Devine Bride says... *eat, drink, and be married*

Based in East London for over 10 years but originally from Glasgow, Laura Devine of Devine Bride offers pick and mix wedding planning, helping cool couples to plan their wedding in a more flexible and fun way. With over 180 weddings and events under her belt, Laura knows what's worked, what's not, and what's fun! Here she shares her expert advice on keeping guests well fed and happy.

"The number one thing all my clients ever say to me is, 'I just want everyone to have a good time'. "The answer is surprisingly easy: just ensure you don't scrimp on food and drink."

How many times have you been at a



wedding, and ended up strategizing how to weasel through the cluster of guests hovering around the entrance where the dribble of canapés is coming from? Yep yep, me too, friend; my point exactly.

It's hungry (and thirsty) work, doing the good deed of helping your nearest celebrate their love for each other!

You've already asked your guests to travel for the day, perhaps stay overnight somewhere, they've probably got something new to wear, possibly even arranged babysitters, and likely not had any lunch. I cannot stress how important feeding and watering your guests generously is. Hangry-ness also adds to the overall atmosphere of your day. And sneaks in surprisingly easily. Having worked at 180+ weddings, I can tell within about 10 seconds of entering a room if the canapés haven't come out yet. "Food and drink can also act as its own form of entertainment. It encourages interaction, provides a talking point, and quite simply, it makes people happy.

I'm here for the details, I really am, but I tell my clients not to sweat the small stuff. So long as there is plenty food and drink to go around, it doesn't (entirely) matter what font your place

names are in. Unfortunately, people don't remember place names, but they definitely remember how hungry they were waiting for canapés, the photos to be done, or dinner to be served. In real terms, stationery-wise, a table plan gives impact and adds to the stylisation of your day, but place names on the other hand, can be substituted without much of a second look. And while we're on it... if your favours can't be consumed, then ditch them entirely please - and spend the money on more drinks. The very first things that get thrown away by your caterers when they're clearing your tables are your place names and your favours! I see it so often and it makes me so sad!

I get it though; feeding 100-odd guests for around 12 hours isn't cheap. But that's the reality of the day; if you want people there to celebrate with you, you must host them. So, if budget is an issue, I would always advise to either cut your numbers, or do some swaps in your day to make sure your money goes further.



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Designed place names ✗

Live band ✗

A tiered cake ✗

Speaker with a Spotify playlist ✓

Handwritten ones ✓
(rope in your 'maids, it's an effort)

Live DJ ✓

A smaller symbolic cake ✓

Add this

+ An extra round of canapés

+ Bread on the table for guests to nibble on during the speeches, or crisps and nuts on your reception tables

+ Money behind the bar

+ Pizza and donuts

It all comes down to value for money and price per minute of enjoyment, in my eyes. As always, put yourself in your guests' shoes. How would you like to feel? The answer from me, when it comes to weddings and epic parties, will always be, 'full and merry'."

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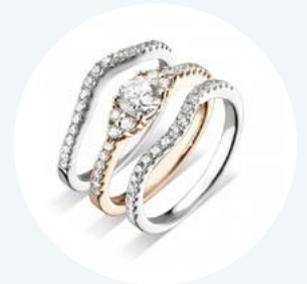
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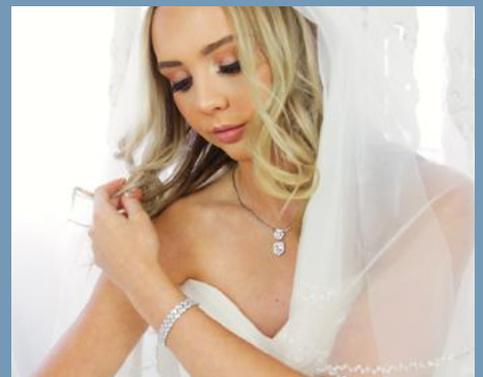


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MATCH *fit*

Katie Bletcher discovers different ways to cope with pre-wedding stress and get your body and mind ready for the big day

As you approach your wedding day, well-intentioned clichés are inevitable. “It’s the happiest day of your life,” trips off perfect strangers’ lips, while everyone seems suddenly interested in all the minute details. As lovely as all that is, it’s ok if you’re not basking in this attention. And it’s ok to not constantly feel on cloud nine.

While weddings are cause for huge celebrations, they can also be a source of stress. Financial worries of treating 120 of your nearest and dearest to dinner, the fear of being centre stage, and the pressure of project managing this amazing day while holding down your job and existing commitments, can take their toll. Add to that fears over family members potentially misbehaving, insecurities about how you’ll look, and constant to-do lists and it’s the perfect storm.

We know it’s difficult when every supplier and family member seems to want your attention, but practising a little self-care can make all the difference. By prioritising some “you time” you’ll be able to cope much better. Here are just some ways to help you rebalance...



Keira Thorley of StreamFit

Get ACTIVE

In the run-up to my wedding I remember endless mental lists keeping me awake at night and I know I’m not alone. Sleepless nights can be a symptom of overly busy lives but slotting exercise into your daily routine is a great way to reset the balance, something advocated by Keira Thorley, the founder of online fitness class service StreamFit. She previously had premises in Edinburgh city centre but decided to pivot to streaming classes. “Doing it online you don’t have to make the effort of driving and parking,” she explains. “It works when it’s slotted into your routine.”

Keira’s live sessions and online library of workouts incorporate callanetics, HIIT (high intensity interval training) and yoga to sculpt your body while you mentally decompress. “The evening classes are particularly good for that,” she says. “It’s a full stop, an end to the day. If you’re high octane you need to switch your body off before you switch your brain off. It slows you down and you decompress. The bonus is you get your body sculpted.”

Callanetics is based on ballet training, working the deepest layer of muscle while relaxing the rest of your body. Keira works one muscle group at a time, working hard with series of pulses before stretching, and different classes target different areas, so it could be full body one day, waist and glutes the next and then pure yoga.

And the scientific evidence behind the classes is really interesting. Keira explains that much of what she does switches the body from the sympathetic nervous system - where you get the fight or flight mode - to the parasympathetic nervous system when your body relaxes, inflammation reduces, and its healing system kicks in. “When I do our stretches and deep breaths that’s where your body switches over,” she says. “I’m bringing in the yoga deep breathing. If you’re in a stressful situation you need to move and then switch off, so you pulse and stretch and then sit down and breathe.” Now, doesn’t that sound like the perfect way to help you feel calm and chilled ahead of your wedding?



Keira Thorley of StreamFit

Relax!

If you're feeling a bit strung-out Oils in Bloom's aromatherapy wellness mists are a great help. "Brides often use the power duo of anxiety mist [with lavender and vetiver] for day and sleep spray [with lavender, vetiver, jasmine and geranium] for night to help keep calm and grounded," explain founders Claire Brice and Jessica Roestenburg McCluskey.

On TRIAL

To see just how much good it can do, I got to trial StreamFit for a month, with Keira advising I try three 30 or 45-minute classes a week, working them into my daily routine. Some days I kicked off with a half-hour super sculpt class which really got the endorphins flowing for starting work. That's not to say it wasn't hard work during that 30 minutes though! Who knew that making tiny pulsing movements with your arms in a ballet position could feel so hard? Or prolonged sets of little ab crunches would have me shouting out in the living room!

In all of the classes there's a strong emphasis on making sure your pelvic floor is engaged, starting in the correct position and learning how to breathe properly throughout the movements. Series of minute pulses to tone the abs were initially very tricky and squats at my mantelpiece - like work at a ballet barre - would have one leg shaking uncontrollably! But in my fourth week I noticed real progress. I could make it through a full rep of pulses to work my core without having to stop and I was starting to feel stronger. A particular favourite class was a Friday morning workout that incorporated weights and cardio with the stretching. I also loved evening classes where you could work hard and then really enjoy the relaxation stretches at the end, knowing that you'd done some good for your body and mind before moving to the sofa for the rest of the night.

StreamFit is offering *Your Scottish Wedding* readers 20% off the bridal blitz, a 2-week programme that gives you full access to all StreamFit classes on the timetable and library and aims to give you a new, sculpted body with all the mental health benefits rolled in. Simply use the discount code YSW20 when booking at streamfit.co.uk until March 1st 2023. You can also catch up with StreamFit at the Luxury Scottish Wedding Show at The Balmoral on 22nd January.





Another LEVEL

I'll be honest. Looking after my eyebrows has never been one of my favourite beauty routines. Being naturally blonde I often fall into a bad cycle of letting them go too far for too long and then having to take to drastic action with the tweezers. But when I was invited to try out Shavata Singh's new collaboration with luxury skincare brand 11SKIN at Edinburgh's Harvey Nichols I was excited to put my brows in the care of the experts.

My Shavata therapist treated me to the Lash Luxe Platinum package, combining brow threading and tinting with a lash tint as well as the application of 11SKIN's rejuvenating undereye masks. She set to work, expertly threading and tweezing while instructing me where I should be letting my hairs grow back in for fuller, more natural brows - overplucked 90s brows your days are numbered! She then tinted them and helped me choose the 11SKIN gel pads that would work best for me from the selection of the rose gold illuminating eye mask, sub-zero de-puffing eye mask and celestial black diamond eye mask. With it's promise to reduce dark circles, wrinkles and lines, the black diamond ones won out and my therapist applied them right under the waterline. The surgically-inspired pads feel amazing going on. They're cool when applied and weighty, almost forcing you to relax under their pressure. While they were firmly in place my therapist tinted my lashes with a black/blue dye for maximum impact before undertaking a heavenly neck, shoulder and arm massage. Instead of a brow and lash appointment being a necessary in and out again task, the 20-minute massage upped the ante while the cooling gel pads left me so relaxed I could have fallen asleep. I imagine even a pre-wedding to-do list could have been momentarily dispelled.

I know the last days of wedding prep can feel like a whirl of appointments and things to tick off but if you can, book yourself in for a session. That little bit of self-care and relaxation could be all you need to reset.

A FRESH approach

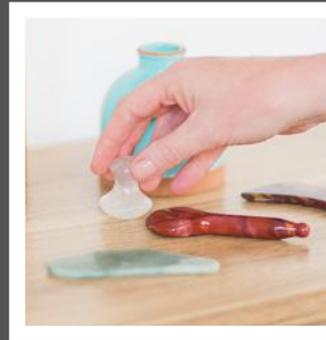
Every to-be-wed wants flawless glowing skin on their big day but just how do you achieve it? With over 30 years' experience as a make-up artist and beauty therapist, Lesley McCormick of Pamper and Polish knows about healthy skin. She's trained with various skincare companies and is introducing a new holistic approach, teaching clients guided self-face massage with her new programme; The vibrant bride... confidence with your skin and within. "My aim is to encourage an awareness of general wellness and how this affects your skin, rather than the topical creams you apply on top," she says. "My goal is also to help brides feel their most beautiful, calm and vibrant on their wedding day by following my approach."

Lesley regularly meets clients who have complicated routines and have paid for invasive beauty treatments that just aren't working for them. Feeling that a more holistic approach was needed, she's trained with experts in holistic rejuvenation and adopted new techniques to transform her own and clients' skin. "Healthy and radiant skin comes from the inside out and is a true reflection of your inner health and wellbeing," she explains. "The self-care guidance shared in this programme aims to help you fall in love with taking care of your skin and wellbeing."

Through the programme Lesley will teach clients facial gua sha, a facial rejuvenating therapy based on traditional Chinese medicine which, when done correctly, can reduce inflammation and redness, regenerate facial tissue with healthier skin cells, tone facial muscles and contours and

stimulate collagen and elastin production.

"Imagine how amazing your skin will feel and how healthy it will be when you make this a regular practice!" says Lesley. "My online programme will guide you through your own face massage routine and start you on your journey to happy and healthy skin and wellbeing in the lead up to your wedding day."



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Harvey Nichols Edinburgh is offering one lucky winner a beautiful bridal prize so you can celebrate your forthcoming nuptials in true style.

This exclusive competition prize includes: A decadent Champagne afternoon tea for two at the Forth Floor Brasserie including a seriously scrumptious selection of sweet and savoury delights with a Harvey Nichols signature twist, a Harvey Nichols Beauty Sleep Hamper featuring a blissful collection of evening essentials including a calming This Works bath soak and the beauty lover's favourite Slip silk pillowcase to ensure a good night's sleep before the big day, a Happy Day Hamper filled with food and drink treasures that promise a luxurious 24 hours, and a 1-hour hydrofacial treatment with Beyond MediSpa at the aesthetic clinic at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh. (Ts & Cs apply).

What better way to get wedding day ready than with this fabulous prize package?

COMPETITION

What's included?

The lucky winner will be treated to this amazing pre-wedding pamper package.

The prize includes:

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- 1 x 1-hour hydrofacial treatment with Beyond MediSpa at the aesthetic clinic at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh
- 1 x Harvey Nichols Beauty Sleep Hamper
- 1 x Harvey Nichols Happy Day Hamper



How to enter

Simply answer the following question:

When was Harvey Nichols founded?

Send your answer, both your names and the date of your wedding to editorial@yourscottishwedding.co.uk

+

Follow Harvey Nichols Edinburgh on social media at [@harveynichols_edinburgh](https://www.instagram.com/harveynichols_edinburgh) and [@hnedinburgh_forthfloor](https://www.instagram.com/hnedinburgh_forthfloor)

Applications must be in by the closing date of **31st December 2022**. The hampers must be collected from Harvey Nichols Edinburgh within six months of the closing date. The Beyond MediSpa treatment and the Decadent Champagne afternoon tea for two are valid for 12 months from the closing date.

Wedding bells

Psst... fancy a night of wedding planning fun?

Harvey Nichols Edinburgh is hosting its **Wedding Bells** bridal beauty event on **Tuesday 13th September 6.30 - 9pm**. Whether you're a bride-to-be, a mother of the bride, a bridesmaid or a wedding guest, it's time to get wedding ready. Find your perfect fragrance, supercharge your skincare routine and discover how to perfect your wedding look. Enjoy mini masterclasses, live music, a fun photobooth, and refreshments, including serves of Harvey Nichols Own Label Prosecco and alcohol-free sparkling wine from Wild Life Botanicals. Plus explore the range of bridal pop-ups from head-turning bridal shoes from Jimmy Choo to beautiful blooms from luxury local florist Snapdragon. Tickets are £10 per person and fully redeemable against beauty purchases on the evening of the event. Customers will also receive a goody bag of beauty treats to take home when they redeem their ticket against purchases, and a copy of *Your Scottish Wedding* magazine.

*Terms and Conditions apply. No minimum spend required. Book your ticket here: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bridal-beauty-event-tickets-400110109107

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Enjoy!

Terms & Conditions:

Closing date is 31st December 2022. The winner will be drawn at random and notified thereafter. This decision is final. The prize consists of a Harvey Nichols Beauty Sleep Hamper, a Harvey Nichols Happy Day Hamper, 1 x 1-hour hydrofacial treatment from Beyond MediSpa and 1 x Decadent Champagne afternoon tea for two at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh. Any beauty services or dining experiences that are part of this prize can only be redeemed at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh. The Decadent Champagne Afternoon Tea and the Beyond MediSpa treatment are valid for 12 months from the closing date of the competition. The prize can only be redeemed at the Forth Floor Brasserie and at the Beyond MediSpa aesthetic clinic at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh. This Harvey Nichols Beauty Sleep Hamper and Harvey Nichols Happy Day Hamper prize will be available for collection from Collect in Store on the Third Floor at Harvey Nichols Edinburgh and must be collected within six months of the competition end date. Failure to collect the prize within this allotted time will constitute a forfeit of the prize. Please note that allergens are used on our premises. Should you have any food allergies or special dietary requirements please inform your waiter on the day of your visit. All beverages may contain sulphites. Wines may contain sulphites, eggs, fish, crustaceans, milk or gluten used as a fining agent. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over and alcohol can be served only to guests who are both aged 18 years or over on the day of their visit. The prize is non-returnable, non-refundable and cannot be exchanged for cash alternatives, in whole or in part. Any additional items, not included in the prize, will be charged separately on the day of the visit and a discretionary 11.5% service charge will be added to the dining bill. Harvey Nichols reserves the right to provide an alternative prize of equal or greater value in the event of unforeseen circumstances. All prices are inclusive of VAT. Employees of Beyond MediSpa or Harvey Nichols, or concessions employees at Harvey Nichols, are not allowed to enter this competition and are not eligible to win. *Your Scottish Wedding is the media partner of this competition and is not responsible for the delivery of the prize. The arrangement of the prize package will be between the winner and Harvey Nichols Edinburgh.



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Scents of occasion



Think setting the perfect scene is all about the visuals? Think again. Katie Bletcher speaks to the experts on just how to scent your wedding



At a friend's wedding last year, I was struck not just by how beautifully it was all decorated but by the amazing perfume in the room. Unlike disorganised me (who had to forgo the 'Wedding Day' candle I'd intended to burn because it turned out to be a wax melt), this bride had thought of exactly how to scent her wedding.

And she wasn't alone. *Made in Chelsea's* Habbs recently discussed choosing her wedding scent, and more and more couples are making sure every sense is catered to. "This year we have noticed a huge increase in couples wanting to create a scent for their wedding day," explain Claire Brice and Jessica Roestenburg McCluskey of therapeutic wellness products company Oils in Bloom. "People love the idea of their venue smelling extra luxurious. You can use generic scents or even enjoy the experience of creating your own, using essential oils you love most." Claire Logan of ARRAN has also witnessed this upsurge; "We're finding people want to go all out and make their wedding day even more special because many have had to rearrange the event numerous times."

Making memories

Scent is not just something that adds to your day at the time but is intrinsic to how you'll remember it, something

that's down to the wonder of scent memories according to Claire at ARRAN. "These are recollections connected with

"Scent memories are recollections connected with fragrance that are very powerful, often evoking a vivid memory."

Claire Logan,
ARRAN

fragrance that are very powerful, often evoking a vivid memory," she says. "It's not uncommon for this to happen even years on from the particular event. So, for a wedding day, what could be better than being transported back to the joy you felt, every time you take a bath or light a candle?"

Scents of self

Looking through the beautiful wedding albums we receive, many include pretty set-ups from the morning including the bride's shoes, jewellery, and wedding day perfume, or the groom's aftershave and cufflinks, showing just how central perfume is. ARRAN has created an easy way to discover the perfume for you through the Fragrance Finder on their website, pairing your personality with

your perfect scent. Or if you'd like to sample before you commit, the ARRAN selection of discovery sets in a range of fragrances mean you can try for £10 before investing in a full-size product.

Luxury Edinburgh-based perfume company Jorum Studio is also no stranger to helping couples select their wedding scents. Co-founder and master perfumer Euan McCall explains they can either buy a specific Jorum Studio perfume or enjoy a more bespoke experience. "If it's a couple or individual coming to select a pre-made fragrance, we offer a complimentary

"We will try to get a portrait of the wedding and hone in from our own selection of about 15 scents."

Euan McCall,
Jorum Studio

profiling consultation," Euan explains. "We ask a lot of questions about their likes, dislikes, when the wedding is and where. We will try to get a portrait of the wedding and hone in from our own selection of about 15 scents."

However, if the idea of creating something entirely unique appeals,

Jorum Studio's bespoke service typically takes six months. "We ask a lot of questions about what they are looking for, their favourite and hated perfumes," says Euan. The company then send back responses to see if they are on the right track and there's usually some back and forth with monthly consultations. When the desired scent is achieved Jorum Studio will create an initial batch of four 30ml bottles of the complete perfume - a service which starts around £3,000. (Bottles can be engraved for an additional cost). These clients then have their formulation kept in the Jorum Studio archive, ready to be reordered when needed, for around £100. "It's a really true representation of that person," says Euan.

Scents of space

Your wedding scent isn't limited to your perfume, however. Candles have always added to wedding décor and atmosphere but instead of opting for unscented pillar candles, a perfumed alternative is a great way to enhance your overall experience. "We would recommend scenting your space with



candles on your table or in various points of the room to infuse your space with your chosen blend," say Claire and

Jessica of Oils in Bloom. "You can also choose reed diffusers or diffuser oils in electric diffusers if you want to infuse the air discreetly."

Euan says in the past they have catered for couples who have asked Jorum Studio to put their bespoke perfume in candles for the wedding as well as doing room sprays and diffusers, and they are always open to such requests.

In terms of how much will provide the perfect aroma, Claire at ARRAN recommends the company's 35cl candles to scent a large space. "Just a few should fill a room with fragrance very effectively," she says. "If you prefer not to light candles, our diffusers are a perfect choice, or if it's just a quick burst of fragrance you need, a few spritzes of our room sprays will produce a delightful aroma."

Do me a favour

Give your guests something extra special to take away from your wedding with a personalised wax melt, a votive candle or even a room spray suggest Claire and Jessica at Oils in Bloom. "You can incorporate scent in your wedding favours so your guests will be taken back to your special day," they say. And Claire at ARRAN says their miniatures always make good favours.



Especially for you

Did you know that Rachel Scott Accessories in Edinburgh is the exclusive retail partner in Scotland for renowned perfume company Miller Harris? The scent line was founded in 2000 by perfumer Lyn Harris and the accessories boutique offers a fragrance consultation to walk you through the different Miller Harris fragrances and choose the right one for you. Just imagine choosing your dream dress at Rachel Scott Couture and then finding a complementary perfume for your wedding. "Think about your personality when choosing

your wedding perfume and the scents you enjoy, whether that be something feminine and floral or something greener like a citrus scent," says Stephanie at Rachel Scott Accessories. And she reminds brides to consider their partner's scent too. "Both perfumes need to work together, particularly when you are standing next to each other!" And she advises always testing perfume on your skin, not just cardboard as scents smell completely different on people, all due to your pH balances not being the same.





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Take one venue, add three florists and décor specialists, two cake designers and one stationer to create three very different wedding vibes. Which will be your w-day style?

Bright & beautiful



Flower bomb

“The theme was to go bold on the colour, so I chose a blue, purple and yellow palette as they are the least requested colours! First, I suspended a fun ‘flower bomb install’ from a beam - created mainly with mixed trailing foliage with a few statement florals for interest. Suspended items are so popular right now and can be that wow factor when you walk into any space. I think something like this works best in a more urban venue or sperry tent. I have done quite a few recently and they can have a huge impact!”

Kim Dalglish, **Kim Dalglish Florist**



Larger arrangements (from £70), smaller arrangements (from £30), candleware, napkins etc all priced to hire on request, all **Kim Dalglish Florist**. Kim says anything suspended would start from around £200-£300 for a small piece like this one – pictured on opposite page.

Deep purple

For the tablescape Kim mixed up grey ceramic compotes and bud vases, all filled with deep blue and purple lupins, delphiniums, agapanthus and lavender with softer yellow dahlias, and pale lilac reflexed roses too. She finished the look with a couple of statement alliums and anthuriums to add the extra texture, and styled the table with mixed candleware and complementing coloured candles and napkins, which all enhance any table. "The overall look was interesting with a modern edge," says Kim.



Be our guest

Beth Morris of Love, Beth - Design Co's beautiful welcome sign is the perfect way to give your guests a glimpse of what's to come and her wide selection of wedding day stationery means you're free to style it to fit your wider décor look - we're in love with the wax seals!

