

LOCAL CHOICE

WEDDING GUIDE

2018



FREE



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Our aim at the Royal Kings Arms Hotel is to surpass your expectations in service, quality and value for money.

The Royal Kings Arms has recently been granted a licence to hold wedding ceremonies in addition to wedding receptions.



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gm@royalkingsarmshotel.co.uk

CONTENTS

2018



The Planning

4 If ever an event needed meticulous planning, it is your wedding.

The Right Reception

6 A fool proof guide to choosing the right venue for your reception!

The Rings

17 We are fortunately surrounded by an array of independent jewellers.

Dress to Impress

18 There are plenty of local wedding boutiques who are on hand to help you.

Let Love Bloom

24 Flowers are one of the most important parts of your wedding.



Cakes and Caterers

30 Wedding cakes come in all shapes, forms, and sizes and of course, flavours.

Wedding Entertainment

35 One thing people remember from a wedding reception is the entertainment.

Photography

36 There are lots of fun ideas and poses to make your wedding album really unique.

Arrive in Style

40 Getting to the wedding has always been one of the most stressful parts.

Hair and Beauty

42 We have just the guide to get you feeling just like a princess.



Finishing Touches

46 What better way to show your family and friends how grateful you are.

Legalities & Contacts

50 Before you can get married, there are certain legal formalities to be fulfilled.

The Planning

If ever an event needed meticulous planning, it is your wedding. So much could go wrong. From the classic - best man forgetting the rings - to discovering your passports are out of date a week before the honeymoon. Careful planning is absolutely essential. Once the initial excitement of getting engaged has sunk in, the most important thing to decide is how much you can spend. This will have implications for every aspect of the wedding. With the average wedding costing a whopping £27,000 it is vital that you decide on a budget and try to stick to it. One of the first things to do is to set up a wedding bank account and try to save as much money as you can. Perhaps set up a direct debit?

After you've discussed the budget, you need to work out what type of wedding you want. Are you dreaming of gliding down the aisle in a traditional church ceremony or perhaps saying your vows in a beautiful hotel overlooking a stunning lake? Maybe you would prefer an intimate ceremony on a paradise island, or a quick celebration in Las Vegas?

This early stage is also a good time to start thinking about the big elements of your day, because these need to be booked well in advance. Things like the venue and the entertainment may have bookings one or even two years in advance, so if you've got somewhere in mind, set up a visit as soon as possible.

Try to pick a venue with a dedicated wedding co-ordinator who can help you plan the day, or even hire a wedding planner yourself. This may seem like a luxury, but all planners have different levels of service, so you can choose one that suits your style. Follow our checklist to make sure you've got everything under control.



WHO IS PAYING FOR YOUR WEDDING?

You need to decide on who is footing the bill for your big day. Traditionally this has been the bride's parents, but in today's modern society, many couples pay for their own weddings, as people are getting married when they are a bit older and have saved up a little beforehand. Discuss your budget with both sets of parents, if they are willing to contribute, and make a note of who is paying for what to avoid any arguments later.

WAYS TO SAVE MONEY

Start by looking through your lists and remove anything you don't need. For example if you're having the ceremony and reception in the same location, you won't need transport. Meet with vendors and ask them if they can work within your budget and see if they can give you any discounts on anything.

Keep your budget in mind at all times - It is so easy to get carried away with all of the fantastic products, services and options available.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT YOU PLAN TO SPEND?

Your priorities may change once you start shopping and meeting with wedding vendors. You may decide that you'd rather spend more on the venue and less on flowers, or that you'd rather have a live band instead of a DJ.



ON THE DAY!

You've planned it to perfection, so now it's time to relax and enjoy.

The big day has finally arrived! This is the day when all your hard work and planning is going to pay off - it's going to be the best day of your life! Delegation is something you definitely need to do today. Ask your mum, best man, chief bridesmaid, trusted friends and your planner if you have one, to sort out any last-minute problems that arise. All you need to do today is relax and enjoy every moment. Remember, today will whizz by, so every once in a while stand still, look round and take everything in.