A1 welcome sign (£50), bespoke menus (from £1 each with no name card or wax seal, from £1.75 each with wax seal, and from £2 each with wax seal and name card), place cards with wax seal or ribbon (from £1.45 each), all **Love, Beth - Design Co.**



Blush full moon gate (£350), Love Rocks sign – one of 12 designs (£175), blush and foliage centrepieces with gold geometric stand (£75 each), cylinder vase candles (from £4.50 each), all **Make Believe Events**



Aisle style

“Archways are one of the biggest trends right now. For many years we saw the ceremony space as the neglected part of the day but it is now proving more popular to decorate, and we believe it should be given special attention as it is the most photographed part of the day and also the real reason everyone is there!”

Heather McGowan, **Make Believe Events**

Make Believe Events has different archways available with something to suit each setting.

Their moongates look amazing in various indoor settings but are also full enough that they provide a great backdrop to an outdoor ceremony too.



Two looks for one

“Rather than blowing the budget to get the ceremony decorated we try to help the couple with items that can be used in the ceremony and the reception. Archways are great to become a backdrop for the top table or cake table after the ceremony while centrepieces can frame an aisle, with taller centres giving a showstopping look on top of plinths, and candles at floor height creating a romantic ambience.”

Heather, **Make Believe Events**

Let them eat cake

“This cake reflects my modern take on a ‘blush’ theme. Celebrating individuality with a balance of elegance, space and texture via the body of the cake and the sugar flower decoration.”

Alison Kelly, **A Bonnie Wee Cake**



Subtle blush

Love, Beth's 'Lewis' collection was the inspiration for the elegant blush theme (pictured left) while the Shetland collection with its dried flowers (pictured above) looks gorgeous in this setting.



Opposite page: Blush and foliage centrepieces with gold geometric stand (£75 each), cylinder vase candles (from £4.50 each), gold candlesticks (from £3.50 each) and gold charger plates (£1 each), all **Make Believe Events**. This page: Top left - Elegant blush cake (£795), **A Bonnie Wee Cake**, bottom left - Blush menu with wax seal (from £1.75 each), **Love, Beth - Design Co**, bottom right - 'Shetland' collection invitation with RSVP and details card, vellum jacket and dried flowers (from £5 each) and A5 order of service (from £1.50 each), **Love, Beth - Design Co**.

Where the wild things are



“Everything I do is kind of wild, relaxed and romantic. I made the arch arrangement with a branch, wire and moss base and then built it up using a base of greenery and florals on top. The moss keeps things hydrated and it’s all reuseable and biodegradable.”

Helen Hardman,

The Greenshed Flower Studio

This page: Decorated arch (£330), and meadow boxes (£42 each) and aisle décor made with peonies, astrantia, cornflowers, nigella, veronica, ammi, daisies, mint, eucalyptus, allium, gypsophila, moss, grasses, scabious, ferns and pinecones. Opposite page: Three meadow boxes (£42 each) and six vases (£11 each) decorated with peonies, astrantia, cornflowers, nigella, veronica, ammi, daisies, mint, eucalyptus, allium, gypsophila, moss, grasses, scabious, ferns and pinecones (total table décor £192), **The Greenshed Flower Studio**, A5 order of service booklet (£2 each), **Love, Beth – Design Co.**





Helen grows many of her own flowers and she deliberately attached the arrangement to the arch separately so it can be taken off easily and used elsewhere after the ceremony.



Rustic romance

"I wanted to create a wildflower meadow to bring the wild in. The whole aesthetic is really relaxed so avoid anything too structured. It should all feel pretty wild and it's a very intuitive process. It would suit a laid-back space like a lovely rustic barn or old mill."

Helen,
The Greenshed Flower Studio



Ceremony and table décor by **The Greenshed Flower Studio** as before, A5 card order of service (from £1.50 each), **Love, Beth - Design Co**

Something different

“My inspiration behind the cake was going for the pastels theme but doing something non-traditional and different from the norm.

I wanted something bright and colourful that wasn't your traditional white wedding cake. It was created using rice paper sheets which we individually dyed and shaped into sails and positioned to cascade down the cake.”

Kerrie Wardlaw, **Crumbdillyumptious**



Colourful cake with rice paper detailing (£650), **Crumbdillyumptious**

Behind the scenes

Urban chic

The Weaving Shed has got to be one of the coolest new venues around. Located in the city of Dundee, renowned for its textile heritage, in a former high end decorative textile factory on Old Glamis Road, owner Hamish Milne has transformed it into a gorgeous blank canvas wedding space, waiting for you to let loose and style just how you choose. You'll love the exposed brick, concrete floors, high pitch ceilings and industrial architecture, all flooded with natural light, not to mention the amazing bar. If you're looking for an unconventional setting for a wedding which combines industrial-chic vibes with all the charm of a country barn, in a convenient city location you need to check out this space.

theweavingshedstudios.com



Behind the lens

Photographer Laura A Tiliman is an international fashion, wedding and portrait photographer, based in Scotland. Years of experience and Laura's keen eye for detail combined to capture the beautiful images in this shoot. She says, "This photoshoot was the equivalent of Disneyland, but for a photographer. The décor, themes, the details, as well as a beautiful, bright and open space made it all a dream come true.

lauratilimanphotography.tumblr.com



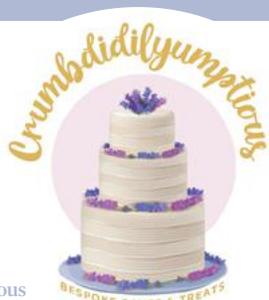
Laura A. Tilman Photography

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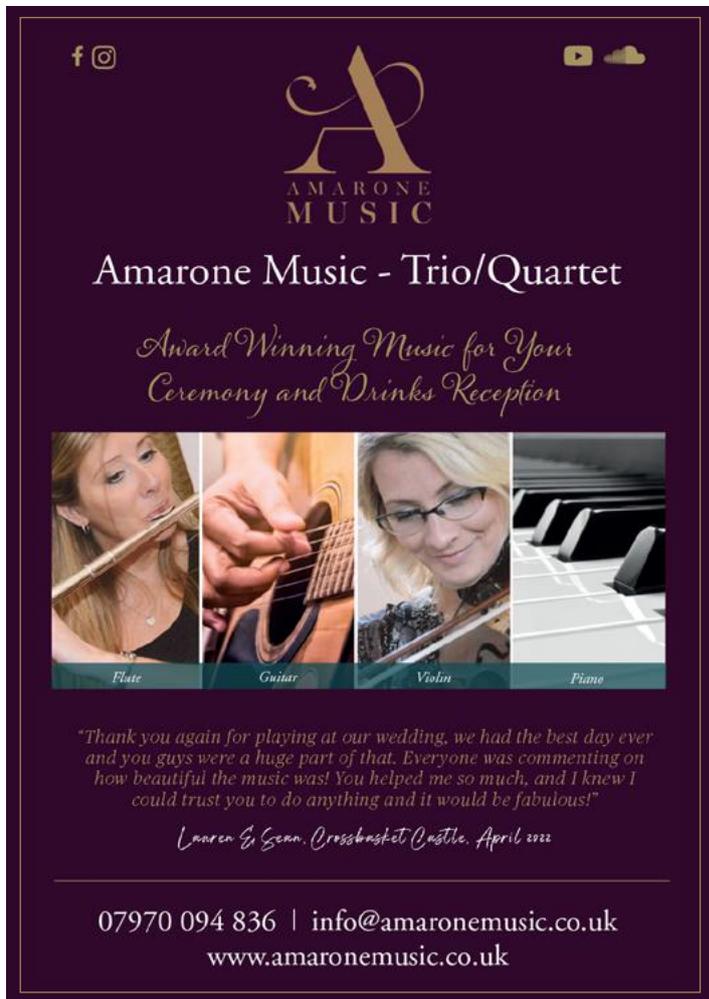


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Lauren & Sean, Crossbasket Castle, April 2022

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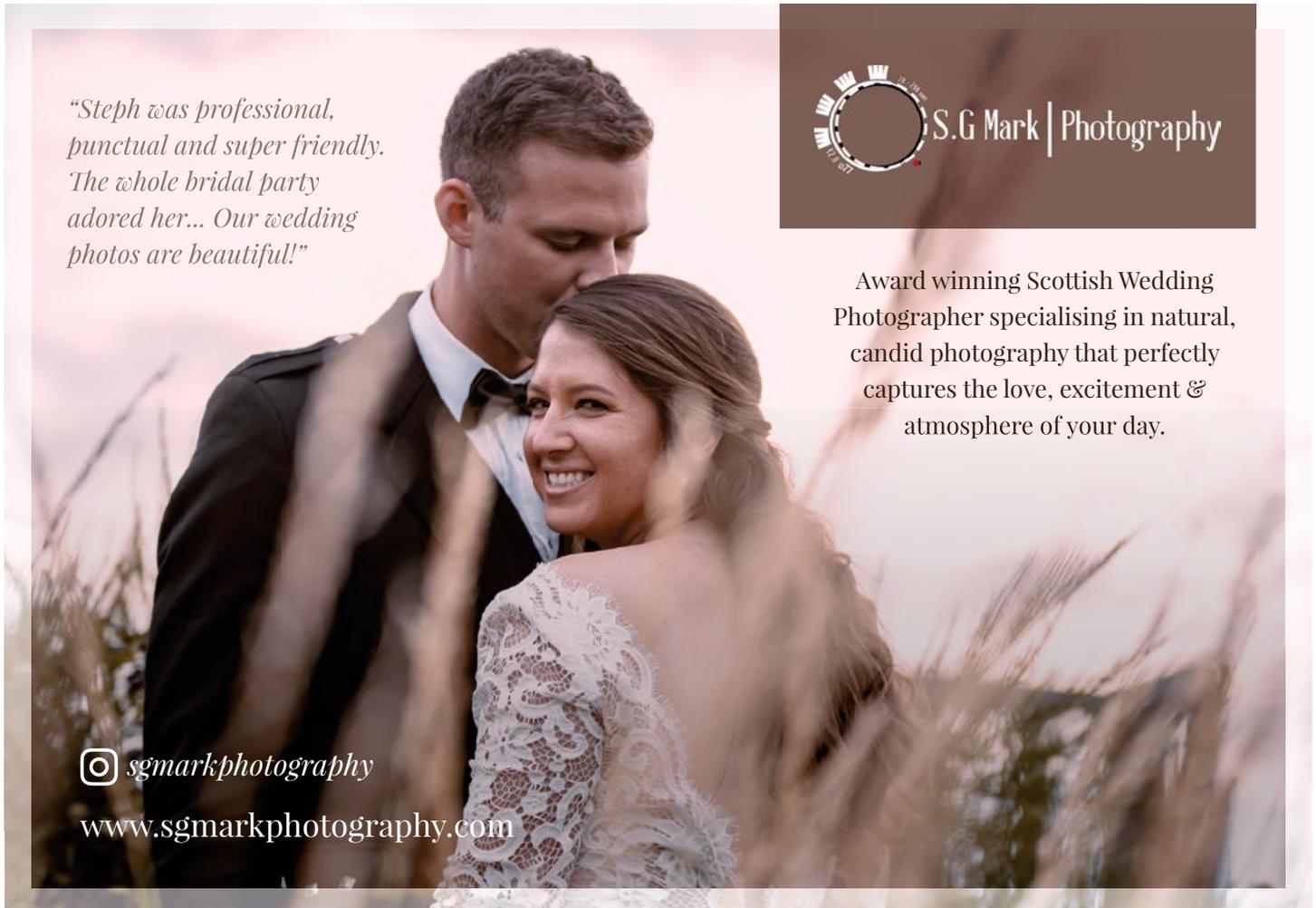
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Laura A Tilman Photography

Want to bring along an extra 'accessory?' Furry friends are always welcome, according to Fotomaki Photography's Sarah!



Fotomaki Photography



Richard Craig Photography



Laura A Tilman Photography



Richard Craig Photography



Fotomaki Photography

Meet your new **BEST FRIEND**, the engagement shoot!

Got an hour to spare amidst your masses of wedmin? We thoroughly recommend spending it with your photographer and seeing what it's like to be pictured. Simply pick a place (the more meaningful the better!) and let the pre-wed shoot begin. It can be as simple as a walk in the park...

At Laura A. Tilman Photography, photographer Laura has lost count of how many couples have said they hate being snapped but, she says, by the end and without fail every couple has had a relaxed and fun experience. Phew!

Laura's engagement shoots take

place a few months pre-wedding and last an hour and a half. You'll meet in a spot with meaning and simply have a wander, chatting about wedding plans. "We always end up having a great laugh," she says.

Sarah Craig of Fotomaki Photography agrees that hanging out with to-be-weds is the key to great on-the-day images. "We want to get to know you so by the time the wedding comes around we've already bonded and got inside jokes. We'll also know best how to direct you - you'll know exactly what I mean when I say, 'Stand like you did under the cherry blossom in the park.' This will make your couples shoot much quicker - less time away from your guests and the party!"

At Richard Craig Photography, he uses pre-wed shoots to understand couples' likes, dislikes and comfort zones so they can be as relaxed as

possible on the big day. "By getting to know them, we can gauge what they are and aren't comfortable with. Would they want to kiss in front of the camera, for example?"

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Firstly, hopefully, you'll see it's not so scary being photographed and the experience will banish some of those on-the-day nerves, says Sarah. "Yes, the first few minutes will feel awkward but after that it's all fun, I promise!"

It's not all about the shoot, though. You get a bank of beautiful images - "A lot of my couples use their photos for invitations and décor," adds Laura - and you'll see what you look like in professional pics. You can let your photographer know what you loved and didn't love about the end result, allowing them to fine-tune their plans for capturing you on the day.

What should I wear?

Panicking that on your wedding day you'll be snapped after a morning of hair and make-up but you won't have the same entourage for an engagement shoot? Don't worry, says Richard. "You don't need hair and make-up done - just come as you are, be yourself and go with the flow."

That said, if you have trials to book, combining them with this photography sesh could be helpful. "You'll see exactly what it'll all look like in images," explains Sarah.



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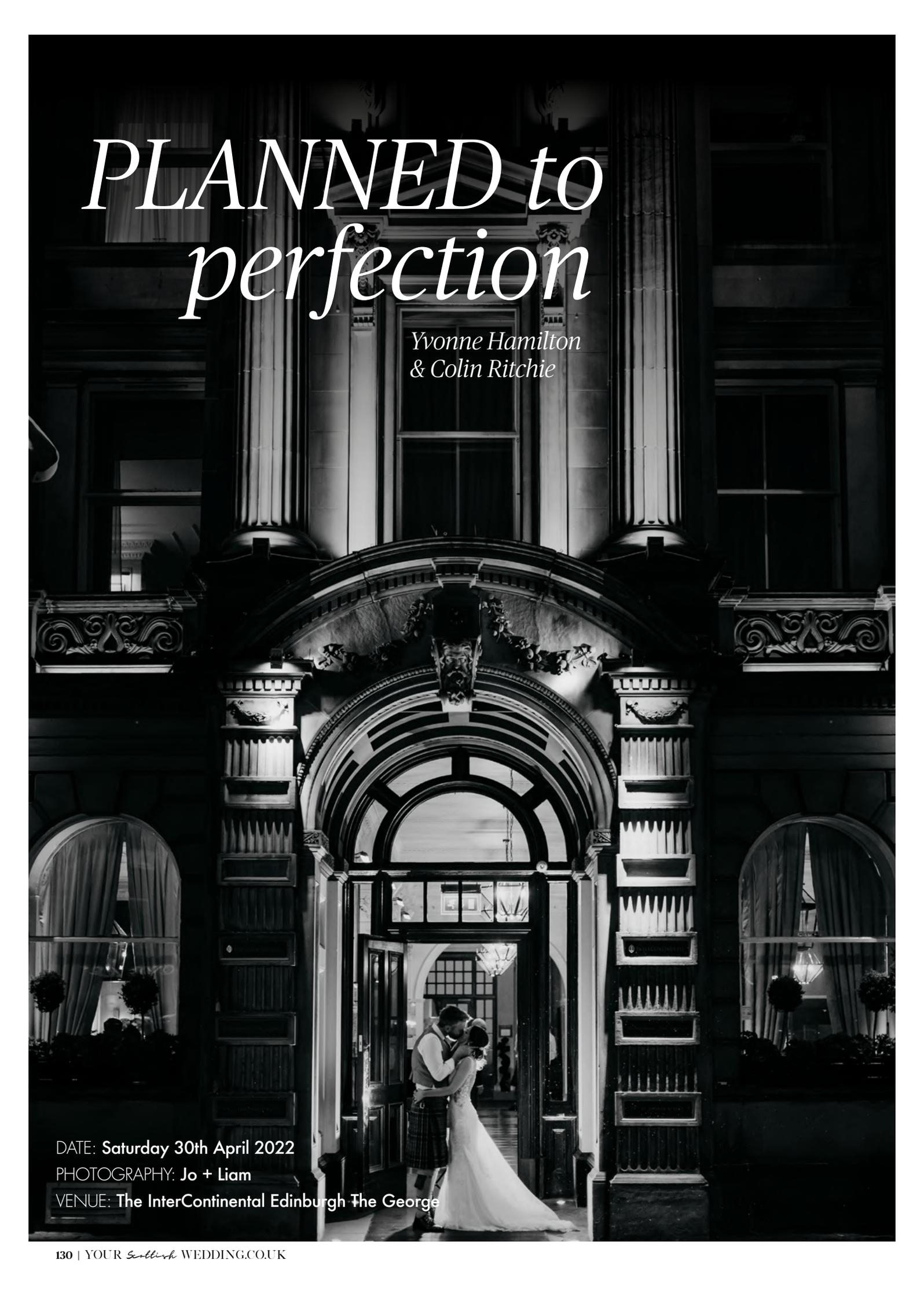
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A serene landscape featuring a large, dark, textured rock in the foreground. Behind it is a calm body of water, likely a lake or river, which reflects the sky and the surrounding trees. The background is filled with a dense forest of tall, dark evergreen trees. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Your Wedding Day





PLANNED to perfection

*Yvonne Hamilton
& Colin Ritchie*

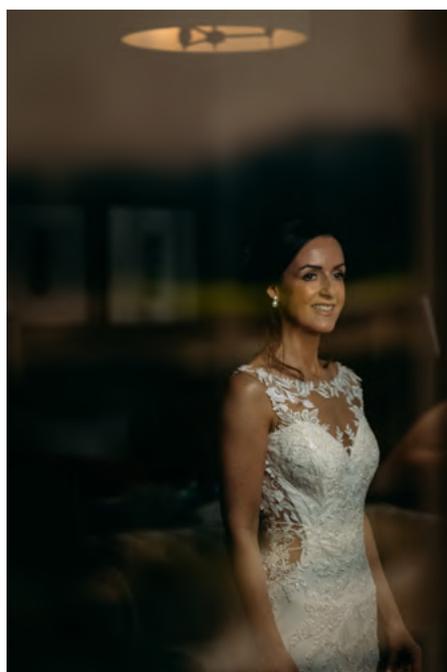
DATE: **Saturday 30th April 2022**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Jo + Liam**

VENUE: **The InterContinental Edinburgh The George**



As an executive assistant, event planning comes naturally to Yvonne. So, it's no surprise that she absolutely loved pulling her Edinburgh city wedding together...



It was love at first swipe when Yvonne and Colin first set eyes on one another on Tinder and five years later, he shocked her with a proposal on Pettycur Beach in Fife whilst they were out walking their puppy, Dougal.

Executive assistant Yvonne was eager to get stuck into planning. "It wasn't stressful at all," she remembers. "It's my job to be organised and I loved organising the wedding!" Within two weeks of booking the venue, she'd also secured her MUA, hairdresser, florist, band, photographer and celebrant! "I actually chose the date according to the make-up artist's availability... That's when you know a supplier is good," she laughs.

A TWIST OF FATE

With a firm colour scheme in mind (oyster for the girls and grey for the guys), it was time to start outfit shopping and the bride was first up. Always on the ball, Yvonne had already fallen in love with a dress online.

"I saw it was stocked in a boutique in Dundee so made an appointment

and, meantime, popped to another store. I tried on a few beautiful dresses but every time I'd be comparing to what I'd seen online... I was certain it was "The One"! I told the assistant and she said she thought it was stocked in Aimee Bridal Couture, just along the street."

Yvonne instantly called the boutique and couldn't believe her luck when she heard there was one left in stock - and it was discounted due to being discontinued! "There were no appointments that day but when I explained I was certain it was my dress, and it was the only one I wanted to try, the owner Lindsay kindly offered me a slot."

After so much anticipation, though, she couldn't quite believe it when she tried on the gown and "just wasn't feeling it". Reluctant to see a disheartened bride, Lindsay promptly presented Yvonne with a selection of further dresses and, low and behold, dress number three was love at first sight. "You know that feeling everyone talks about when you instantly know? Well, I knew! If I could bottle that feeling, I'd be able to sell it and make a small fortune," laughs Yvonne.



“I loved the look of the King’s Hall at The InterContinental Edinburgh The George, plus the venue is right across the road from Le Monde Hotel, where we’d had our first date.”

Yvonne

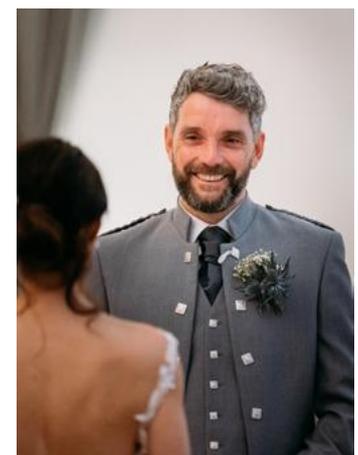


Keeping her bridal style simple and classy, she accessorised her backless, fishtail Lillian West gown with fresh flowers, elegant pearl earrings and “the most amazing Jimmy Choo shoes”.

Yvonne’s best girls (her sister, her oldest niece and her best friend) wore stunning satin dresses from Ghost whilst her younger niece - a very cute fairy flower girl - won everyone over with her peach tutu, gold sparkly wings and matching shoes. Meanwhile, Colin, his two best men and his *best* best man, his son Mason, were handsomely kitted out in grey tartan kilts.

As level-headed on her wedding morning as she is in her high-pressure work environment, Yvonne felt “completely relaxed and chilled” when she woke up on the big day. Whether it was the reiki session she’d had from her make-up artist on the lead-up or the chilled sleepover with her BFF the night before, the stars aligned and she had a fun-filled morning getting ready.

Feeling happy, excited and a tad emotional, she headed down the aisle to meet her husband-to-be with Christina



Perri's *A Thousand Years* playing on a speaker. The couple said their vows in a humanist ceremony that was relaxed and fun, setting the tone for the rest of the day.

SURPRISE, SURPRISE!

They celebrated with fizz and canapés, and let guests take advantage of the ultra-Instagrammable floral wall from Make Believe Events. Then, providing plenty more photo opportunities, the couple had booked the Silver Service Singers instead of favours. "They were amazing and totally got the party started, which is what I intended," says Yvonne.

After everyone enjoyed a delicious meal courtesy of the venue's in-house caterers and took note of the gorgeous DIY table décor made by the bride's aunty, it was speech time then party time! A further 71 guests arrived to join the 109 already there and Yvonne admits it was hard to decide on splitting the daytime and evening guest lists - plus she and Colin faced the age-old debate of whether single guests should have a plus one.

Now that it's all over Yvonne looks back and remembers their day fondly, with not just one but three highlights - becoming Colin's wife, the singing waiters and their dog making a surprise appearance.

"Now we're married it does just feel the same as being engaged," she says. "Except that our family - Colin, his son Mason, me, Hugo the cat and Dougal the dog - now feels complete."