BUDGET PLANNER



Bride

Dress	<input type="text"/>
Veils	<input type="text"/>
Gift for the groom	<input type="text"/>
Groom's ring	<input type="text"/>
Hair Accessories	<input type="text"/>
Hairdresser / Make-up artist	<input type="text"/>
Jewellery	<input type="text"/>
Lingerie	<input type="text"/>
Shoes	<input type="text"/>

Groom

Wedding suit	<input type="text"/>
Shoes	<input type="text"/>
Cufflinks and accessories	<input type="text"/>
Bride's ring	<input type="text"/>
Gift for the bride	<input type="text"/>

Bridesmaids and Ushers

Dresses and shoes	<input type="text"/>
Suits and shoes	<input type="text"/>
Jewellery and accessories	<input type="text"/>
Hair	<input type="text"/>
Make-up	<input type="text"/>
Gifts for bridal party	<input type="text"/>

Fees, Ceremony and Venue

Cake	<input type="text"/>
Ceremony decorations	<input type="text"/>
Ceremony venue	<input type="text"/>

Chair covers	<input type="text"/>
Drink	<input type="text"/>
Entertainment	<input type="text"/>
Favours	<input type="text"/>
Food	<input type="text"/>
Marriage certificate	<input type="text"/>
Photographer	<input type="text"/>
Reception decorations	<input type="text"/>
Reception venue	<input type="text"/>
Registrar	<input type="text"/>
Table decorations	<input type="text"/>
Thank you gifts	<input type="text"/>
Videographer	<input type="text"/>
Wedding insurance	<input type="text"/>
Wedding planner	<input type="text"/>

Flowers

Bride's bouquet	<input type="text"/>
Bridesmaids' posies	<input type="text"/>
Table centres	<input type="text"/>
Buttonholes	<input type="text"/>
Venue flowers	<input type="text"/>
Floral gifts for mums	<input type="text"/>

Transport

Bride and father to ceremony	<input type="text"/>
Bride's mother and bridesmaids to ceremony	<input type="text"/>
Groom, best man and ushers to ceremony	<input type="text"/>
Transport to reception	<input type="text"/>

Stationery

Save the dates	<input type="text"/>
Invitations and RSVPs	<input type="text"/>
Menus	<input type="text"/>
Order of service	<input type="text"/>
Place cards	<input type="text"/>
Postage	<input type="text"/>
Table names and numbers	<input type="text"/>
Table plan	<input type="text"/>
Thank you cards	<input type="text"/>

Accommodation

Night before	<input type="text"/>
First night	<input type="text"/>

Hen and Stag Night

Outfits and accessories	<input type="text"/>
Travel	<input type="text"/>
Venue, food and drink	<input type="text"/>

Honeymoon

Honeymoon package	<input type="text"/>
Hotel stay	<input type="text"/>
Travel	<input type="text"/>
Spending money	<input type="text"/>

TOTAL

How to Choose the Right Reception



Finding the perfect venue is likely to be at the top of any newly engaged couples list. With the venue playing a vital role in the success of your day, you really need to get this right. It is easy to become excited and fall in love with a place without checking that it can cater to your requirements. So, to choose the right venue, couples need to think about a wide variety of questions before booking.

You need to decide what your budget is and how many guests you are planning on inviting. From there you need to decide what type of look and feel you're after. Many couples are looking for something different and unique. You must research locations, making sure that they are not too expensive and they have enough space for all your guests. There is something out there to suit every couple.

Many hotels are licensed to hold civil ceremonies, so you have a great choice of romantic options (and it means the wedding and reception can be in the same place, which will mean no transport is needed so saving you money). If you decide on a church wedding, the venue is ready to add sparkle to your special day, so all you have to do is choose where you would prefer to celebrate. It should suit the style and theme of your wedding, be it traditional or contemporary.