BAND

Aurora Wedding Band

BRIDE'S DRESS

Lillian West at Aimee Bridal Couture

BRIDE'S SHOES

Jimmy Choo

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Ghost

CELEBRANT

Marilyn Jackson of Humanist Society Scotland

ENTERTAINMENT

Silver Service Singers

FLORAL WALL

Make Believe Events

FLOWERS

Poppy Floral Design

GROOM'S OUTFIT

McCalls Highlandwear

HAIR

Aileen Blackadder at Smiths Hair Room

MAKE-UP

Calleigh Togher Artistry

RINGS

ROX

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Great crowd, fab couple! It's clear to see Colin adores Yvonne. We loved seeing his reaction to her walking down the aisle. And we loved that she kept him on his toes with a few surprises throughout the day. They're both so loved by their friends and family."

Jo + Liam



Mack Photo

Life's a beach

Bethany Lawler
& Greig Robertson



DATE: Saturday 12th March 2022

PHOTOGRAPHY: Robert Lawler Photography

VENUE: Seamill Hydro Hotel



This couple opted for an elegant light blue and peach theme for their beautiful seaside wedding

Bethany and Greig had been together just under five years when he surprised her with a picture-perfect proposal in front of Disneyland's Magic Castle. The couple first met when they worked together at The Byre restaurant in East Kilbride and although they'd chosen her ring together - "Greig was unsure what I would like and straight away I saw the one that was just perfect" - Bethany had no idea when or how he would propose.

The couple had been to a friend's wedding at Seamill Hydro and loved the day, the décor and the views so when it came to searching for their own perfect setting there was little competition. "Having looked at a few venues, it was obvious to us that nothing compared, and we couldn't wait to book," smiles Bethany. Other suppliers were also easy choices. They booked their videographer Candlelight Pictures

quickly and the bride's uncle just happened to be a photographer, making that decision a no brainer; "We couldn't have asked for anything more from my uncle who captured our day perfectly. It was so special." Greig's cousin's wife is also the florist Denise Wright Floral Design, who provided the stunning bouquets and arrangements and added a special memento to Bethany's own flowers. "My bouquet featured a pendant with my dad's fingerprint on it and a ring which belonged to Greig's nana," she says. "This was such a nice touch to honour their memory and still have them as part of our special day."

A BUMP IN THE ROAD

However, it wasn't all plain sailing. They were originally due to say 'I do' on 4th April 2020 but with just two weeks to go the country went into lockdown.

Bethany and Greig originally switched to December but by that August things weren't looking much better, and the venue asked them to reserve another date. "By then, Greig and I decided that 2020 just wasn't our year and made the decision to move the wedding to 12th March 2022," remembers Bethany. "Seamill were absolutely outstanding in the support they offered us."

The couple had fallen in love with Seamill Hydro's existing décor and didn't want to over-complicate things with too many extras. However, keen to give their wedding a personal touch, Bethany made the centrepieces from glass domes with battery-operated candles surrounded by artificial flowers for the table and roped in her sister, and maid of honour, Rachel to create table plans, table names and all the wedding signage in keeping with her chosen pale blue and peach colour scheme.



As the big day finally loomed, Bethany remembers feeling so excited. They stayed at the hotel the night before and she and her bridesmaids checked into the Glenashdale Suite for some last-night-as-a-miss fun. “The girls had decorated the room with balloons, and we had afternoon tea booked which was delivered to the room for myself, the bridesmaids, my mum and Greig’s mum to enjoy,” she says. Then after dinner the girls gave Bethany her “Bride” pyjamas and the earrings she’d wear the next day along with a book of photos and letters from each of them and the two mums - “Safe to say, I was emotional reading each of the letters!”

In the morning Bethany chose to do a dress reveal as only her mum and Rachel had seen it until then. Her beautiful strapless A-line gown with its embellished bodice was only the second one she had tried. Once all her bridesmaids were ready, they left the

room to let Bethany get into her dress, shoes and accessories so they could see the full look. “It was so nice to see their initial reaction,” she says. “There were a few tears but thankfully the make-up stayed in place!”

Walking down the aisle with her mum to Alan Cranney singing Ed Sheeran’s *Tenerife Sea*, Bethany was just so happy she and Greig were finally getting married. Their humanist celebrant Stephen McKerr allowed them time to relax into the ceremony, telling the story of how they met, prompting some laughs. “Stephen did the most amazing job,” smile Bethany. “There was just the perfect mix of emotion and laughter throughout. I felt quite calm saying our vows.”

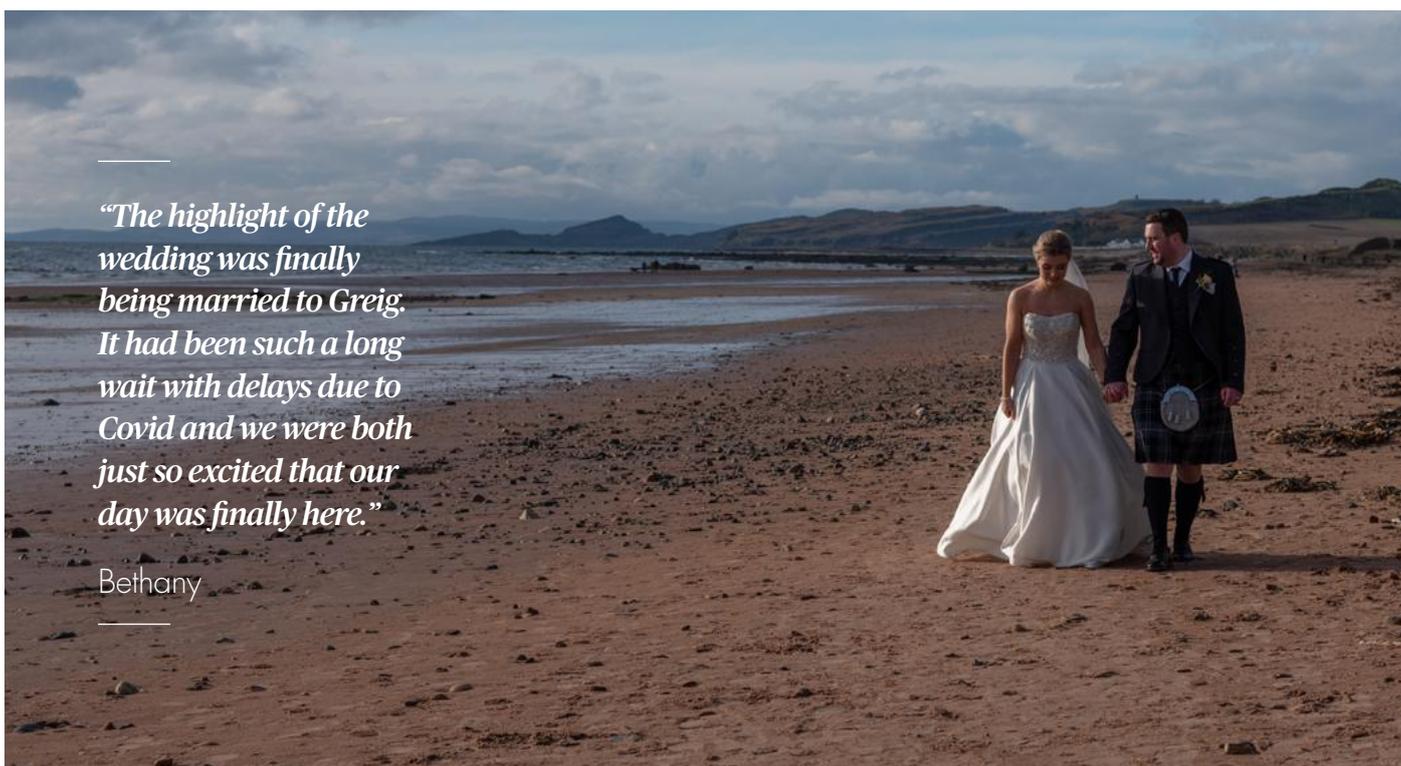
WELL SAID

After the ceremony, Alan Cranney continued to entertain the guests and then it was onto the wedding breakfast, with a menu Bethany and Greig had had great fun selecting during a tasting.

The speeches were a combination of emotion and laughter with Bethany’s sister Rachel getting up to speak. “It meant so much to Greig and I,” says the bride. “Rachel and I promised each other we would do a speech at one another’s weddings to represent my dad who sadly passed away in 2015.” Then the best man had everyone laughing and Greig’s speech was “perfect” with just enough emotion and comedy.

The amazing evening reception was filled with fun as The Trueloves band kept the dancefloor full all night, complete with a conga winding around the entire room - “It was so lovely so see everyone having a great time!”

The couple were sure to take in all the special moments, pausing throughout the day to enjoy everything they had worked so hard on. “We were both just so, so glad that we could celebrate our big day with all of the people we wanted there,” says Bethany. “After all of the worry and stress, we finally got the day we had always wanted.”



“The highlight of the wedding was finally being married to Greig. It had been such a long wait with delays due to Covid and we were both just so excited that our day was finally here.”

Bethany



BAND

The Trueloves

BRIDE'S BRACELET

Chisholm Hunter

BRIDE'S DRESS AND VEIL

David's Bridal

BRIDE'S EARRINGS

Liberty in Love

BRIDE'S ENGAGEMENT RING

Goldsmiths

BRIDE'S HAIR VINE

ASOS

BRIDE'S SHOES

Charlotte Mills

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

ASOS

CAKE

Jappacakes

CELEBRANT

Stephen McKerr of Caledonian Humanist Association

CENTREPIECES

IKEA, The Range and Country Baskets

FAVOURS

Etsy

FLOWERS

Denise Wright Floral Design

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Slanj Kilts

HAIR AND MAKE-UP

Laura Gray Hair Beauty Bridal

SINGER

Alan Cranney Music

VIDEOGRAPHY

Candlelight Pictures



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"To be involved in any couple's wedding is both a pleasure and privilege. So, to be the photographer for my niece was such an honour. Such a beautiful day and such a gorgeous couple."

Robert

Robert Lawler Photography

At last

Debbie Edmond
& Andrew Craig

DATE: Saturday 2nd April 2022

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY: Goose Green Films & Photography

VENUE: The Balmoral Hotel, Edinburgh

*Our 'I do' diary couple
Debbie and Andrew
married in style in a
classy Edinburgh city
centre wedding*

Debbie is one of those brides whose natural gift for organisation carried her (and husband Andrew) through with minimal stress - so much so that in Andrew's vows he mentioned he "loved her love for planning!" So, despite having to delay their wedding by a year because of Covid and juggling wedmin with their young son Lewis, this bride nailed it! She even found time to share her journey with YSW over the last year in her 'I do' diary column.

Debbie and Andrew first met at the casino on York Place in the capital 12 years ago and they'd been together for a decade by the time he proposed. "It was Valentine's Day 2020 in our house," she smiles. "He gave me a card from our little boy Lewis (who was two weeks old at the time) saying 'Daddy has an important question to ask you and I hope you say yes.' We then went ring shopping and out for lunch."

For a bride who likes a plan, finding



ivory and aubergine. “I initially wanted the bridesmaids in black, but my mum struggled to get on board with that plan!” she laughs. In the end her sister - who was her maid of honour - and sister-in-law, who was bridesmaid, were dressed in the aubergine/plum tone Debbie loves so much. With her niece as flower girl and little Lewis as page boy, her bridal party was complete.

THE PERFECT LOOK

Debbie began the hunt for her dream dress with a very specific look in mind. She had her heart set on a beautiful fitted Modeca gown with long lace sleeves, but it wasn't to be. “Having just

had a baby a few months prior my body disagreed!” she remembers. Despite the disappointment she still had a brilliant shopping experience with her mum and ‘maids, drinking fizz and trying on about 20 dresses.

A trip to Gwenne Wedding Services was more successful with Debbie finding a simple off the shoulder boat neck gown that turned out to be The One. “Gwenne was absolutely brilliant and put me at ease straight away, having felt insecure about my post-baby body,” remembers Debbie. “She suggested I try on a different dress than the ones I'd picked, and I instantly loved it!”



their perfect venue wasn't exactly straightforward. “I was set on Edinburgh Castle but the function suite was a little smaller than what we were after,” explains Debbie. “My dad suggested checking out The Balmoral.” The couple fell for the iconic Edinburgh hotel and booked the Holyrood and Waverley suites.

The perfect setting may have taken a while to find but Debbie always knew her colour scheme would be



After waiting an extra year for their delayed date, the couple were so excited to finally get to their April wedding. Debbie stayed at The Balmoral the night before with her bridesmaids and they went out for dinner with her parents and Lewis. He stayed with her mum and dad while Debbie and the girls spent the night in the bridal suite. “We planned an early night but ended up sitting up till 2.30am drinking prosecco!” she says. “Luckily Helen from City Brides was on hand the next day to keep those tired eyes away.”

The couple chose to marry in a humanist ceremony and had worked with their celebrant Alan Ness over many emails to create something they felt truly reflected their personalities and “wasn’t too cheesy.” Walking down the aisle to the Beyoncé version of Etta

James’ *At Last*, Debbie felt more nervous than she had expected. “My main focus was don’t cry and ruin your make-up!” she says. Debbie and Andrew stuck to traditional vows and she admits it was quite overwhelming saying them in front of everyone.

EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

While Debbie and Andrew were having their photos taken, they left their guests to be entertained by their amazing saxophonist Trav who played throughout the champagne reception, before it was on to a sumptuous three-course meal.

The couple list menu tasting as one of the highlights of the entire wedding planning journey, when The Balmoral treated them to a private room overlooking Edinburgh Castle to sample

different options and the champagne and wines they would serve. In the end they went for the opposite menu to what they expected. And while Debbie says Andrew was very chilled and pretty much left planning to her, he was very into choosing the food!

The bride remembers the speeches fondly saying the two best men’s true or false game about Andrew was “particularly amusing!” Then the guests hit the dance floor to band Velvet Noir. “Everyone was in great spirits and danced the night away until the lights came on,” says Debbie. “Seeing all our friends and family in one room after two years of Covid restrictions and not being able to see people was a real highlight. And seeing our little boy Lewis in his little kilt was also precious.”





“It feels exactly the same to be married but we’re glad we have taken the step to fully commit to each other after so many years together.”

Debbie



- BAND**
Velvet Noir of Coast Entertainments
- BRIDE’S DRESS**
Gwenne Wedding Services
- BRIDE’S SHOES**
Always the Bride at
Sophie Grace Couture
- BRIDESMAID AND FLOWER
GIRL DRESSES**
JJS House
- CAKE**
Liggy’s Cakes
- CELEBRANT**
Alan Ness of Humanist Society Scotland
- FLOWERS**
Garlands Florist
- GROOM’S OUTFIT**
McCalls Highlandwear
- HAIR AND MAKE-UP**
Helen at City Brides
- RINGS**
ROX
- SAXOPHONIST**
Saxingh
- STATIONERY**
Mairi MacSween Designs

PHOTOGRAPHER’S CREDIT

“Fabulous day celebrating Debbie and Andrew’s wedding. It’s hard not to forget climbing onto the roof of the Balmoral Hotel to capture those special views of Edinburgh for the couple. Always willing to go above and beyond for our special couples.”

Sylvia and Grant
Goose Green Films & Photography





To have and to hold

*Niomi Brough
& Graham Nichol*

DATE: **Saturday 12th February 2022**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Willow & Wilde Photography**

VENUE: **Kinmount House, Annan**



This couple pulled off a stunning wedding in just three short weeks after the groom's cancer diagnosis worsened

When Graham and Niomi first started planning their wedding they opted for a two-year engagement, wanting to leave enough time for their fun-filled celebration to be unmarred by pandemic restrictions. The couple first met when he was looking for support with the Dumfries Show Food Festival, which he manages. He visited the Kirkcudbright Farmers Market which Niomi ran at the time, and they became "best of friends from that day on!"

Two years later Graham picked the perfect moment to propose beside the chiminea in Niomi's parents' garden. A visit to Kinmount House in October 2020 soon decided their venue and they booked an August 2022 date. "It took our breath away when we came up the drive," says Niomi. "It's just the most stunning home and it allowed everyone to be together for the weekend with the use of the on-site luxury accommodation, gorgeous

rooms to marry in and a stunning reception venue."

But then Graham was sadly diagnosed with bowel cancer in February 2021. He was initially told it was curable and they decided to continue with their August 2022 plans. However, his diagnosis worsened and when in January 2022 they were told he had a much shorter life expectancy they pulled the wedding forward by six months. "The priority was still about having as much laughter and joy as possible, but also included the need to ensure we could still have the big day we wanted," says Niomi. With the help of their excellent photographer Vicki at Willow and Wilde, and Victoria at Kinmount House they were able to bring about their dream day in just three weeks. "Vicki was phenomenal," smiles Niomi. "When we needed to move our wedding day, she went above and beyond, sourcing suppliers and roping

in anyone and everyone to help create an incredible day."

KEEP IT SIMPLE

Niomi always knew she wanted a simple, crisp, elegant theme and favoured one with whites with green foliage, including eucalyptus accents. Dumfries Wedding Rooms brought her vision to life, dressing the venue and lining the aisle in the orangery with large silver lanterns. Then Niomi's auntie Margo created beautiful bouquets and window boxes, which were filled with rosemary and white cyclamen in memory of the bride's nana.

The couple kept their wedding party within the family, with Niomi choosing her daughter Niamh and sister-in-law Jackie as bridesmaids, while Graham's nephews Grant and Craig performed best men duties, Niomi's brother Callum was usher, and her son Struan was their ring bearer.



“It was so much fun meeting the large amount of wonderful people who went above and beyond and made our day so incredibly special. I can’t begin to tell you the impact Vicki has made on our lives!”

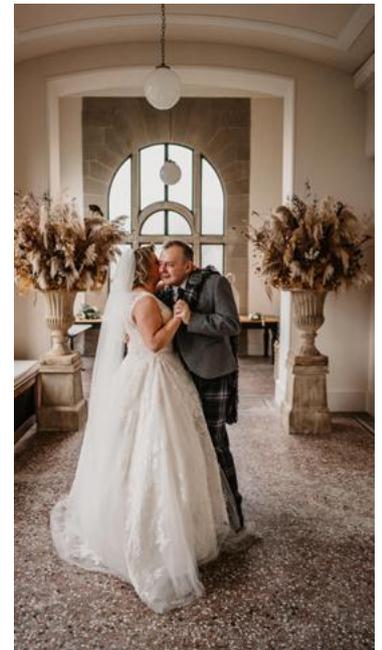
Niomi

FROM THE HEART

Walking down the aisle to Fleetwood Mac’s *Songbird*, Niomi remembers feeling so excited. As a member of the Church of Scotland it was important to Graham to marry in a religious ceremony and Rev Elsie MacRae presided over their wedding. “There is no one in this world like Elsie,” smiles Niomi. “She is kind, compassionate, helpful, friendly, relatable, and thoroughly heart-warming. She supported everyone on the day. She knew the journey we had been on and knew how emotional it would be. She let people talk, cry, and laugh.”

The couple wrote their own vows, combining them with the traditional religious ones. “We both felt we had more to say and promise one another than the traditional vows,” says Niomi. “Our life together would not be as long as most marriages and our relationship was, and had always been, a little bit different. Our vows were incredibly emotional, and I felt a little overwhelmed saying them. I felt that no matter the words, they would never reflect the love and adoration I have for this man.”

Following the ceremony, guests were treated to drinks and fabulous canapés in the main house while Niomi and Graham enjoyed a private first dance in the orangery - one of her favourite moments.



“In all of the excitement and thrill of the day, Graham and I got a few minutes of calm together to dance, cry and just be together to soak up what our day truly meant to us.”

The speeches - both heartfelt and funny - were also a special moment. Niomi’s dad trod the line between hilarity and emotion masterfully while Craig’s speech honoured his uncle. “The highlights were often the punchline,” remembers Niomi. “Both my father and Craig made a point of noting the ever so slight

age difference - 20 years!” As for the groom, his own speech was incredibly moving and from the heart.

Niomi and Graham kept their day intimate with only 42 guests, but they were joined in the evening by an additional 30 for dancing, cake and more beautiful food. “The evening reception was so much fun,” says the bride. “The atmosphere was just overwhelmingly one of sheer joy. Everyone was in fantastic spirits.”

Looking back, she can’t quite believe she’s finally Mrs Nichol. “I never thought I’d be lucky enough to marry my best friend, yet here I am, living the dream.”



BAND

The Jordan Murray Band and The Green Wedding Band

BRIDE'S DRESS AND VEIL

Oleg Cassini at David's Bridal

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Matt Aminoff from Mr Harold & Son

BRIDE'S SHOES

Dune London

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Sorella Vita

CAKE

Rosewood Cakes

CELEBRANT

Rev Elsie MacRae

DÉCOR AND STATIONERY

The Wedding Room

GROOM'S OUTFIT

MacGregor & MacDuff

GROOM'S SHOES

Hawes & Curtis

MAKE-UP

Beauty by Hania

RINGS

ROX



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"Niomi & Graham needed to bring their plans forward very fast due to Graham's ill health. My inner wedding planner vibes took over and within a couple of weeks they tied the knot! It was an honour to not only be their photographer but play such a significant role in their journey from the beginning. It was an emotional day, it was always going to be, but that's why I love what I do, life is precious and how precious it is to be able to give someone these gifts."

Vicki
Willow & Wilde

Rustic luxe

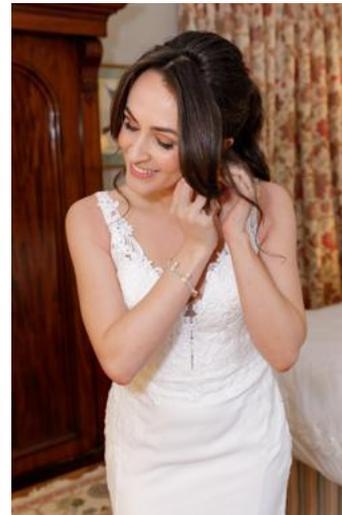
*Christina Douglas
& Gavin Malin*



DATE: Saturday 12th March 2022

PHOTOGRAPHY: Rankine Photography

VENUE: Rosebery Steading, Gorebridge



Stunning new venue Rosebery Steading was the perfect setting for Christina and Gavin's relaxed and rustic day...

When they started wedding planning in 2020, visiting their top choice location - Italy - was out of the question due to the pandemic. So newly-engaged Christina and Gavin set out to find a place equally as special right here on Scottish soil. "We wanted somewhere we could host our closest friends and family to make a weekend of it. We also wanted somewhere a little unique, and somewhere we hadn't been before," explains the bride.

It wasn't long until they came upon Rosebery Steading, a stunning rustic-luxe barn venue that ticked all their boxes. "We fell in love as soon as we got there," says Christina. "Everything was perfect, from the bathrooms in the accommodation to the reception rooms. It felt like a holiday home, which was exactly what we were looking for."

A CHILLED APPROACH

The rest of the plans fell into place just as easily, with Jackie, the couple's photographer, providing loads of support, inspo and ideas, plus Christina's nearest and dearest being on hand when needed. It did help, though, that the to-be-weds had a super-relaxed vision for their day. "We didn't want anything OTT and the venue was already so beautiful on its own," says Christina.

Enhancing the already impressive reception and dining room was a full family and bridesmaid effort the day before the wedding. Christina's mum made the chair ties and tablecloths, whilst the bride had sourced greenery for the tables and placed it herself. The look was topped off with rustic favours from Etsy - pretty, personalised

candleholders. After the prep work, the couple treated their helpers to pizzas made by Giovanni Pia and his team, whilst the bride's brother led a quiz - a great ice breaker.

Christina woke "absolutely buzzing" and had a chilled start to her big day with a delicious breakfast, courtesy of her brother and his girlfriend, before getting made up and into her gown. She'd approached dress shopping with an open mind but as soon as she started trying on, she quickly realised lace and a detailed train were must-haves. Third shop lucky, she found The One in Bliss Studio. "Stephanie who owns the shop is incredible. She made me feel totally at ease and gave a very honest opinion," remembers Christina. "I totally fell in love with the long, detailed train and the dress felt so comfortable. I knew I'd be able to dance all night in it!"



She added luxurious Charlotte Mills shoes, a ‘something borrowed’ bracelet that her bridesmaid Nikki had worn on her wedding day and a beautiful opal necklace, which husband-to-be Gavin had gifted her that very morning. This worked perfectly with the opal earrings from her mum and the opal ring that had been in her family for generations.

A vision of bridal beauty, Christina took to the aisle to meet Gavin as *Heartbeats* by José González played. “I was so, so happy. Seeing everyone’s smiling faces is a memory I’ll never forget,” she says. The couple married in a humanist ceremony, conducted by Sandy Caldwell, as they wanted the opportunity to make the moment their own.

Afterwards, the newlyweds embraced this season’s trend of going all out with food and impressed their 90 guests with a delicious menu from family-run catering company Stocks Events. “We loved our tasting session and now our friends and family are raving about how amazing the sticky toffee pudding was,” laughs Christina.

After speeches from Christina’s dad, Gavin and Gavin’s brother - “They were really good and funny, and everyone loved them” - it was time to party. Their first dance, an acoustic version of OMI’s *Cheerleader*, got everyone on the floor and they stayed there until the very end of the night!

ON REFLECTION

Looking back, Christina feels super-lucky to have had a “totally stress-free lead up to the big day.” She admits this is largely due to having plenty of time to plan, but also being organised and making sure to tick some things off the to do list each week. As such, she’d advise other to-be-weds to enjoy the planning process because it will all come together on the day. She also suggests you celebrate whenever possible on the run up... Now, that kind of advice we can get behind!

Having enjoyed every minute of their wedding weekend, the new Mr and Mrs admit they’re thoroughly looking forward to their honeymoon... To Italy, of course!





“We wrote our own vows and kept them a secret from each other until the day. It made it extra special and was a little surprise for each other.”

Christina



BAND

Carlyle

BRIDE'S DRESS

Bliss Studio

BRIDE'S SHOES

Charlotte Mills

BRIDESMAID DRESSES

Next

CATERING

Stocks Events

CELEBRANT

Sandy Caldwell of Humanist Society Scotland

FAVOURS

Etsy

FLOWERS

Garlands Florist, Planet Flowers

GROOM'S OUTFIT

McCalls Highlandwear

HAIR

Fiona Jackson at Wave Hair Studio

MAKE-UP

Jenna Clayton Makeup Artist

RINGS

laings

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

“Christina, Gavin, their friends and families were just so relaxed and up for a fun, fun time, as you can see from some of the morning shots with the bridesmaids. It was the first time out-out for many people post-Covid. It was also really inspiring from a photographer's point of view to be shooting at a brand new and beautiful venue.”

Jackie and Alan
Rankine Photography



A bicycle made for two

Alicia Lauckner
& Nuala Deans

DATE: Saturday 20th March 2022

PHOTOGRAPHY: Simons Studio

VENUE: Comrie Croft

*Romantic woodland
vows, dreamy DIY details
and not one but two
gorgeous gowns... Get
your relaxed and rustic
wedding inspo right here!*

Three years after meeting at work, Alicia and Nuala were due to marry in March 2020, two days before the first national lockdown, and like so many other couples had to delay. They rebooked for December 2021 but the pandemic had other plans and, finally, it was third time lucky. "It was the same weekend as our original plan - just two years later. But we did actually get married on our original date!" says Alicia. "It was a little impromptu, in a wee park by the

registry office with our parents as witnesses and Colin the Caterpillar as our wedding cake!"

Keen to celebrate in full post-lockdown with their loved ones, finding a venue they could host a fun, relaxed weekend wedding for 100 was their top priority. Comrie Croft, which had space for most of their guests to stay and allowed the brides to unleash their creativity, was the first and only venue they visited.



can truly relax and not have spreadsheet content floating around your head on your wedding day!"

They made Comrie their own with handmade bunting, floral ladders, a homemade arch and old bicycle wheels that were spray painted and decorated with fresh flowers. A friend designed the stationery, Alicia's artistic sister Deb was responsible for the quirky, personal signage and the couple sourced their

seed card favours from Etsy.

Taking advantage of the weekend-long stay, everyone arrived the night before and enjoyed chilli cooked by Nuala's uncle, then toasted marshmallows in the courtyard. The following morning, they woke to beaming sunshine - ideal for the imminent outdoor ceremony - and Nuala, who was four months pregnant at the time, was delighted to be morning sickness-free.



BRINGING THE VISION TO LIFE

"We wanted a rustic and relaxed vibe with some Scottish elements, and almost everything was DIY," says Alicia. "The toughest thing was trying to make sure we'd thought of all the wee details, rather than the big things or major suppliers everyone typically thinks of. I'd advise other couples to try to delegate as many on-the-day jobs as you can in advance. That way, you



“The wedding morning was a lot of fun,” remembers Alicia. “We had a fun ‘bootcamp’ for guests, then they sat having breakfast in the courtyard.”

Meanwhile, the brides got into their bridal attire. Both totally on-trend with lace, Alicia picked up her sleeveless gown second-hand whilst Nuala’s ASOS number was super-flattering on her blooming bump. They accessorised with dried flower hairpieces and added Hunter wellies for the rustic al fresco ceremony; “Not spending a lot on the dresses meant we didn’t mind them getting a little muddy in the woods!”

‘I DO’ TAKE TWO

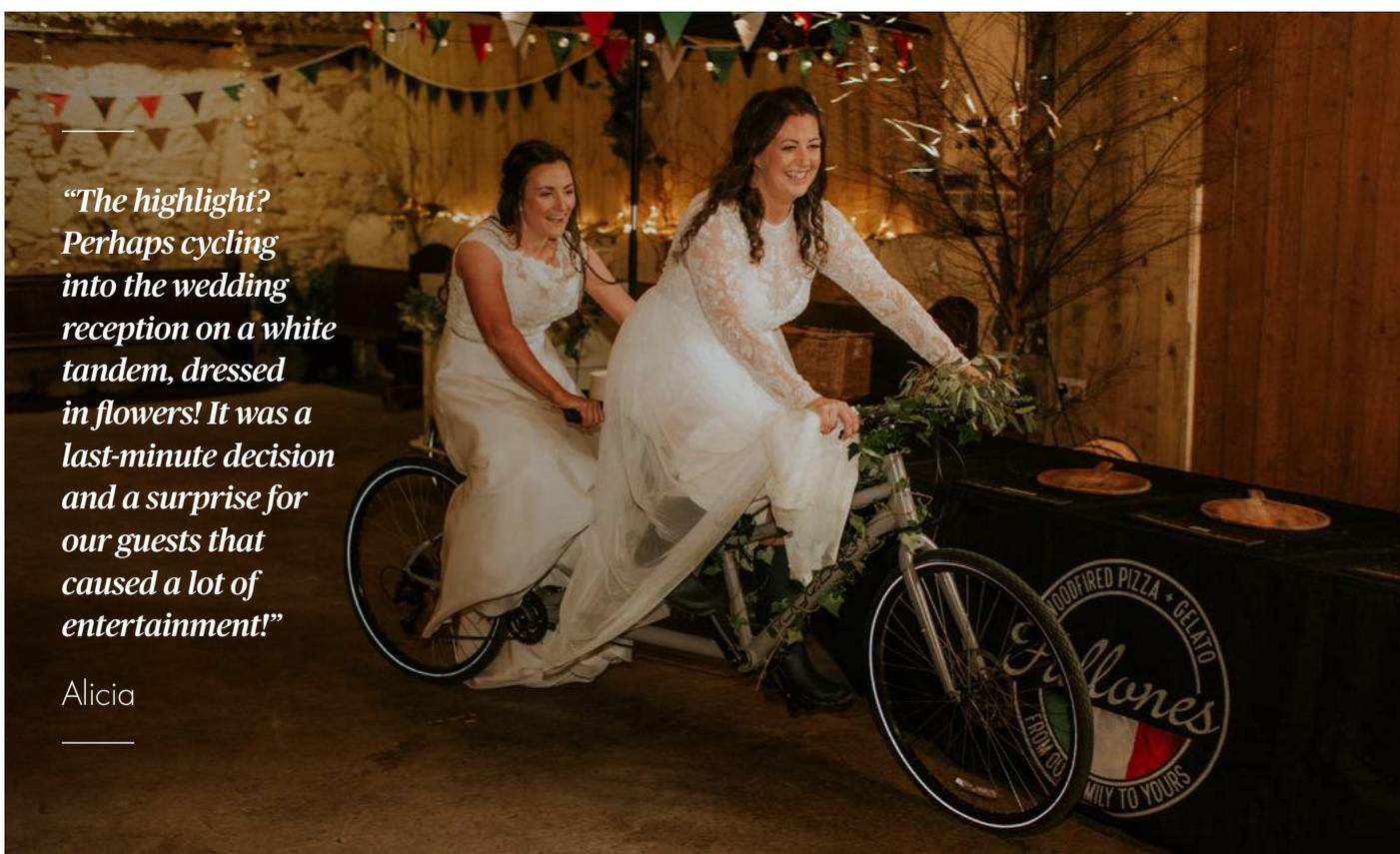
With the spring sun shining, the brides were piped down their individual aisles -

“As we were already married, there were probably fewer nerves than their might have been” - before celebrant Judith Williams did the honours for the second time. “Jude married us in 2020 and very kindly did the ceremony again with a few amendments for our friends and family,” smiles Alicia. “We incorporated a few different elements - ring-warming and sand-pouring - and had written our own vows. We read them two years prior, but felt it was special for everyone else to witness them too.”

Afterwards, ‘ciders and sliders’ from funky food van Stag Bites The Hog “went down a storm” with the newlyweds and their guests, before a relaxed buffet-style meal provided by Fallon’s Pizzas. “Who doesn’t love pizza and ice-cream? We

also had a range of canapés, antipasti and salad, and they were brilliant at catering to dietary requirements.” After speeches (the highlight being the dubbed over video version of *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air* from Nuala’s ‘maids’) they rounded the foodie offering off with cakes from Cuckoo’s Bakery in Edinburgh. “The vegan Oreo cake was a real winner!”

With dancing finally back on the cards, six-piece Sahara played a range of songs, including ceilidh, before the great outdoors beckoned once again - this time for sparklers - and everyone enjoyed the grand finale... A silent disco! “We’re really glad that we had the party bit of the wedding. It felt worth the wait to have all our loved ones in one place after so much time apart,” concludes Alicia.



“The highlight? Perhaps cycling into the wedding reception on a white tandem, dressed in flowers! It was a last-minute decision and a surprise for our guests that caused a lot of entertainment!”

Alicia



BAND

Sahara

BRIDE'S DRESS (NUALA)

ASOS

BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES

Debenhams

CATERING

Stag Bites The Hog, Fallone's Pizzas

CELEBRANT

Judith Williams

CAKE

Cuckoo's Bakery

CAKE TOPPERS

Animal Party Toppers

ENGAGEMENT RINGS

Macintyres of Edinburgh

FLOWERS

Florence and Flowers

HAIR

Hunky-Dory

MAKE-UP

Helen McNeill Bridal Makeup

PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"What a day with Nuala and Alicia! It's not often you can do an outdoor ceremony in March but, lucky for them, it was unseasonably warm and the sun was splitting the sky. I'm a big fan of Comrie Croft as it attracts awesome people who want a fun, rustic, non-formal day filled with music, drinks and love."

Simon

Simons Studio

◦ SIMØNS STUDIO ◦
WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

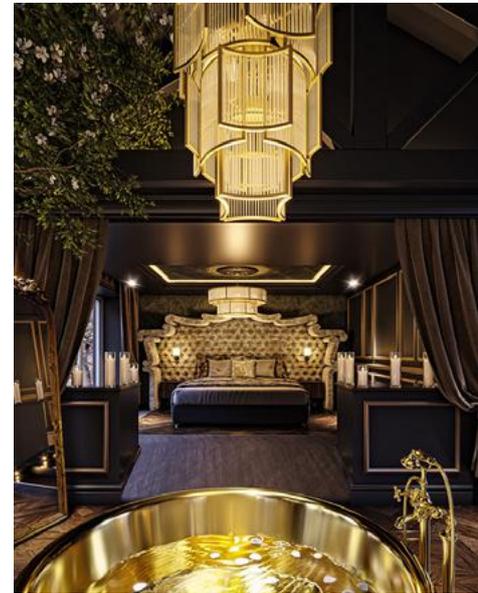
Your Scottish Venues





Your Scottish Venues

NEWS & PROMOTIONS IN SCOTLAND



TO THE MANOR(VIEW) BORN

It's all go at Manorview recently. The hotel group took over Brisbane House Hotel in Largs and Bothwell Bridge Hotel, making them the 10th and 11th in the collection of Scottish properties. The company has vast experience in the industry with its portfolio already including the likes of Bowfield Hotel and Country Club, Cornhill Castle and Boclair House Hotel so couples with their weddings booked at Brisbane House and Bothwell Bridge can rest assured their big day is in safe hands.

But that's not all. Manorview has also recently transformed a bungalow at The Redhurst Hotel (pictured above) into a romantic suite with a garden for newlyweds to enjoy. The Garden House has been completely refurbished and features a luxuriously decorated bedroom with a standalone copper bathtub, an en suite with side-by-side sinks and an impressive wet room, as well as a living room with a dining space and private bar. Outside you'll find a private garden with a hot tub, firepit and TV, along with pretty planting and a wedding pagoda, designed to create a gorgeous backdrop to your wedding photos. Just another reason to say 'I do' here!

manorviewhotels.co.uk



CELEBRATE GOOD TIMES

Are you planning a micro-wedding on Skye? The Sonas Hotel Collection, which owns the island's Duisdale House Hotel, Toravaig House Hotel and Skeabost House Hotel, has launched its new celebration package - perfect for intimate wee weddings with a minimum of 10 and maximum of 26 guests.

The package includes a private function room either from 12 noon to 5pm, or from 5pm to 10pm with a background music system, all tables, chairs, linens, crockery, cutlery and glassware, a dedicated event host on the day, biodegradable balloons, a celebratory cake for up to 20 guests and a shuttle service. Simply choose from the standard (£89pp), enhanced (£99pp) or supreme package (£119pp).

skyehotel.co.uk

THE GLOW-UP

Have you visited The Gailles Hotel & Spa in Irvine recently? Not only was it named the Best Spa & Leisure Hotel at the 2022 Prestige Hotel Awards, but it's been undergoing a beautiful renovation. The rooftop conservatory has been given a facelift with a plantation beam installed along the ceiling, bringing the outdoors in, along with the new sliding barn doors at the back of the room which, when pulled back, reveal a beautiful lake mural. The outdoor rooftop area has also been given a garden feel and we're loving the new pavilion - a gorgeous setting for your ceremony with seating for 180 guests. The surrounding moat with its fountain and the walkway built out over the pond provide the perfect backdrop for your just married photos.

Inside, the Lagavulin Suite has been getting a full refurb with the new light grey colour scheme giving it an airy feel while the "porthole" design in the ceilings and on the walls carries through the nautical theme from Coast Restaurant & Bar.

gailleshotel.com



Florals by Enlighten my Day



Florals by Daisy D Does

Date for your Diary | *Sunday 30th October*

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club is hosting its annual supplier wedding show where to-be-weds will find everything they need for their big day. Couples will have a chance to tour the hotel's bridal and honeymoon suites. You can also check out the rest of the gorgeous venue, which sits in 1,000 acres of glorious countryside with photo opportunities aplenty.

Senior weddings and events co-ordinator Jordan Young is bringing together 30 of the venue's best suppliers for the show, from transport and entertainment, to hair and make-up artists. Entertainment will also be provided, with a bridal catwalk and a live wedding band to help you plan your dream wedding. There's even a chance to win a romantic overnight stay and dinner for two at the hotel! Find out more on the Dalmahoy website or contact Jordan.young@dalmahoy.co.uk

dalmahoyhotelandcountryclub.co.uk



MID-WEEK WEDDING

Fancy saying 'I do' in the heart of Glasgow's West End at the iconic Òran Mór? If you're not fussed about getting hitched at the weekend then you'll love the venue's new mid-week package, which is available Monday - Thursday from just £76 per person. Your guests will be treated to a three-course meal with a glass of fizz or beer, half a bottle of wine or water and a glass of fizz for the speeches. You'll also benefit from the experience of Òran Mór's award-winning wedding co-ordinator, exclusive hire of the auditorium until 2am, a master of ceremonies, white table linen and tea lights and much more. Sounds like a great deal!

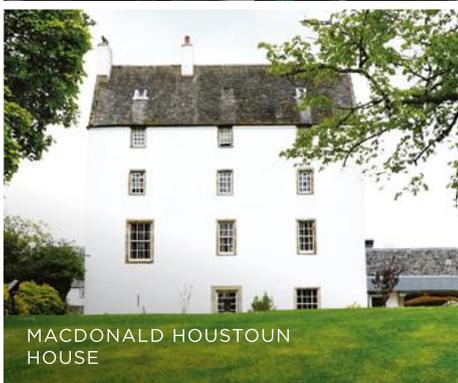
oran-mor.co.uk



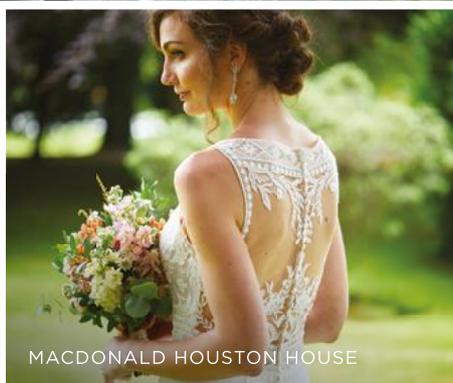
A day for You Made by Us



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HOTEL & SPA



MACDONALD HOUSTOUN
HOUSE



MACDONALD HOUSTOUN HOUSE



MACDONALD CARDRONA HOTEL,
GOLF & SPA

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CITATION

Historic, grand, elegant, vibrant, rustic... And all yours! Glasgow venue Citation offers exclusive use for you and up to 130 guests, plus a further 70 at night. The Merchant Suite will be dressed to perfection for your nuptials then turned around for the meal whilst you take advantage of The Balcony (iconic yet understated and fully heated, this is the perfect place for fairy lit photographs with a chic city backdrop) and The Taverne Bar. You'll find yourself back in The Taverne at night when the mood-lit dancefloor becomes the heart of the venue, ready for partying the evening away. The cherry on top? Citation's award-winning wedding co-ordinator has planned picture-perfect ceremonies for more than 15 years, so you'll have endless expertise at your fingertips!

citation-glasgow.com



CORNHILL CASTLE

If you'd love a dreamy wedding in your very own romantic country manor, look no further than Cornhill Castle. Nestled deep in the Scottish countryside and offering some of the best panoramic views around, the Renaissance-style hotel is a bit of a hidden gem. Making planning easy, they offer a range of packages or the option to create something bespoke. Going full fairytale? Check out the Timeless package, which comes with a swanky red carpet, statement throne chairs and elegant candelabra to really help you set the scene. When the day is done, rest your newlywed heads in the showstopping Balmoral honeymoon suite but don't forget to tell your bridal party about the luxurious lodges on-site... There are hot tubs!

cornhillcastle.co.uk

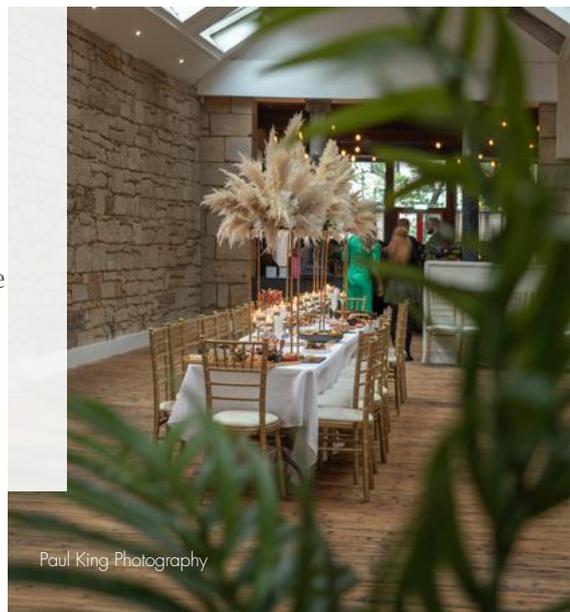
Exclusively YOURS

If you love hosting at home, hiring a venue that's entirely yours may well be one of your top wedding planning priorities. And we can't blame you - who doesn't want to be the star of the show on their wedding day? Here are some of our favourite exclusive-use venues in Scotland, ready and waiting for you to shape your day exactly as you want...

THE HABERDASHERY

After lying vacant for six years, an old haberdashery on Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street has become an inspiring blank canvas, exclusive-use wedding venue - and you could be one of the first to tie the knot there. Co-directors Afton Ferguson and Nikki Fairfull have cleverly created the perfect balance of restoring the inspiring space whilst retaining the historical magic of the building, and now it's over to you! Unleash your wedding vision in the industrial yet rustic function room, which has been stripped right back to take advantage of the handsome original hardwood flooring, exposed brick walls and atrium ceiling. Here, there's space for around 120 seated and then 200 standing so time to start drafting that guest list!

thehaberdasheryglasgow.com





Chris Henderson Photography

CLUNY CASTLE

Tucked in acres of wooded parkland and hidden from view until you're upon the magnificent mansion and its beautiful grounds, Cluny Castle is nothing short of breathtaking. Set in the tranquil Aberdeenshire countryside, it's a much-loved family home that can be hired by you and you alone for your special day. Ramp up the romance and marry in Cluny's very own chapel (complete with stunning stained glass windows, dark oak pews and a private courtyard entrance), then take your pick from the memorable settings in which to celebrate. The opulent dining room and drawing room suit wee weddings of up to 24 whilst the Tenants' Hall can host almost 100. Going bigger? Erect a marquee on the lush, landscaped grounds, using the castle as a majestic backdrop.