Working out the number of guests coming to your wedding should be up near the top of the "to do" list. This way, you can choose a venue that can accommodate everyone and get an idea of how much it will cost. Whether you decide on a country mansion, hotel, restaurant, marquee, golf club, park, or hall you will need to book well in advance, especially if your wedding is going to be during the peak of wedding season, such as a Saturday during the summer months. Confirm all the arrangements in writing and check that the prices given are final.



Make a list of how many guests you wish to invite and then work out how much the food and drink is going to be. It may be worthwhile visiting a wedding fair: these are days organised by venues to which catering companies, florists and wedding cake specialists are invited, making them a great place to get information about everything you need for your big event.

Decorating the venue can be done in many ways depending on your budget. But some of the simplest and most effective are flower arrangements, balloons and lighting. You can hire people to do it for you, at a price, or you can ask friends and family to help out and do it yourself. Check out Pinterest for some fabulous ideas. Balloons are always a great way to decorate your venue: choose a colour that matches the theme of your wedding.

Finally, you need to decide on what entertainment you want to provide your guests with. Do you want a live band or a DJ? Musicians usually have their own style of music that they are most comfortable with so check that they play something that you like. If you have a DJ, you can give them a list of songs that you wish to be played and also ask them if they take requests, as I'm sure a lot of your guests will want to choose some songs that they want to hear as well.



THE GOOD PUB GUIDE 2018

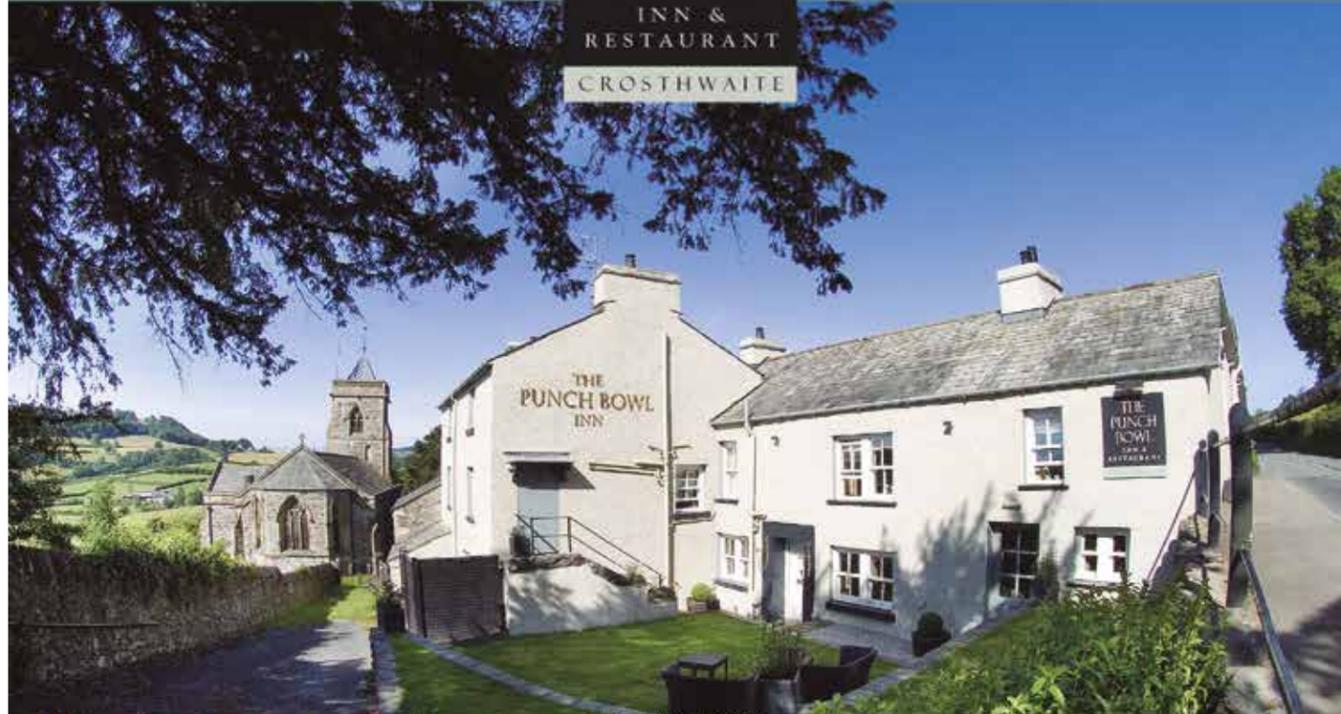
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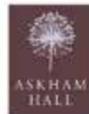
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Feel welcomed to Lancrigg as friends with our relaxed & personal approach we will help you make your wedding day everything you dreamt it would be. We can do as little or as much as you would like in helping you create your perfect day for your Lake District wedding.