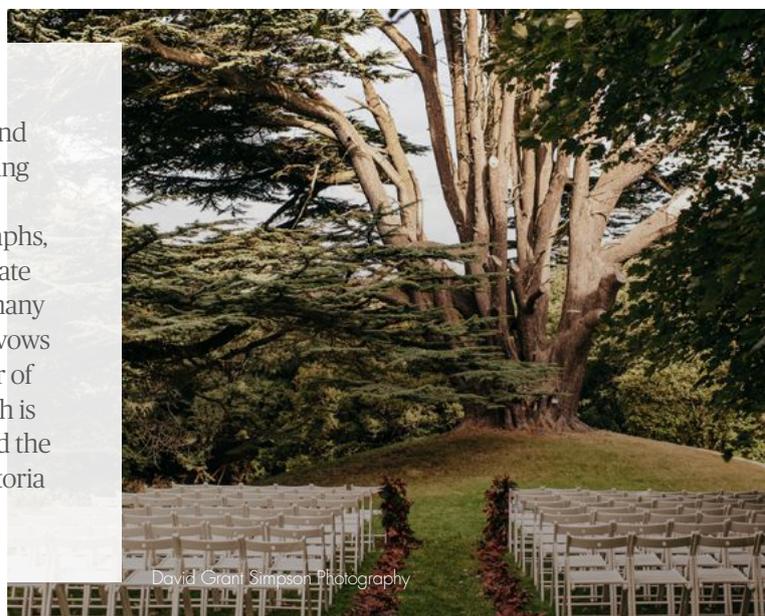
clunycastle.com

BROXMOUTH COURTYARD

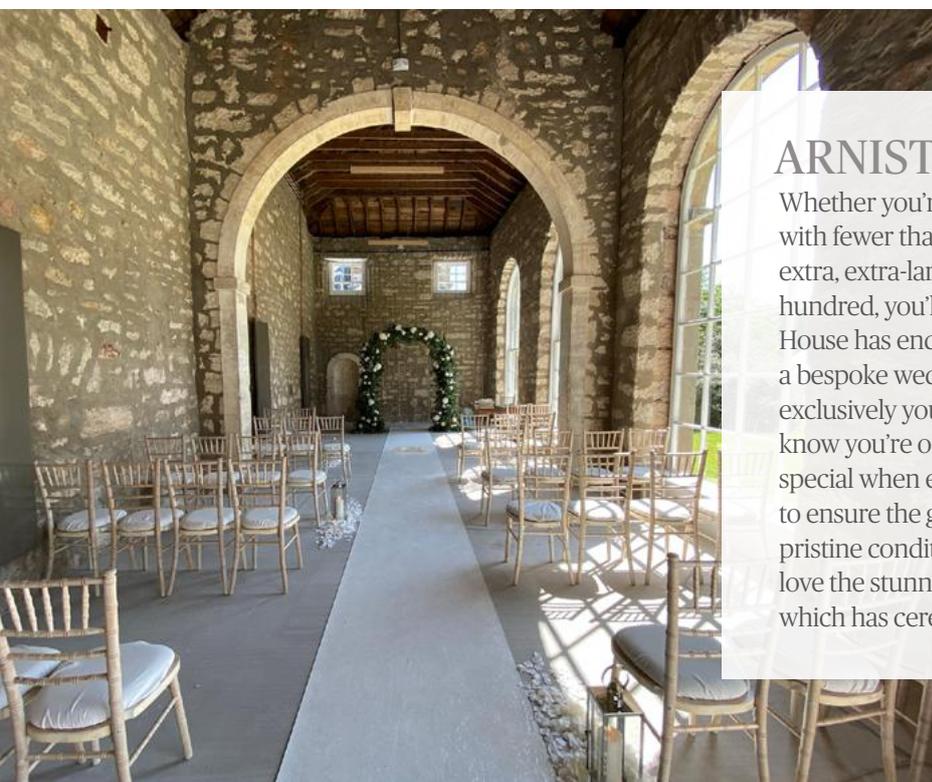
Indulge yourselves by tying the knot at Broxmouth Courtyard, Broxmouth Park Estate's new and luxurious exclusive-use venue. Developed within the old stable buildings, the original features provide plenty of character and rustic charm but there's a real air of elegance too. As if the double height ceremonial hall and the bright, spacious old cart shed (it has six skylights... six!) weren't

broxmouth.com

enough to wow you, you'll find three characterful self-catering cottages within the venue courtyard. And for photographs, take your pick from the private woodland or the lake. FYI, many couples choose to say their vows under the estate's two Cedar of Lebanon trees - one of which is more than 500 years old and the other planted by Queen Victoria back in 1878.



David Grant Simpson Photography



ARNISTON HOUSE

Whether you're keeping it small with fewer than 50 or going extra, extra-large with several hundred, you'll find Arniston House has endless options for a bespoke wedding day that's exclusively yours - and you know you're onto something special when events are limited to ensure the grounds are in pristine condition for you... We love the stunning Orangery, which has ceremony seating

for 150 and room for 120 for a sit-down dinner. But the newly landscaped marquee suite has piqued our interest too! There's space for a structure up to 20m deep by 36m long and you'll still have the beautifully manicured lawns to enjoy games, relaxing and more. Arniston House sits just 11 miles from Edinburgh, but you'll feel a million miles away...

arnistonhouse.com



a wedding for *every* dream

Culzean Castle - Photography by Samuel Quinn



something *old*

Brodie Castle



The Hermitage - Photography by Ross Walker

something *wild*



something *quirky*

Pollok House - Photography by The Gibbons



Fyvie Castle - Photography by Neal Murray

something *styled*



NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

Which dream is yours? Visit nts.org.uk/weddings

The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410

CALLING

the shots



When your wedding day needs to run exactly to plan, Katie Bletcher discovers hiring a toastmaster may be one of the smartest decisions you make

Have you ever been to a wedding where you got the impression the bridal party was winging it? You know the sort; there's confusion over the order of the speeches, the line-up is a bit of an afterthought and there's a scramble to find the newlyweds for their first dance. In other words, it's a wedding where no one's running the show.

When you've spent months, if not years, planning, it would be a shame to join those rudderless ranks by having no clear structure on the day. Enter the toastmaster. You may be forgiven for thinking this is largely a ceremonial role with someone who just gathers everyone's attention sporadically, but that's far from the truth.

In fact, hire a toastmaster and they may just save your wedding, working discreetly to keep things moving according to plan.

Brian Baxter the Highland Wedding MC is a member of the Scottish Toastmasters Association and started 12 years ago after witnessing many poorly-run weddings. According to Brian, toastmasters are a huge phenomenon in England where it's not uncommon to have two at your wedding. But in Scotland, he says there was a gap in provision. "Hotels just didn't have the right theme or experience in making announcements and it is still left to the duty banqueting manager, or in some cases, the hotel manager to look after the wedding from start to finish."

But what exactly does a toastmaster do? Well, for starters they can add a certain gravitas to your big day and really look the part. "Trews are a must," says Brian. "As is the famous 'red coat'. It keeps you totally in command and control of vendors, working in conjunction with them. It gives

a look of friendly authority." However, your toastmaster's work starts long before the wedding. They should be in contact with you in advance to run through details of all the arrangements and those taking part and can give planning advice where appropriate.

Then on the day your toastmaster should be there at least an hour before people arrive to ensure the wedding is conducted as planned and support everyone involved, including all your suppliers. Duties throughout the day, as outlined by Brian, include supporting the bridal party, organising a receiving line, assisting photographers and videographers, and advising guests on seating arrangements.

They will also call guests to the wedding breakfast, announce the entry of the newlyweds, say grace, introduce speakers for the toasts, read cards and messages, as well as

organising the bouquet toss and a scramble if you fancy. And Brian likes to put a Highland twist on proceedings, providing



the quack for the piper's dram from the bride and even reciting some Burns. And if you really want, he'll explain the rituals surrounding the cutting of the cake and lend you his military sword to do the honours.

Need someone to handle the bouquets or pass around the guest book for signing? No problem. Your toastmaster can even make sure your auntie gets into a taxi safely at hometime. Now doesn't that sound like a dream service?

Brian Baxter

THE HIGHLAND
WEDDING MC



Introducing the Highland Wedding MC - Brian Baxter, a Fellow of the Scottish Toastmasters Association. Intimately providing a structure for hosts and guests of any function - Formal or non - Formal.



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The Fairy Pools, Skye - David Grant Simpson Photography

YSW on tour | Over the sea to Skye

Katie Bletcher travels to “the misty isle” to discover the delights of Duisdale House Hotel and the grandeur of Skeabost House Hotel



First stop, Duisdale House Hotel...

Driving down Skye's Sleat Peninsula I'm getting excited. I'm on my way to Duisdale House Hotel; one of the Sonas Hotel Collection's three properties, and a former Victorian mansion which dates back to 1865. And turning into the driveway, it's clear that the house has lost none of its charm. Colourful flowerpots adorn the entrance and we're given the friendliest welcome before being shown to our home for the night.

We're staying in the hotel's delightful cottage which overlooks the landscaped gardens, and this is where many of the couples marrying here stay. Stepping inside, it's easy to see why.

the view of the garden and stunning Sound of Sleat beyond. The big windows also make this a MUA's heaven, with plenty of natural light to ease your bridal prep, and all the space you could wish for getting ready.

Besides this space, there's a further double bedroom, wet room, and separate bathroom with a seriously stylish bath. But before I get to try it out, we make the two-minute walk across the road down to the pebbly beach, overlooking the mainland. If you're looking for a picturesque seaside ceremony location, you won't be disappointed. I can just see couples exchanging vows on the shoreline. But if you don't fancy negotiating the stones, Duisdale's front garden boasts the same view, or you could say 'I do' on the terrace. You really are spoilt for choice.

Local fare

Back inside we're treated to dinner in the charming conservatory which again takes in that sea view. Dinner is a friendly affair, with staff chatting away to guests, and the food is simply superb. I try the tender venison with meaty oyster mushrooms and a side of potatoes cooked in seaweed and herb butter before sampling a refreshing strawberry and honeycomb dessert, served with a sublime pine sorbet.

Intimate do or exclusive affair

Part of the beauty of Duisdale is its size. The boutique hotel lends itself perfectly to either hosting an intimate wedding for just you two or a select few guests, or taking on the entire hotel on an exclusive-use basis.

The public spaces are richly furnished and I'm told owner Anne Gracie Gunn is largely responsible for the enviable interior design throughout the venues. The elegant lounge is the ideal indoor setting for couples to marry, exchanging vows in the bay window overlooking the Sound of Sleat. The light and airy conservatory is perfect for smaller wedding breakfasts while the adjoining dining room can comfortably seat 36 guests. (You can combine the two and accommodate larger numbers). Then the terrace or the bar are great options for your drinks reception.



The living room in Duisdale's master suite

The cottage's main space combines the master bedroom and sitting area, with huge windows taking full advantage of



A deluxe room at Duisdale

House party

Once the celebrations are finished your guests won't have far to climb into bed in one of the hotel's beautifully appointed bedrooms. They can choose from a standard or deluxe room, the cottage, one of the new lodges or the brand-new master suite - a really special space, complete with its own private conservatory, sitting room, feature bath

Until this trip I had never been to Skye, yet writing about Scottish weddings over the years I felt I had built up a certain awareness of the island. With its rugged Cuillin Hills, famed Fairy Pools and imposing Old Man of Storr, it's a wedding photographer's dream and I've seen countless achingly romantic shots of couples traipsing round the landscape in a state of just-married bliss. What I was less familiar with though were the venues where these couples can actually marry on the island. So when The Sonas Hotel Collection invited me to visit two of their Skye hotels I jumped at the chance and discovered just how beautiful a wedding here can be.

and rainfall shower. The perfect retreat for your first night as newlyweds.

skyehotel.co.uk/duisdale

On to Skeabost House Hotel...

After a relaxing night in our cottage we head north, through Skye's main town of Portree. I've got my kids in tow, so we pass the famed Old Man of Storr in search of dinosaur footprints at Staffin Bay before journeying on to our second venue, Skeabost House Hotel.

While Duisdale was the embodiment of a stylish boutique hotel, Skeabost possesses an impressive whitewashed façade - complete with its own tower - and commands an enviable position on the shores of Loch Snizort. The largest of the three Sonas venues, Skeabost lends itself to exclusive-use weddings, with couples using the hotel's spaces as they wish.

It's clear that Anne and her daughter Jennifer, who run Sonas, have lavished a lot of love and attention on Skeabost in the seven years it's been in their possession, with Anne's impeccable taste evident everywhere you look.

We're staying in the family suite and it's a haven of peace and calm. Furnished in peaceful blues and greys with accents of

rich green velvet it would be ideal for getting ready yourself or for accommodating guests with wee ones. And that's part of Skeabost's appeal. The hotel is grand enough to host elegant large weddings while possessing an array of bedrooms and suites to suit



your guests, whether they're attending alone, with family or even their four-legged friends! The recently-refurbished Gate Lodge is just the latest addition.

The grand tour

Sitting on the edge of the loch, Skeabost's grounds include a pier which juts out into the water and is a favourite ceremony spot for many couples. But if you fancy a bit more shelter from the elements, the hotel's deck is another appealing outdoor option.

Indoor ceremonies can be conducted in the conservatory, which has space for up to 64 guests in the main area alone and enjoys views over the loch, or in the lounge, which effortlessly blends the grandeur of a Scottish stately home with more contemporary features.

Wedding breakfasts are served in the

wood-panelled dining room where chef James Dixon is as accomplished at catering to large numbers as small elopements. Then it's back to the conservatory for dancing and the evening reception and I'm assured 150 guests can happily party the night away here.

Aside from the main reception rooms there are plenty of spaces to explore, all bursting with character. The billiard room is housed in the former chapel - the oldest one on Skye. Nowadays, the billiard table rests under a tabletop which easily sits 20 for a smaller wedding or an intimate dinner the night before. A further table can push the numbers to 26 and statement chairs at the end of the room are Skeabost's very own answer to Posh and Becks' wedding thrones!

Next door the cocktail bar is a stylish nook for sampling the local gin or a signature cocktail while a concealed stair off the first floor leads to the recently refurbished tower which boasts 360-degree views over the 23-acre estate. There's enough room for a table for two and I'm informed it has been the site of a seriously romantic proposal! Or once you've said 'I do' here, we reckon it would be the perfect spot for your first anniversary dinner. Any excuse to return!

skyehotel.co.uk/skeabost





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RODDY & ESTELLE

We hired the Skeabost hotel exclusively for our wedding. The staff and food were exceptional! The hotel is gorgeous and cosy with open fires, and the views are just beautiful. The service... simply lovely at all times

ROSE & MIKE

The Toravaig hotel hosted our wedding perfectly. The setting was beautiful, the staff friendly and efficient and the food was excellent. We felt spoiled throughout

STEVE AND SARAH



*Find your
happy ever after
on Skye*



WINTER wonderland

Sarah Hay
& Matt Bird



DATE: Saturday 27th November 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: Catriona Parmenter Photography

VENUE: Loch Garten and The Dell of Abernethy, Nethy Bridge

This couple's shared love of running got them back in touch after years apart

Sarah and Matt had known each other for over a decade by the time they finally got together. They first met during their Erasmus year in Lyon in 2006 when they were part of the same group of friends. They stayed in contact and eventually met up again in 2017 to complete a marathon in Vienna. "A shared love of running brought us back together,"

laughs Sarah. "Fate definitely played a part!"

After two years of dating Matt had a very romantic proposal all mapped out, only to be scuppered by his fiancée-to-be! "He proposed on the Water of Leith cycle path in Edinburgh," she explains. "He had a grand plan to have a romantic walk down to Inverleith Park to do it but



be able to enjoy an extended time with our families together,” says Sarah. “I think the pandemic pushed us towards what we actually wanted to do and have a smaller wedding. When we told people we were only having 12 other people a lot of them said they wished they had done that.”

SPECIAL MEANING

Choosing their venue, they were guided by somewhere with lots of happy memories. They had stayed at The Dell of Abernethy a few times before, notably on a memorable trip for Sarah’s mum’s 60th birthday. “It’s a really special place,” she says. “The location is stunning at all times of year, but especially in winter and we love being out in nature.” And even though they were opting for a date at the end of November, this outdoorsy couple were

set upon holding their ceremony on the banks of Loch Garten. “The location means a lot to us,” smiles Sarah. “It was a place my mum loved and I wish she could have been there along with my late dad.”

Hosting such an intimate wedding meant they could do away with many of the standard things associated with a larger do and keep what felt really important. Sarah’s bridesmaid, her sister Becky, decorated a lovely vintage mirror with their names and arranged pretty vases of flowers, while they used a burnt orange tablecloth, candles, and small glass vases in autumnal colours to decorate the lodge. The talented Catherine from Wild Gorse Studio arranged the autumnal bouquets and buttonholes that picked up on the colours of the surroundings and Matt’s kilt outfit.



got rumbled after about five minutes as he was acting weirdly, and I discovered the huge ring box he was carrying in his jacket pocket!”

The couple hadn’t made any great plans before the pandemic hit so once restrictions started to ease in 2021 they decided on a micro-wedding. “We wanted to feel as relaxed as possible and

While Sarah and Matt planned to treat their family to a relaxed weekend, the run-up wasn't without its stresses. Storm Arwen was on the way and by the time they got to Aviemore to collect their marriage schedule the snow was getting heavy. When everyone finally arrived at The Dell they were happy to kick back and relax around the fire pit and enjoy gorgeous food in the tepee.

Sarah passed a restless night, worrying if the storm would make her dream lochside wedding impossible but waking up to snow was magical. The day's festivities kicked off with a run before the men had a snowball fight with the kids while the women were treated to hair and make-up. Sarah had chosen a beautifully classic square-necked wedding dress from Whistles and accessorised with a bespoke Rachel Scott Accessories lace batwing cover-up and a kimono to keep her warmer during the photos.

For Sarah, walking through the trees to their ceremony spot with piper Ross Weir playing *The Skye Boat Song* and *Mairi's Wedding* was "unforgettable". The couple's humanist celebrant Iain Whitelaw was a great storyteller who made their ceremony so special, with the right amount of levity and fun. They included three things they loved about each other - which they'd kept secret till then - a few readings and a handfasting.

When they got back to The Dell the main task was to warm everyone up and enjoy the champagne and canapés on offer. Then Polly from the venue put on an amazing wedding breakfast menu which showcased the best of the local produce. Traditional speeches weren't really the order of the day, though the groom did say a short thank you after the meal and his mum read a poem she'd written. Sarah's brother and sister had also put together a surprise video of friends and family wishing them well.

Then once the children were tucked up in bed, the adults started sampling from the gin bar and had a wee boogie, complete with disco lights and glow sticks! "Later on we sat round the firepit in the snowy field, toasted marshmallows and had fun with sparklers," says Sarah.

The next day they capped off the perfect wedding weekend with a fry-up followed by a snowy walk to the pub, a huge snowball fight and then returned to cut their wedding cake and cosy up by the fire. Sarah's sister-in-law Lynsey had made the amazing two-tiered cake which was served on Sarah's mum's silver cake stand; a "really special" touch as Sarah's mum had made her brother and sister-in-law's wedding cake and served it on the same stand.

Looking back on the entire celebration the bride describes a special feeling - "an experience we will hold dear."



"Really do what you want - a wedding can be what you want it to be. Whatever feels special to you should be what you are inspired by."

Sarah





BRIDE'S DRESS

Whistles

BRIDE'S KIMONO AND BATWING COVER-UP

Rachel Scott Accessories

BRIDESMAID'S DRESS

Monsoon

BRIDESMAID'S SCARF

The Tartan Blanket Company

CELEBRANT

Iain Whitelaw of Humanist Society
Scotland

FAVOURS

Cairn Candles

FLORIST

Wild Gorse Studio

GROOM'S OUTFIT

Kinloch Anderson

HAIR

Laura Ross Hair Design at The Doll's House

MAKE-UP

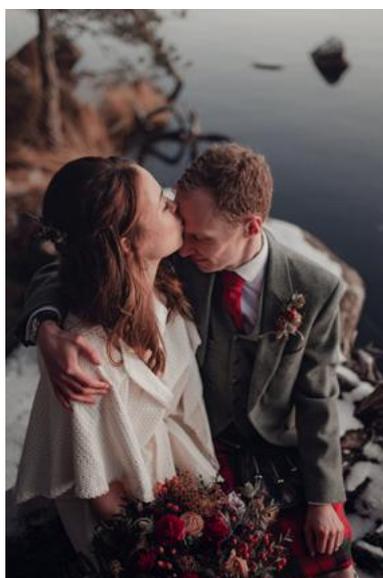
Stephanie Foran at The Doll's House

PIPER

Ross Weir

RINGS

ROX



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"A relaxing yet invigorating day to match a wonderful athletic couple and their love of the outdoors. A crisp cold morning that gave way to a sun-drenched ceremony lochside - full of love and family. Always a dream to photograph the place I call home."

Catriona

Catriona Parmenter Photography



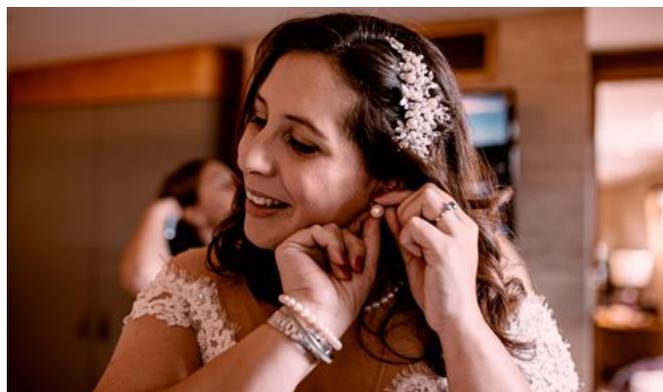


Edinburgh, Lothians & The Borders

We are *FAMILY*

*Pippa Davidson
& Paul Coleshill*

DATE: **Saturday 12th March 2022**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **S.G Mark Photography**
VENUE: **Fingal, Edinburgh**



For Pippa and Paul, saying 'I do' aboard Fingal, Scotland's luxury floating hotel, wasn't just about them - it was a true family affair

Having both been married previously, Jersey-based Pippa and Paul wanted a venue that was a little different from the norm - and somewhere that would make the perfect excuse for a big post-Covid trip. Whilst researching Scottish castles, former engineer Paul was bowled over by Fingal, the showstopping hotel boat on Edinburgh's vibrant waterfront. Sharing this beautiful find with his fiancée, the couple fell fully in love with the romance, character and uniqueness of the boat and booked it, despite never having been on board!

With Fingal already oozing glamour, style and old-world elegance, there was little left for the couple to do when it came to décor - "We wanted to be respectful to the style of the ship so kept

it simple with navy, ivory and gold, plus candles, foliage and little touches of our personalities" - and that left Pippa plenty of time to find the right gown.

DRESS TO IMPRESS

Having had a baby just six months earlier, she originally envisaged finding a dress that would cover her tummy and arms. But as time passed, she became more confident. "I remembered the thing Paul finds most attractive about me is my Italian curves," she says. "So, I decided to embrace that and go for something figure-hugging!"

She certainly made the right decision and her dress had just the right amount of vintage glamour for tying the knot aboard her very own loveboat. Pippa

completed her elegant look with a pearl necklace borrowed from her grandmother, a pearl bracelet from her husband-to-be and a timeless pearl and crystal hairgrip.

In keeping with the classic vibe, Pippa's adult bridesmaids turned heads in simple, fitted gowns, whilst their younger counterparts (the couple's daughters, Mia and Margot, and their niece, Evie) looked just the part with Ralph Lauren A-line dresses and bows in their hair. Paul got the memo too, looking more dapper than ever in a velvet Saville Row jacket paired with lush Gucci loafers. His best man was his good friend Adam whilst his 12-year-old son, William, took on the role of usher.

As they hoped, Fingal was the perfect place for a much-needed, weekend-long catch-up with their 62 guests. “We took over the boat from Friday lunchtime so relaxed in the bar and let everyone settle into their cabins,” remembers Pippa. “The boys went out for dinner while the ladies stayed on Fingal for cocktails and a buffet... There were already some sore heads by Saturday morning!”

With a baby on board, it was an early start but 10-month-old Kitty’s wake time meant there was an opportunity for some family time before proceedings began. After that, the girls sipped Pippa’s favourite champagne and got ready while listening to music and chatting. “It was all very relaxed and we looked after Kitty with the help of her nanny, Bianca, who came on the trip with us.”

Nerves did hit, however, when it was time to walk down the aisle and Pippa remembers her dad telling her to slow down as she made her way to Paul who was waiting for her, holding Kitty. The team at Fingal had arranged a harpist for Pippa’s entrance, and a relaxed, intimate humanist ceremony featuring the couple’s children followed. Will read a poem whilst Margot and Mia said a prayer for Ukraine - “We felt the conflict and hardship faced by so many needed

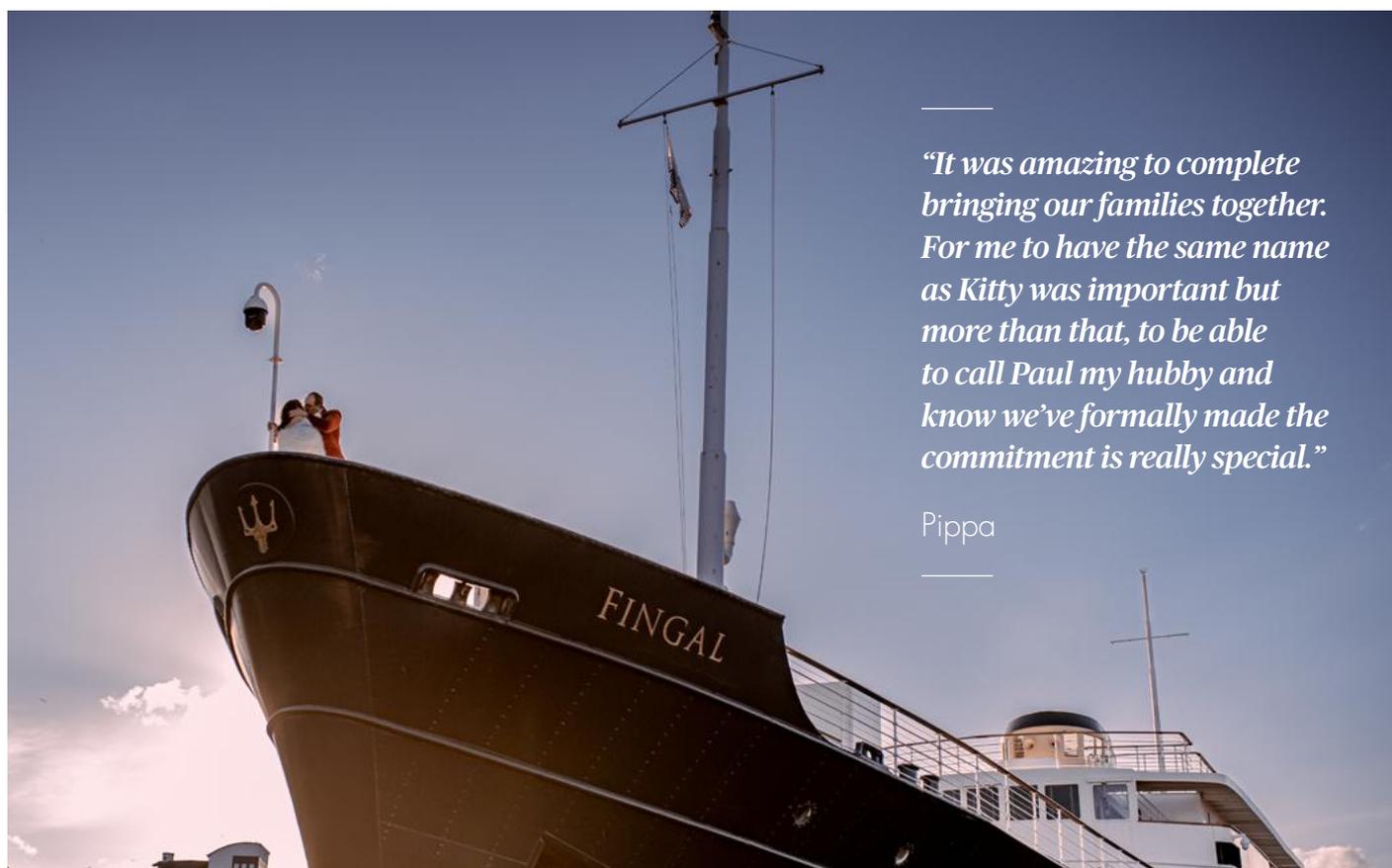
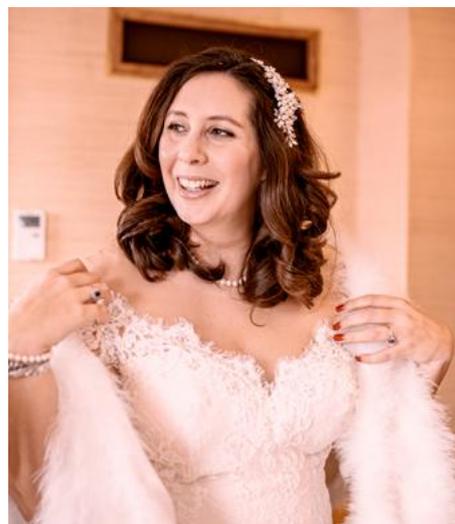
to be recognised” - before the couple said their vows.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Afterwards, guests headed to the opulent Lighthouse Bar for champagne, canapés, and the sounds of Joel Grainger on the electric violin. The VIP treatment didn’t end there, though, as everyone enjoyed a magnificent three-course meal with traditional silver service - “How the team at Fingal managed to cook to such a high standard for more than 60 people and serve us all practically at the same time was amazing!” - followed by speeches that had the bride both laughing and crying.

Keen to keep the fun going, the newlyweds returned to the bar for a spot of karaoke with their guests and were overjoyed with the happy, lively atmosphere they created.

Looking back, Pippa confesses that the hardest thing about planning (not actually visiting the venue until the big day) was also the most fun aspect! “It added an additional element of excitement and made it so special when we arrived on board,” she smiles. “The team had totally put us at ease and helped us create magic by bringing our closest friends and family together in such a memorable place.”



“It was amazing to complete bringing our families together. For me to have the same name as Kitty was important but more than that, to be able to call Paul my hubby and know we’ve formally made the commitment is really special.”

Pippa



- BRIDE'S DRESS**
Beloved By Casablanca Bridal
- BRIDE'S SHOES**
Manolo Blahnik
- CELEBRANT**
Jackie Grant of Humanist Society Scotland
- CAKE**
The Sicilian Pastry Shop
- FAVOURS**
Orchard Candle Co
- FLOWERS**
Garlands Florist
- HAIR AND MAKE-UP**
JD Bridal Hair & Make Up
- VIDEOGRAPHY**
Stag & Doe Weddings



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"As soon as I met Pippa and Paul, I could tell they didn't want this day to be just about them and their love for each other. This was a celebration of families coming together and they made this day completely their own."

Stephanie
S G Mark Photography





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Photo: Ross Alexander

'From the very first day we came to visit we were in awe of the beautiful setting and just knew this was the place we wanted to get married. You've been so kind and accommodating, letting us have our wedding our way..'

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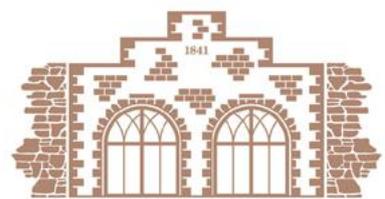


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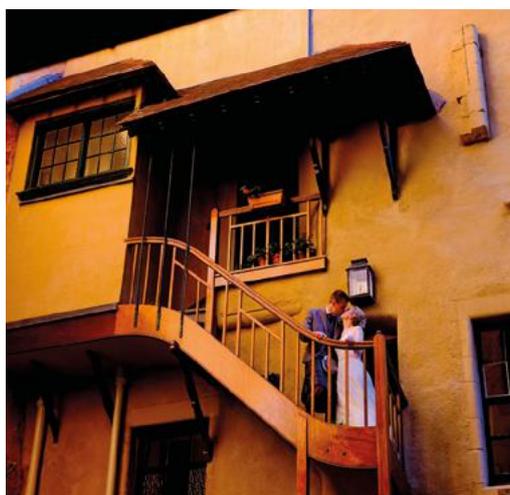
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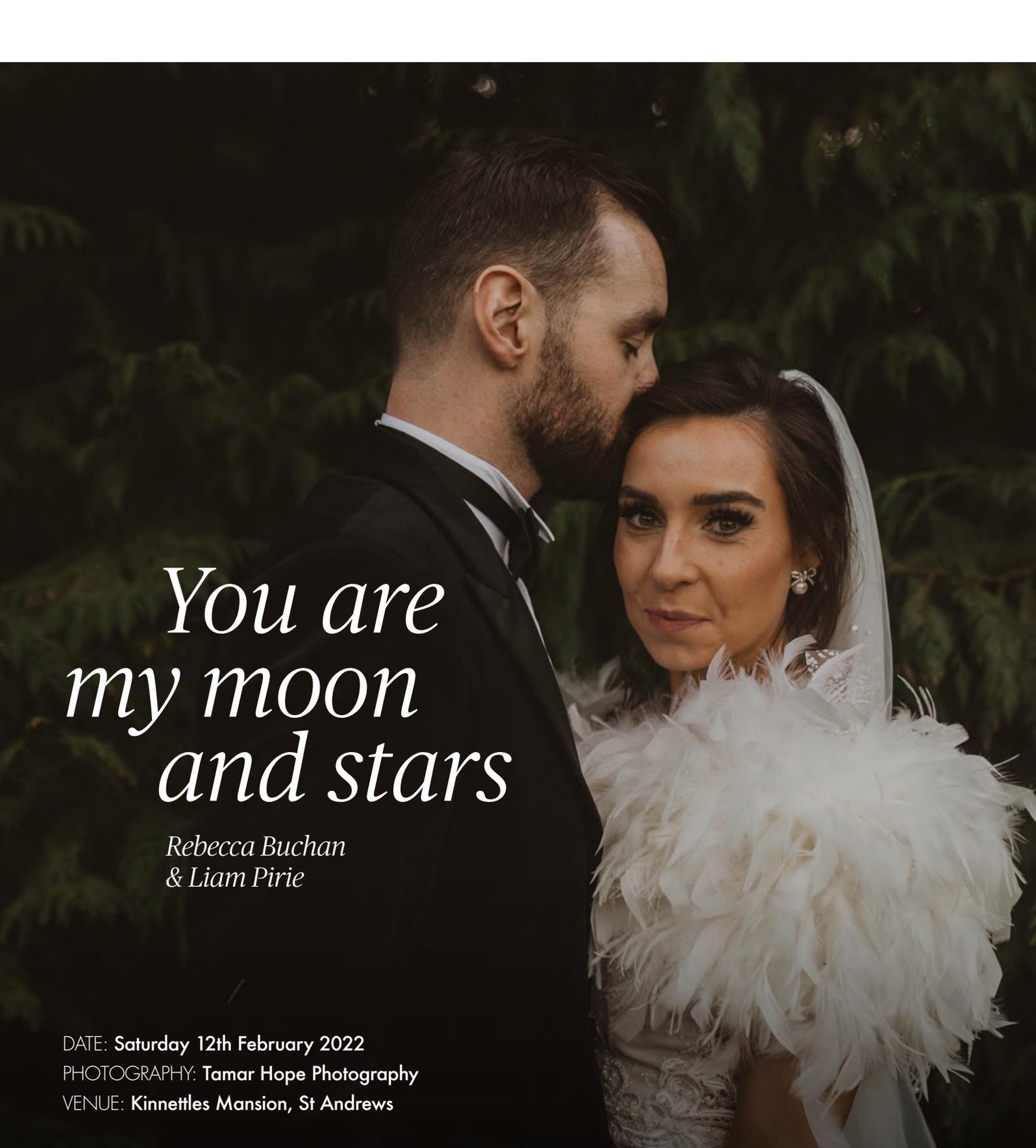
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Fife & Tayside



You are my moon and stars

*Rebecca Buchan
& Liam Pirie*

DATE: **Saturday 12th February 2022**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **Tamar Hope Photography**

VENUE: **Kinnettes Mansion, St Andrews**

True romantics Rebecca and Liam opted for a Valentine's weekend winter wedding and we adore absolutely everything about their dreamy day...

After four years in their own little love bubble - "Our connection was instant. I knew my life was about to change, whether I was ready or not," remembers Rebecca - Liam surprised his girlfriend, a self-confessed lover of love, with a beautifully planned proposal and an incredible vintage ring during a romantic stay at Douneside House. From one

stately home to another, the couple secured Kinnettes Mansion for Valentine's weekend 2022. While the venue is mainly a private hire for golfers, the bride-to-be used her powers of persuasion to secure a one-off booking for them and their 65 guests! The couple then set to organising a wedding weekend in a venue that had never seen a celebration of that scale.



indulge in what we love - love and romance. It was the one day we could go on and on about everything we adore about each other and our relationship and celebrate that.”

The moon and stars theme was apparent in tables named after astronomers, celestial-inspired cocktails and a statement vintage brass telescope, plus meaningful quotes on their memory table. To enhance the venue, Rebecca organised a tipi for the reception, a juxtaposition to the mansion and a blank canvas in which to create a super cosy chill-out space - think real fires, fairy lights and lots of candles.

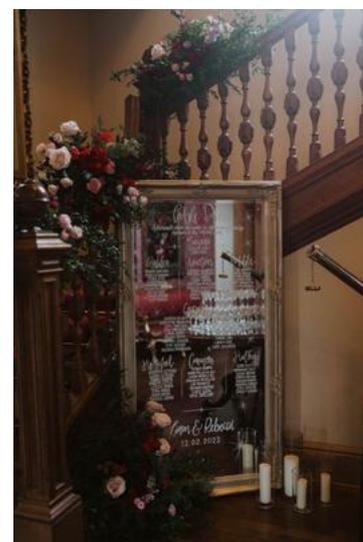
THE DRESS FOR ME

With bridal shops still closed due to the pandemic, Rebecca looked at preloved

gowns online. And after only a few searches on her favourite designers, up popped a gorgeous Julie Vino dress. “It had bows and pearls, and the lovely girl selling had exactly the same measurements as me. I couldn’t stop thinking about it so bit the bullet and bought it!”

Ongoing restrictions meant she tried the dress on at home, alone, but that didn’t matter at all when she looked into the mirror. “I’d never felt more ‘Rebecca,’” she smiles.

Keen to make sure her accessories reflected her personality, she added a pearl-encrusted veil and matching jewellery, then finished her sophisticated look with a glam ostrich feature stole - perfect for keeping cosy during their couple shoot.



Rebecca poured her heart and soul into planning and due to the bespoke nature of the venue, everything had to be organised by the couple themselves. But, of course, this meant everything, from the meaningful celestial theme to the carefully curated music, to the red and pink blooms, simply screamed “this is us”. “It was our chance to completely

“Instead of favours, I wrote every guest a wee love letter and their place setting was marked by the envelope. This really made us think about every person at our wedding and what they meant to us. There were a lot of happy tears!”

Rebecca

Liam, meanwhile, had a clear vision of his dapper groom style and worked with the team at Gibbs to bring it to life with a completely bespoke outfit. His lush, velvet dinner jacket, matching waistcoat and statement trows tied in beautifully with the elegant black velvet gown worn by Lauren, Rebecca's best friend and bridesmaid.

A DAY FULL OF LOVE

After a chilled wedding morning, it was finally 3pm - time for Rebecca to walk down the aisle. “I felt like I couldn't wait even one more minute to marry Liam,” she remembers.

With their hearts set on a ceremony that reflected them and their bond, they wrote it together with the help of humanist celebrant Gary Smith - “He may be the only person alive who loves love more than me!” - then prepared their vows separately, in secret.

“The ceremony was super-intimate and all about us, from the words spoken to the reading about love letters to the set-up of the room. We were literally



surrounded by those we love and the warmth we felt was just amazing,” says the bride. “Our vows were the perfect mix of happy and serious; romantic and funny. Some parts were the same, which gave lots of laughs, and in others we really laid ourselves, and our tricky journey to find each other, bare. There honestly wasn’t a dry eye.”

After exchanging rings (with his dad having sadly passed away, Liam chose to wear his gold wedding band), they celebrated with cocktails and cake. Turning top table tradition on its head, the newlyweds took their place at the oh-so-romantic sweetheart table, complete with an on-theme moon and stars backdrop,

for a gourmet wedding breakfast that incorporated all of their favourite foods.

By the time it came to the evening reception, Rebecca admits they were ready to relax, dance and let their hair down with their loved ones. “The last thing we wanted to do was introduce more guests. By that point we’d spent two days with most people and had lovely conversations with them all. Having only all-day guests was perfect for us.”

“We danced to Killer City Sound, the greatest wedding band we’ve ever heard, and had a DJ continue the party until 2am. There was also a kissing booth, which was the cutest thing. We have so many funny pictures from it!”

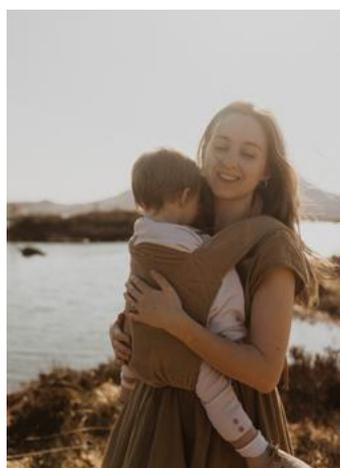


- BAND**
Killer City Sound
- BRIDE’S DRESS**
Julie Vino
- BRIDE’S SHOES**
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Zoe Gordon Special Occasion Hair
- MAKE-UP**
Samantha Cardno Make Up & Styling
- VIDEOGRAPHY**
Matt Willoughby Film

PHOTOGRAPHER’S CREDIT

“It’s great when you meet with a couple and you just ‘click.’ After Rebecca and Liam’s engagement shoot, I knew their wedding day would be incredible! What really stood out was just how much they truly love each other. They gave such personal vows and ended up saying much of the same things. It was so touching and clear these two are meant for one another. It was such a wonderful day and I had so much fun celebrating with them.”

Tamar
Tamar Hope Photography



YSW on tour | Ballintaggart

Perfect for couples keen to make memories with honest and delicious food, Ballintaggart is designed for a proper get-away-from-it-all wedding. Claire Muir tests it out...



A hidden gem in Highland Perthshire, Ballintaggart is the ultimate setting for those who want to say 'I do' in a rustic, informal, exclusive use venue whilst treating themselves and their guests to an ultra-high-quality experience... Especially when it comes to the wedding breakfast!

Originally a destination for food lovers (owners Rachel and Chris Rowley, founders of Edinburgh's first supper club, created waves with their cook school and atmospheric feast nights), demand from engaged couples saw the space evolve from boutique B&B to beautiful wedding venue. And now, it feels like it was always meant to be this way.

Ballintaggart will be exclusively yours and comes with stunning accommodation options, views for days and Michelin-star-worthy cuisine. There are no package deals or set menus here. Instead, the team thrives on getting to know couples and working with them to design unique feasts that make the most of Scotland's local and seasonal ingredients. And on the day, the kitchen is fully open - guests can wander in and see what the chefs are up to.



Let's plan a wedding!

The flexible space oozes a relaxed and refined rustic vibe but beyond that, it's a blank canvas to create an intimate home-from-home wedding, whether that's an elopement or something a little larger with up to 38 guests. You can pretty much get married anywhere but owner Rachel says they are starting to see patterns. The girls tend to get ready in the stylish lounge with yummy food platters while the gents take advantage of the tennis court. Then vows take place on the terrace or the Western Field with lots of entrance options for the happy couple.



Décor-wise, you can go all out with delightful details or let the surroundings do the talking because the valley really is your vista. In summer, expect high, swishy, grasses and September onwards you'll find the barley field turns gold and the haybales arrive. Photographers love the natural colour of the stone buildings as a backdrop, too. Talking of which, this really is a photographer's paradise. From the 11-acre meadow to the tranquil orchard,



fruitful Kitchen Garden and romantic tree swing, they'll be spoiled for choice.

When it comes to the star of the show - the food - the feast room can be arranged trestle or restaurant-style, and you can really make it your own. Some couples go big with birch trees, flower hoops and foliage hanging from the beams; others go for simple garden posies in milk bottles.

In the evening, al fresco fun continues in the sheltered courtyard (just add lanterns and light the fire pits for toasting marshmallows!) whilst the elegant library makes a great whisky or gin den.

And there's more...

This venue may seem like it's made for garden party-style weddings but, actually, it's beautiful in winter, too. The feast room makes a magnificent ceremony spot, the lounge is perfect for speeches and the library is a cosy night-time hideaway.

One last thing... Ballintaggart's offering doesn't stop here. Food fanatics looking for an intimate, idyllic hen party will love The Cook School by Ballintaggart whilst couples planning a post-wedding getaway need look no further for a romantic retreat. And don't forget The Grandtully Hotel by Ballintaggart! Set just five minutes down the road, it's got you covered for minimoons with a foodie twist and incredible night-before-the-wedding private dining.

ballintaggart.com

If this sounds like the venue for you, Ballintaggart has limited 2022 winter wedding availability and some spots for spring 2023. Bookings are also now open for 2024.

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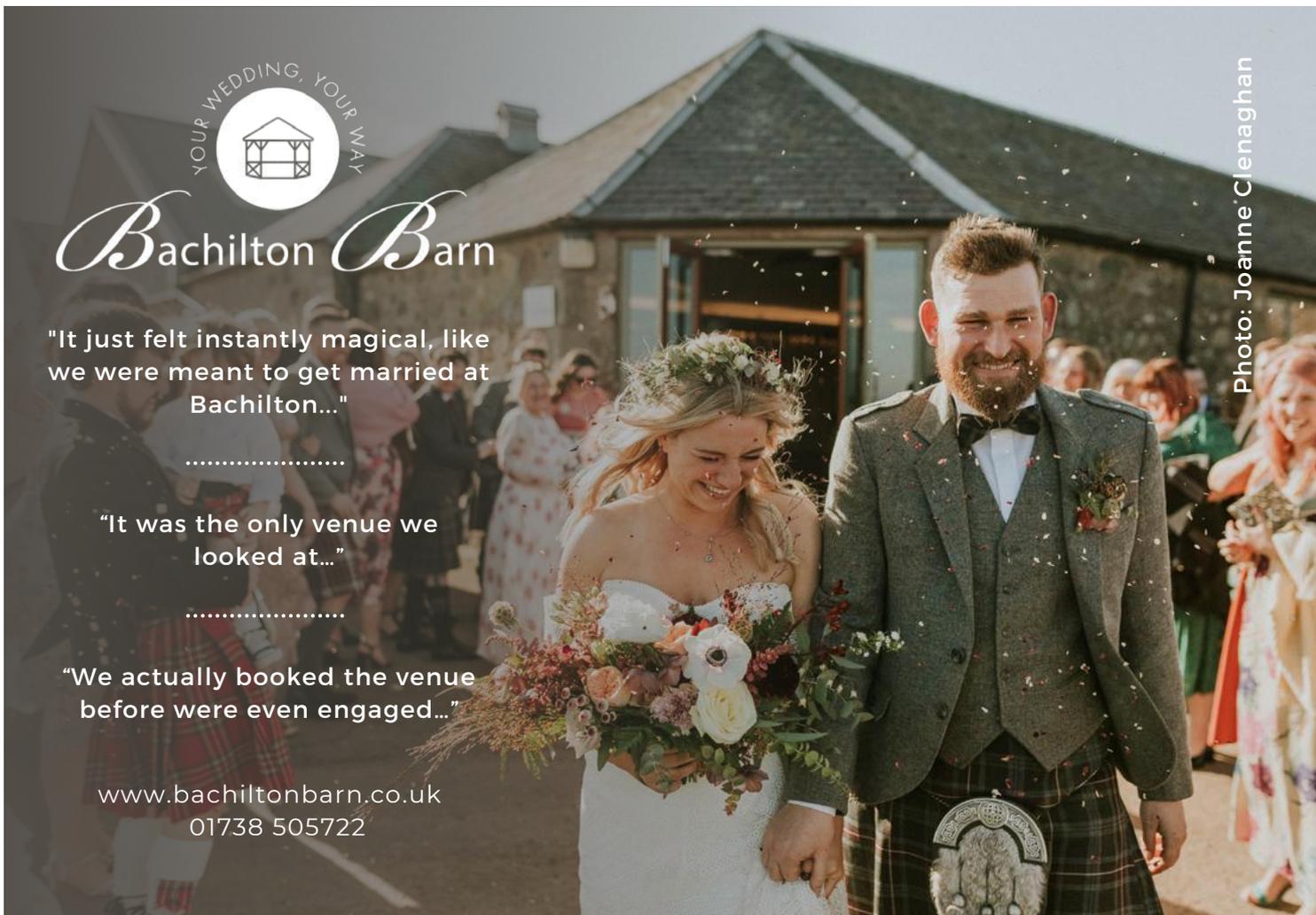
"It was the only venue we looked at..."