Enjoy the wonderful wedding celebrations of course and in addition... for your weekend guests, we host a whole range of activities including climbing, walks, spa sessions or a cocktail master class!

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The Rings



Wedding rings come in different styles, metals, and of course, prices - the choice is endless. The key is to choose a ring that reflects your individual style and taste.

For the more traditional couple, the popular choice is still the matching his and hers rings. If you are planning to have matching rings, make sure you

shop together. Some couples will opt to have the same metal but the bride might choose to add diamonds to make her ring a little different.

The jeweller you choose will offer you all the help and advice that you need, as well as years of experience. Remember this choice is very important as they will need to last a lifetime.

NARROW DOWN YOUR WEDDING RING CHOICES

Diamonds or gemstones, platinum or gold or even dinosaur bone and meteorite - narrowing down your ring options may seem overwhelming, but don't panic. Just take it one step at a time. Start with style: Are you envisioning a simple band or one with embellishments? Do you want your wedding ring to be the same metal as your engagement ring? Do you think you and your partner's rings should match?

CONSIDER BUYING YOUR ENGAGEMENT AND WEDDING RINGS TOGETHER

If you prefer to be surprised by the engagement ring, this may not work, but knowing what bands go with the engagement ring can help you make a decision. For example, if you have a unique engagement ring, you may want a simple band, whereas a simple engagement ring may call for the added sparkle of a diamond band. Also think about how the rings fit together. If you're planning on wearing your engagement and wedding ring together, look for a band designed to interlock with the matching engagement ring. If you're planning on wearing your wedding ring alone, you may want a more intricate style that will look great with or without your engagement ring.



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Dress to Impress



Choosing your wedding dress can feel like a terrifying process. After all, the wedding dress is unquestionably the single most important element of the wedding. Firstly, there are just SO many options out there it can be overwhelming. Secondly, how on earth do you choose a dress which is supposed to make you look (and feel) like the most beautiful you've ever felt?!

The choice of styles available is huge and the best option to finding this dream dress is the old fashioned way; do some legwork! More often than not there will be one or two bridal shops near where you live, and these, of course, are your first stop. Even if they seem to be quite small shops, they will have a large range of options, and chances are you'll soon find one you fall in love with. If you don't, don't panic! Try visiting shops further afield in bigger towns or cities. Or, alternatively, contact a local bespoke tailor, where you can be the one to design the dress of your dreams.

What you wear on your wedding day is a serious statement of personal style and is most likely to be among the most costly item of clothing you will ever purchase, so choose carefully and go for something that really brings out your natural beauty rather than something that's on-fashion. You will look back on your photos of your big day in years to come - so go for something timeless that suits your body shape.

DON'T freak out about wedding dress sizing.

Bridal gown sizing runs small, so your gown may be two sizes bigger than your normal size. Once you get your head around that, be realistic; pay attention to how it looks, not what the label reads.

THE FABRIC

Wedding dresses come in all sorts of fabrics these days. You used to be fairly limited to a few to choose from but designers are always experimenting with new fabrics and especially organic ones. Below is a list of the most commonly found.