.....

"We actually booked the venue before we were even engaged..."

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Photo: Joanne Cienaghan



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THE MANSION *of* FOUR SEASONS

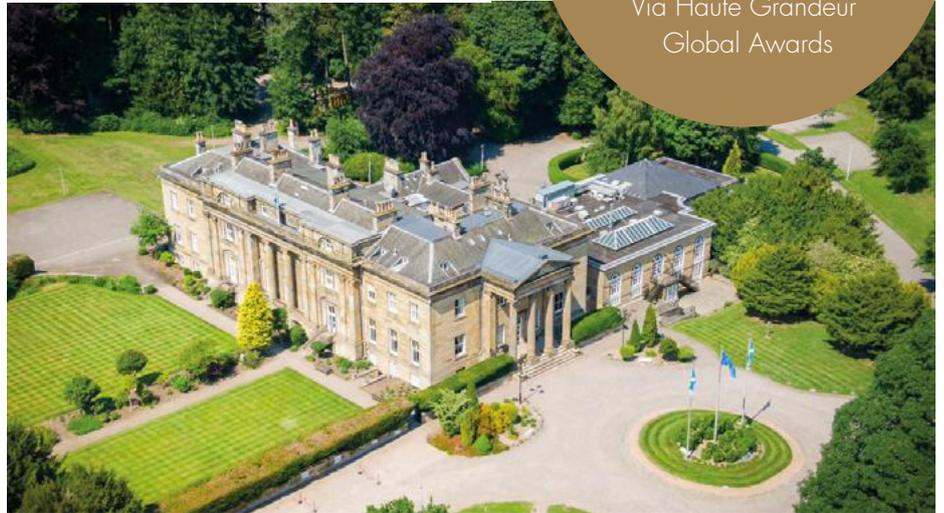


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Mansfield Traquair

Located at the eastern edge of Edinburgh's New Town, Mansfield Traquair is known as "Edinburgh's Sistine Chapel" and it's easy to see why. When artist Phoebe Anna Traquair was first commissioned by the Catholic Apostolic Church, the intention was to create a church filled with paintings of apocalyptic and biblical scenes. Yet far from being an imposing setting for your wedding, the brilliant colours of the murals make for a truly captivating space.

One of Mansfield Traquair's main attractions is its versatility. Behind the iconic red doors lies a huge and flexible space, ready to use as you wish. Whether you want a seven-piece band, to conga round the tables, or watch aerial artists swing from silks, this is the perfect setting.

mansfieldtraquair.co.uk



Òran Mór

Òran Mór started life as Kelvinside Parish Church back in 1862 and has been a stalwart of Glasgow's West End ever since. Now a thriving arts and entertainment venue, with a Gaelic name meaning "great melody of life" or "big song", Òran Mór retains all its religious fixtures for a truly awe-inspiring setting for your wedding.

Traditional church features blend seamlessly with contemporary additions like the celestial ceiling mural by acclaimed Scottish artist and author Alasdair Gray. You'll love how the space is flooded with natural light and original stained glass windows really set the scene for your big day.

More intimate ceremonies are held in the gallery while larger weddings are accommodated in the stunning auditorium.

oran-mor.co.uk/weddings/

Keep the Faith

Whatever your own personal beliefs, there's no denying that when it comes to sheer drama, religious buildings have it by the bucket-load. From lofty cathedrals reaching high up to the heavens, to more humble village churches, venues with a spiritual leaning are always sure to impress.

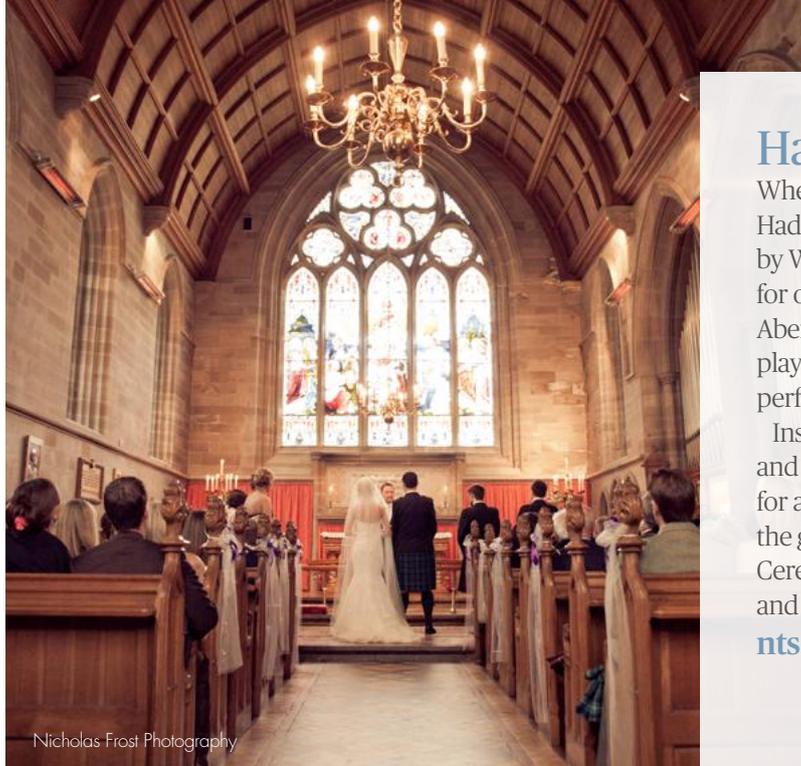
The Harbour Chapel

For couples who love all the atmosphere of religious spaces, The Harbour Chapel in Dunbar, East Lothian is well worth shortlisting. The former church retains all of its original features from the scallop shelled oak pulpit and the balcony, to the magnificent stained glass windows that originate from St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh. The beautifully restored Wesleyan Chapel is the oldest in Scotland and dates back to 1764.

Today though, along with the original pews and wooden carvings you'll find a fully stocked bar to have your ceremony and reception all in the one beautiful, ecclesiastic space. The elegant banqueting tables can seat up to 80 for dining and a further 40 guests can then join the evening celebrations.

harbourchapel.com





Nicholas Frost Photography

Haddo House

When only a grand country house will do for your wedding, Haddo House is definitely worth considering. Designed by William Adam in 1732 and home to the Gordon family for over 250 years, this grand Palladian-style mansion in Aberdeenshire has everything you could wish for. Having played host to its fair share of royalty and dignitaries, it's the perfect setting for all your honoured guests.

Inside the house itself, you'll have the pick of the Library and Drawing Room for your ceremony but if you're opting for a religious ceremony the beautiful chapel within the grounds is the picture-perfect spot for your vows. Ceremonies for all Christian denominations are welcome and there's room for 110 guests within its hallowed walls.

nts.org.uk/venue-hire/haddo-house/weddings

Drum Castle

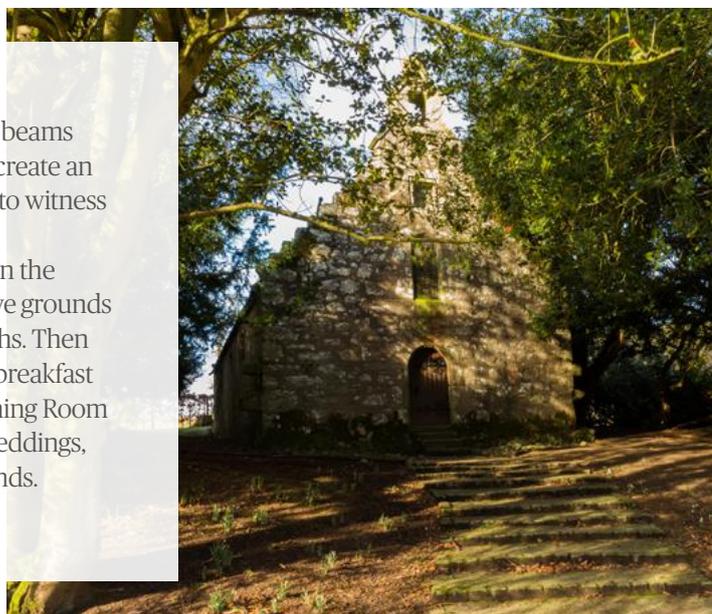
Dating back to the 13th century, Drum Castle has all the history and romance you could wish for in a wedding venue. Within its thick stone walls, you'll find elegant reception rooms, including the restored Library where you can hold a ceremony for up to 50 guests.

However, nestled in the castle's grounds you'll find Drum's 16th-century chapel which can provide the beautiful backdrop for a religious ceremony.

nts.org.uk/venue-hire/drum-castle/weddings

Exposed stone and wooden beams marry with stained glass, to create an intimate space for 45 guests to witness your 'I do's'.

After the ceremony, delight in the castle's gardens and extensive grounds - perfect for your photographs. Then you can host your wedding breakfast in the castle's impressive Dining Room (capacity 50) or, for larger weddings, erect a marquee in the grounds.



Dunglass Estate

Once described by Robert Burns as "The most romantic sweet place I ever saw," Dunglass Estate is ideally located on the border between East Lothian and the Scottish Borders. The estate has everything from a rugged coastline to ancient woodland and beautifully landscaped gardens.

But the pièce de résistance has to be the half-ruined 15th-century Dunglass Church. The building fell out of religious use

during the Reformation and was used as a farm building in the 1700s but it's now favoured by countless couples, carried away by the romance of marrying in the historical building.

Then following your ceremony you'll love the recently refurbished events venue within the estate. The décor is light and airy and there's plenty of space for dancing.

dunglassestate.com





Glasgow, Loch Lomond & the South West

Hometown glory

*Kathleen McNally
& Liam Divers*



DATE: Friday 27th August 2021

PHOTOGRAPHY: The Gibsons

VENUE: : St Aloysius Church, Glasgow and Eden Leisure Village, Cumbernauld

This couple moved to Switzerland after they got engaged but always knew they'd marry in their hometown of Glasgow

Kathleen laughs that although she and husband Liam are both from the same part of Glasgow, it took them to go to Croatia to meet. They were there on separate holidays to attend Hideout music festival and bumped into each other on the beach the first night. "My best friend always tells the story that as soon as she saw us chatting, she knew we would get married," smiles Kathleen.

Fast forward four years and Liam interrupted a family photoshoot to

ask Kathleen something. "I thought he was going to ask me if we could get a takeaway that night!" she explains so she was totally surprised when he popped the question in front of all her loved ones.

Wedding planning was always going to be slightly more complicated for these two as they knew shortly after they got engaged they would likely be moving to Switzerland for Kathleen's job so they purposefully decided to



the whole weekend. We absolutely loved everything about Eden Leisure Village - the marquee, the accommodation pods, the rolling hills around, the fact it was in Cumbernauld and super-close to where we grew up and the owners - the loveliest couple who really go over and above for their couples." In fact, between booking their wedding and the final date, they had added a whole new specialised wedding area!

TAKE THE BISCUIT

With the venue booked, their décor came together naturally. The floral arrangements were in cream and green,

more cream was complemented with gold in the stationery, biscuit tones made their way into the overall décor, and the bridal party was in black. "Sounds like a bit of everything but it all came together and I was absolutely delighted with how it looked," says Kathleen. "When Liam and I first saw the marquee, it literally took our breath away."

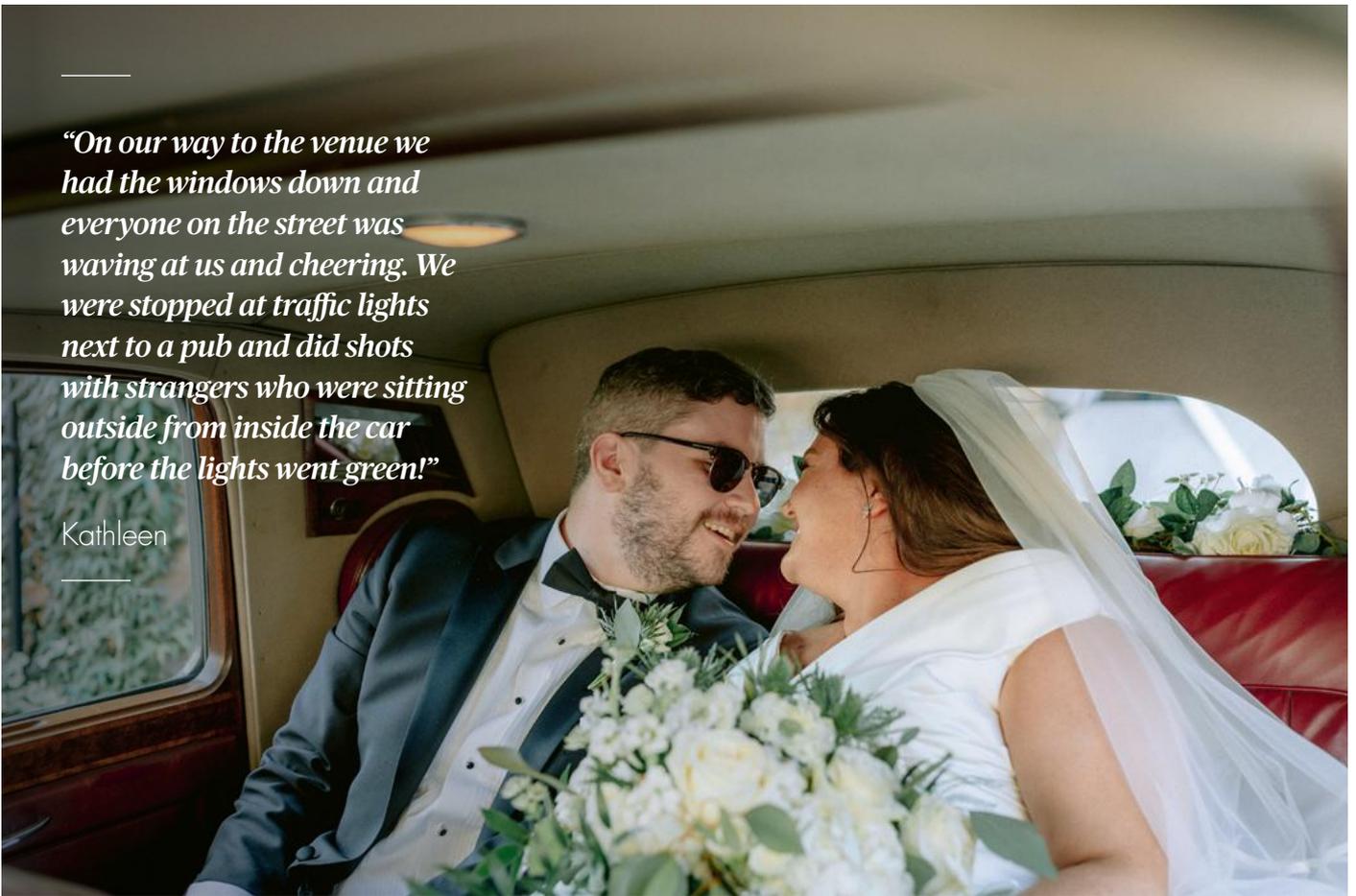
As they were driving home from Switzerland for their wedding, Kathleen and Liam weren't able to make many DIY details but one of her best friends - @bakedbylia - created gorgeous branded wedding biscuits with their initials and the date in cream and gold that completed the overall vibe.



take their time. They chose to marry on a bank holiday weekend so everyone could enjoy a full weekend guilt-free and then set about selecting the perfect setting for their reception. "We went to see dozens of venues, and all so different; castles, hotels, barns and bars!" remembers Kathleen. "But you need to really love your venue. We knew we wanted an exclusive-use venue, so we could have it for

“On our way to the venue we had the windows down and everyone on the street was waving at us and cheering. We were stopped at traffic lights next to a pub and did shots with strangers who were sitting outside from inside the car before the lights went green!”

Kathleen



Kathleen is one of those lucky brides who ended up choosing a wedding dress that was exactly what she imagined. “I knew I wanted a ball gown, always have done!” she says. “How often do you get to wear a dress like that?!”

Planning from afar wasn't always easy and as soon as travel restrictions eased this bride jumped on a plane to make it home to go dress shopping. She tried on ballgowns in every type of finish but a simple crossover boatneck style won out. “I like that my dress is timeless,” she says. “I won't look at my wedding photos in 30 years' time and regret my choice.”

Kathleen admits the week on the run-up to the wedding was stressful with both her and Liam running around. But she enjoyed the morning of the big day, even if they did end up running late! “I would advise brides to try and limit the amount of people in and out wherever you are getting ready,” she says. “It felt a little bit like Sauchiehall Street at times and my family are not the quietest!”

HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Kathleen was raised a Catholic and Liam was baptised in the Catholic Church in 2021 so it was important to have a religious wedding and they married in Glasgow's St Aloysius Church.

Covid meant Kathleen and Liam weren't able



to come home for so long and they really missed Glasgow so decided to honour their hometown with their choice of song - *Glasgow Love Theme* - for Kathleen to walk down the aisle. "It features in *Love Actually* - the best Christmas film ever, in my opinion! - and it meant a lot to us that it's named after Glasgow," she smiles.

The musical entertainment continued with a jazz trio playing in Eden's livery area at the reception and then it was on to dinner. "My dad's speech was the highlight because he is usually a man of few words and I didn't know what to expect," says Kathleen. "Little did I know he had been going to a voice coach for six weeks before the wedding to prepare. He absolutely

smashed it and had the whole room in fits of laughter and floods of tears." Then Kathleen's best friend finished her speech with a quote from one of their favourite books; Dolly Alderton's *Everything I Know About Love*. "It was so lovely. Liam's best man also outed Liam's (secret) tattoo during his speech which had the whole room in hysterics!"

WORDS OF WISDOM

Since she married, two of Kathleen's best friends have also got engaged and she's shared her best advice; "Do what you want for you, not for everyone else. It's your day. Do not feel pressured into anything. You're only going to do this once." Sound words.



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"As soon as we arrived to the girls' and boys' prep it was nothing but pure joy and laughter all around. We absolutely loved hearing about how much these two are so in love from all their friends and family. It was an honour to capture it!"

Scott and Chantal
The Gibsons

BRIDE'S DRESS AND VEIL

Bijoux Bridal

BRIDE'S HEADPIECE

Flo & Percy

BRIDE'S JEWELLERY

Swarovski

BRIDE'S SHOES

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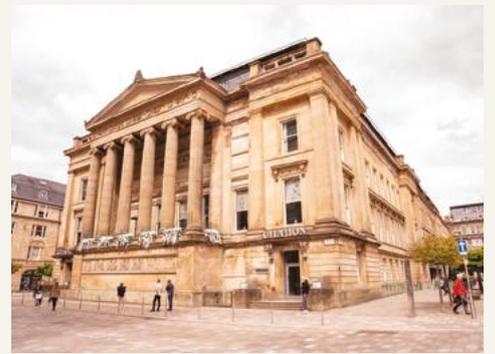


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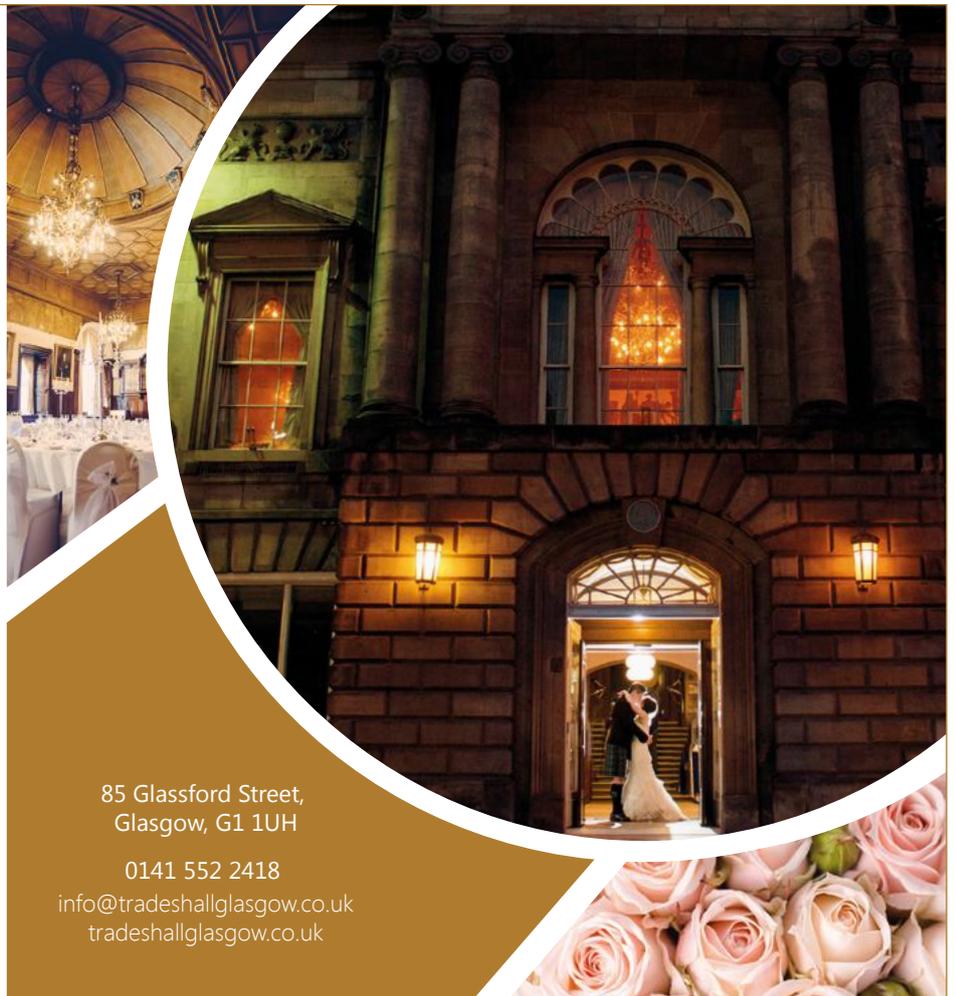
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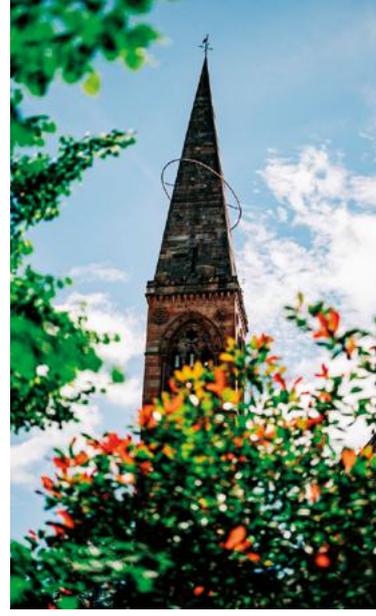
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Brittany McNaughton
& Jack Allery



DATE: Tuesday 21st September 2021

CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHY: Fotomaki Photography

EVENING RECEPTION PHOTOGRAPHY: Liesa Cole Photography

VENUE: Monachyle Mhor, Balquhidder

With the help of Wee Wild Weddings, Brittany and Jack pulled together a magical elopement-style ceremony and rustic disco-themed celebration in less than four months

Two years into their relationship, Englishman Jack popped the question to his American girlfriend Brittany on a winter walk and just a few months later, they became Mr and Mrs. “Our first priority was not to have a big wedding,” says Jack. “It would be a small registry office affair in Kent where my mum lives, with a reception in the US later for everyone to enjoy.”

A couple of weeks into planning, though, they decided they wanted “something more meaningful” and Brittany stumbled upon elopement specialists, Wee Wild Weddings. Their plans escalated from there and continued to do so right up until the big day. “Wee Wild Weddings found Monachyle Mhor for us - a luxurious set-up in the Highlands overlooking Lochs Doine and Voil. We checked it out and loved it. The scenery was stunning and the surrounding woodland gave it this mystical aura that we were vibing with.”

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE

During their visit, they saw the venue’s Dutch Barn, complete with its giant disco ball, and decided it was just the place for their wedding’s eve party and on-the-day reception. Between the impressive space and Brittany’s love of colour,

rainbows and unicorns, it was clear that a bright, disco-inspired theme would be the way to go!

They divided the barn into sections and Paulina, Monachyle Mhor’s wedding and events planner, dressed it to perfection. Nailing the rustic disco vibe, she teamed wild flowers, hanging foliage and a fire pit with an illuminated dance floor, strobe lights and multi-coloured shimmer curtains. They even added little disco balls on the tables! Flowers provided the perfect opportunity for spectacular pops of colour and Scottish Wild Picnics produced a jaw-dropping rainbow unicorn cake.

The spectacular set-up was tested out with friends and family at the wedding’s eve party - a fun-filled get together with cocktails, 80s pop tunes and modern EDM music. Thankfully, everyone was “sensible enough to call it an early night,” remembers the groom.

The following morning, Jack wrote his vows in the sunshine overlooking the lochs while Brittany got into her “simple, fun, vintage” Bob Mackie 1980s gown (which she changed up come evening) and gorgeous glittery boots. She chose to do her own make-up while friend and colleague Mark Hyde tended to her gorgeous locks.



With neither Brittany nor Jack being religious, a humanist wedding suited them perfectly and they opted for a super-intimate elopement-style ceremony. "It was ultimately a day for us, about us, so we wanted to be by ourselves for that part of the occasion. The only ones with us were our chilled but expressive celebrant Claire and our witnesses - Sarah, our photographer, and Mel from Briar Rose Flowers."

Friends and family waved the couple off from the hotel and they walked together along the road to the most beautiful grassy clearing, complete with a wooded backdrop and incredible views across the valley. "It was a very casual walk tinged with a nervous kind of excitement," remembers Jack. "We stopped as we went along to take pictures and there was no rush. It was all in our own time."

Taking their places inside a dreamy floral ceremonial ring, they relived their love story via Claire, exchanged rings and sealed their marriage with a Celtic love-knot rainbow handfasting. "It felt like the right symbolism for our love and commitment to each other."

A TOAST FOR TWO

Afterwards, the newlyweds enjoyed a romantic, Pin-worthy private picnic, arranged beautifully by Wild Scottish Picnics, then popped back to the venue for cocktail hour with their 30 guests. After a delicious meal prepared by the hotel and a brief speech from Jack (more spontaneous speeches followed later when everyone was a bit merry) it was disco time!

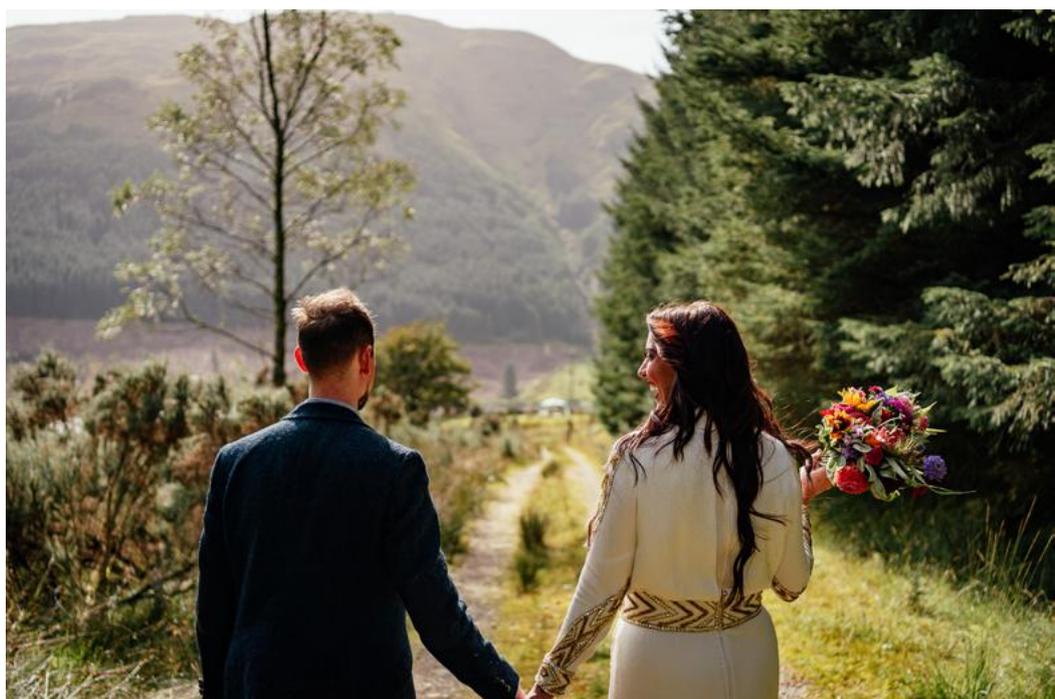
"It all felt very festive - great food, drinks all round and everyone on the illuminated dance floor under the giant disco ball with tunes from our friend and DJ, Martin Edwards," smiles Jack.

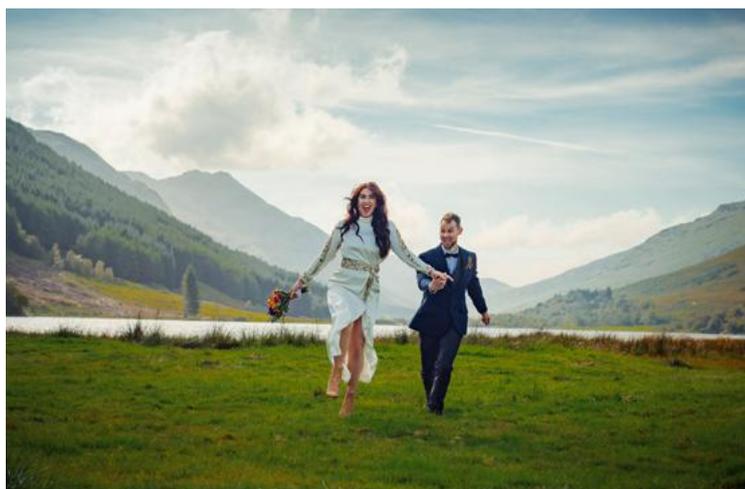
For this couple, there was no clear wedding highlight - they loved every minute. "Everything went to plan, there was no drama, and everyone had a good time. We even got 20-degree sunshine in late September in the Highlands!"

"We would say to other couples that it's your day so you should do what you want for yourselves. You don't have to meet cultural norms and you don't have to have the answer upfront either. Our wedding went from registry office to getaway elopement to modest-sized wedding in about six weeks, and we'd have been happy with any of those outcomes."

"Our top tips are to spend what'll make you happy on the day (and afterwards); to share the responsibility of planning fairly between you as a couple and to do what you can practically yourselves as you'll feel more connected with the day itself."

Jack





Photography this page:
Liesa Cole Photography



BRIDE'S WEDDING DRESS

Bob Mackie from Etsy

CELEBRANT

Claire Digance of Humanist Society Scotland

CAKE AND PICNIC

Scottish Wild Picnics

DJ

DJ Edwardo

FLOWERS

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HAIR

Mark Hyde of Forecast Salon

TRANSPORT

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WEDDING PLANNER

Wee Wild Weddings



PHOTOGRAPHER'S CREDIT

"I absolutely adored this elopement - Brittany and Jack did it their way. Their vision of being married in a fairy circle came to life and it was so magical on the day and in the photos. Weddings like this make me love being a Scottish wedding photographer!"

Sarah

Fotomaki Photography

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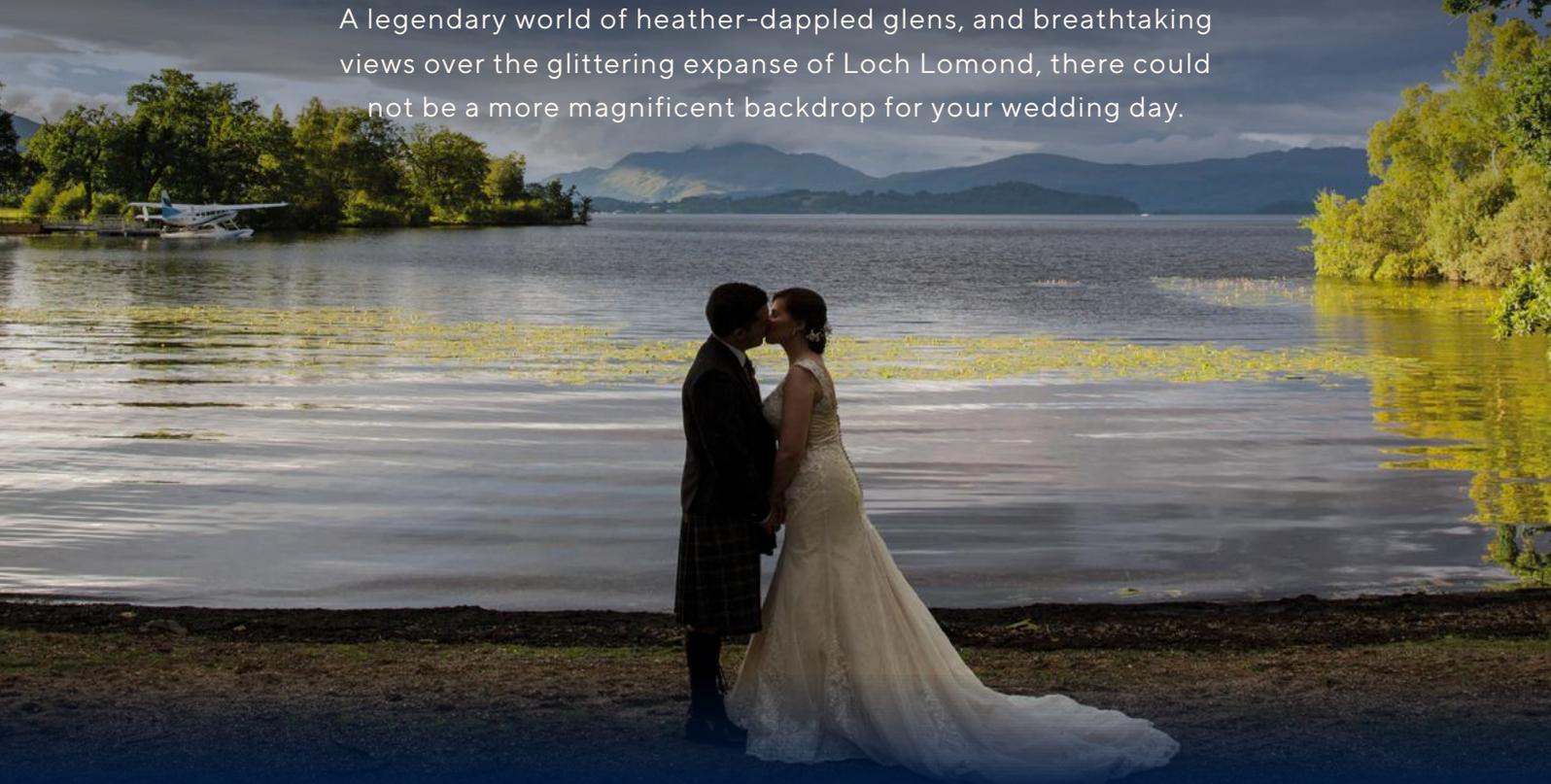




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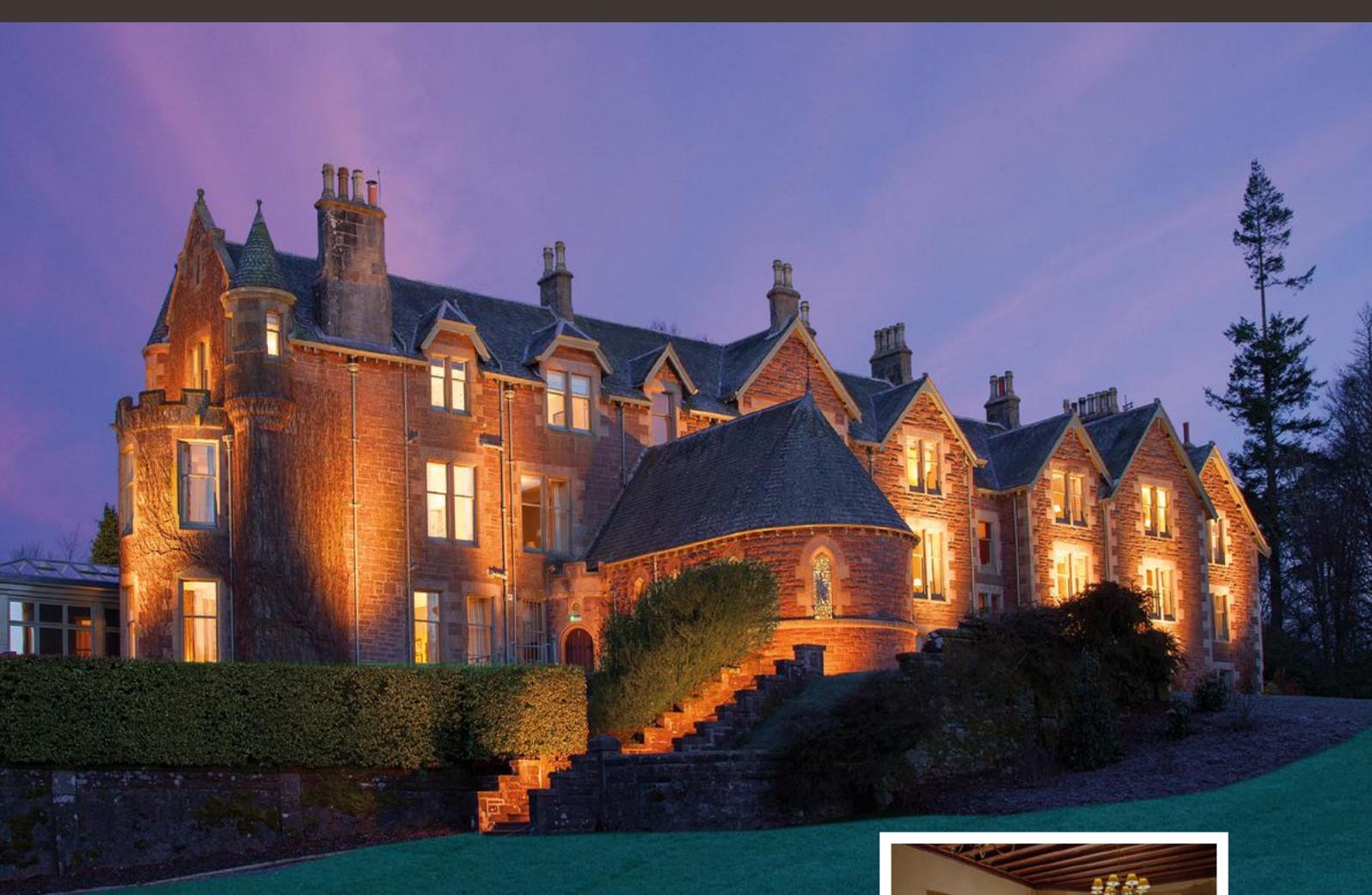
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Advertisers Index



Kudos

ACCESSORIES

Elegance of Perth	76
Freja Designer Dressmaking	35
June Brides, Glasgow	18,19
Kavelle Couture	240
Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline	13
Kudos Bridal, Edinburgh	34
Mirka Bridal Couture	27
Rachel Scott Accessories	35

BRIDAL DESIGNERS

Demetrios	3
Ellis	4
Freja Designer Dressmaking	35
Halfpenny	2
Mirka Bridal Couture	27
Sassi Holford	5
True Bride	7

BRIDAL RETAILERS

June Brides, Glasgow	18,19
Kavelle Couture	240
Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline	13
Kudos Bridal, Edinburgh	34
Mirka Bridal Couture	27
Rachel Scott Couture	8,9

BRIDESMAIDS

Freja Designer Dressmaking	35
June Brides, Glasgow	18,19
Kavelle Couture	240
Kudos Bridal, Dunfermline	13
Kudos Bridal, Edinburgh	34
Mirka Bridal Couture	27
True Bride	7

CAKE DESIGNERS

Crumbdillyumptious	119
The Kilted Cake Company	105

CELEBRANTS

Celebrate People	82
Fuze Ceremonies	85
The Humanist Society Scotland	85

DEPARTMENT STORE

Harvey Nichols Edinburgh	100
--------------------------	-----

DRINKS

McLean's Gin	45
--------------	----

FABRIC RETAILERS

The Dress Fabric Company	35
--------------------------	----

FAVOURS

McLean's Gin	45
--------------	----

FLORISTS

Cherry Blossom	105
Make Believe Events	119
The Greenshed Flower Studio	119

GROOMSWEAR

Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers	62
Kilts 4 U	56, 57
MacGregor & MacDuff	66
McCalls Groomswear	67
Stewart Highlandwear	63

HAIR, BEAUTY & LIFESTYLE

AMM Hair and Makeup Team	101
Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry	98
Dee Dental Paisley	99



Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers | photography by Rose and Julien

Kirsty MacPherson Hair & Makeup Artist	101
Makeup by Leigh Blaney	101
Pamper & Polish	98
The Bride To Be...	98

JEWELLERS

John McKay Jewellery	91
Lorraine Law	90
Maci Jewellery	92
McCalls Jewellery	93
Sheila Fleet Jewellery	88,89

MILLINERS

Elegance of Perth	76
Stephanie Gallen Millinery	76

MUMS OUTFITS

Catwalk	75
Condici	78
Freja Designer Dressmaking	35
Gina Smart Boutique	79



Lena Sabala Photographer

Ispirato	74
John Charles	70
Mia Bella	77
Patricia Forbes	71
The Dressing Rooms	76

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

Hireaband	120
-----------	-----

MUSICIANS

Amarone Music	121
Fresh Entertainments	121
GeO Gospel Choir	121
Hireaband	120
Splendid Gentleman	121



The Green Shed Flower Studio | Laura A. Tilman Photography

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Carolyn Henry Photography	124
Catriona Parmenter Photography	172 - 175
Fotomaki Photography	124, 228 - 231
Goose Green Films & Photography	138 - 141
Jo + Liam	130 - 133
Laura A Tilman Photography	125
Pocket Square Photography	123
Rankine Photography - Alan & Jackie Rankine	146-149
Richard Craig Photography	123
Robert Lawler Photography	134 -137
Rosaleen Bonnar Photography	127
Ross Alexander Photography	122
SG Mark Photography	122, 178 - 181
SimonsStudio	150 - 153
Struve Photography	123
Tamar Hope Photography	194 - 197
The Gibsons	212 - 215
Wild Roses Photography	127

Willow & Wilde	142 - 145
----------------	-----------

STATIONERS

Love, Beth - Design Co	105
------------------------	-----

TOASTMASTERS

Brian Baxter MC	163
-----------------	-----

VENUE STYLISTS

Get Knotted	104
Make Believe Events	119

VENUES

Arniston House	184
Bachilton Barn	202
Balbirnie House Hotel	205
Ballintaggart	198
Barnbogle Castle	191
Below Canvas	225
Boclair House	224
Boreland Loch Tay	199
Broxmouth Courtyard	188, 189
Cameron House Hotel and Spa	223
Cambo Country House & Estate	202
Cardrona Hotel Golf & Spa - Macdonald Hotels	158, 159
Citation Weddings	218
Cluny Castle	169
Cornhill Castle	224
Cromlix House	234
Crossbasket Castle	219
Crutherland House - Macdonald Hotels	158, 159
Custom House	191
Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club	190
Duisdale House Hotel - Sonas Collection	166, 170, 171
Edinburgh Corn Exchange - 02 Academy	185
Fingask Castle	203
Forest Hills Hotel & Spa - Macdonald Hotels	158, 159
Fruin Farm	225
Hartree Estate	182, 183, 216, 217
Houstoun House - Macdonald Hotels	158, 159
Inchyra Hotel & Spa - Macdonald Hotels	158, 159



The Gibsons



Fyvie Castle | Clarke Joss Photography

Inglewood House Hotel	235
Innes House	168
Manorview Hotels	220, 221, 224,
Marlins Wynd	186
National Trust for Scotland	162
Netherbyres House	187
Oran Mor	223
Riddle's Court	191
Rosebery House	191
Rosebery Steading	191
Skeabost House Hotel - Sonas Collection	167, 170, 171
Sonass Collection	166, 167, 170, 171
Strathleven House	191
The Busby Hotel	221
The Caves	186
The Haberdashery	222
The Hollies	201
The Lynnhurst Hotel	221
The Old Course House Hotel	200
The Old Manse of Blair	206
The Redhurst Hotel	220
The Rhynd	204
The Rowantree	186
The Torrance Hotel	220
The Trades Hall of Glasgow	222
The Weaving Shed	207
Toravaig House Hotel - Sonas Collection	170, 171
Unusual Venues Edinburgh	186
Winton Castle	186

WEDDING FAIRS

Borders Wedding Show	35
Edinburgh Big Big Wedding Fair & Fashion Show - 02 Academy	12
Edinburgh Wedding Directory Wedding Showcase	94
Hampden Wedding Show	15
Lanarkshire Wedding Exhibition	14
Luxury Scottish Wedding	26
The Scottish Wedding Show	30, 31, 94

WEDDING PLANNERS

Divine Bride	86
Edinburgh Wedding Directory	87
Luxury Scottish Wedding	26
The Wedding Guru Oskar	87



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