SATIN

Satin has been used forever in bridal gowns. It is heavy, smooth and shiny.



CHIFFON

Chiffon is a transparent fabric that is mainly layered with other fabrics, such as silk polyester or cotton. It's a very light, sheer fabric.



LACE

There are a million types of lace from all corners of the world. It's now often made with cotton thread but you can still find some that would be made of silk.



TULLE

Tulle is a form of netting that is often used to add volume to a dress, but it has more recently been used as the main finish to the skirt.

CREPE

Crepe is a fine fabric that is light and soft with a crinkled surface.

TAFFETA

This smooth fabric is often made from silk and, similar to organza, has a crisp, yet soft finish.

If you are not having a religious ceremony, then almost anything goes. But that's not to say you shouldn't wear a traditional dress - just something in keeping with your chosen venue. Indeed you may be having a civil ceremony in a grand location and want a grand gown to match, but you may need something extra to cover you if you are opting for an outdoor ceremony and there's an extra nip in the air, or for when the night closes in around your reception.

Once you have your outfit sorted, you should start on your bridesmaids! As coordinating the dresses, shoes and accessories with your own is essential. For the majority of weddings, bridesmaid dresses are chosen to complement the wedding's unique colours or theme. This may mean that bridesmaids wear identical dresses - but this isn't always the case anymore. Something should tie your bridal party together style-wise but rather than just the colour, it could be the fabric, neckline or even just the accessories that unifies them.

Though the focus is rightly on the bride, everybody wants to look their best for the big day. Men can choose between hiring or buying formal wear or maybe a more contemporary look - a designer suit, perhaps. The mother of the bride also needs to choose carefully as the right outfit will be admired by the guests throughout the day.

1. Start your search about nine months to a year prior to your wedding date, if possible.
2. Come up with a realistic budget.
3. Familiarise yourself with wedding gown shapes prior to going shopping.
4. Narrow down your favourite wedding dresses in a private Pinterest board.
5. Consider scheduling your appointment on a weekday, when there are fewer crowds, and you may get more time to shop.
6. Limit your dress shopping entourage to avoid becoming overwhelmed and confused.
7. Envisage how you want your dress to make you feel.
8. Keep an open mind when trying on gowns and try on different shapes.
9. Give your consultant constructive feedback, so they choose options that are more likely to suit you.
10. Test how comfortable a prospective gown is by moving around in it.
12. In the end, choose the dress that feels right for you, no one else.



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For most Brides, flowers are a huge part of the wedding day but deciding on flowers that fit your style and match your colour palette isn't always easy—especially if you don't know a rose from a ranunculus or what is in season and when.

The most important part is being able to trust your florist with your vision for your special day. Many florists will be happy to show samples and photos of their previous work,

so you can have stress free, beautiful flowers at your wedding.

Flowers can take up a large part of the budget, but there are a few ways you can save in this area too. Use flowers that are in season; use one small arrangement on tables and add a mirror underneath to double the impact; use easily transportable arrangements at your ceremony and then place them around your reception venue.



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POPULAR CHOICES ARE:



ROSE

Perhaps the world's favourite flower, it's not surprising roses are often top of a bride's list for her bouquet. A rose symbolises love and romance and have everything; grace, beauty and fragrance and are available in many different colours too. Whether incorporated into an elaborate bouquet or worn as a corsage on the wrist, the rose is an enduring and deservedly popular choice of wedding flower.



CALLA LILY

The calla lily is a very classy, iconic flower and a striking choice for both bridal and venue designs. With its clean lines and long smooth stems, these can look stunning as a bouquet for the bride. They are common in creamy ivory, but other colours such as yellow, orange, pink and purple are also available.

RANUNCULUS

This flower is known for its large variety of colors and can be used instead of roses. Its simplicity makes it suitable for centrepieces and arrangements. They can feature on their own but they are mostly used as a supporting flower to add depth to other flowers.

LILY OF THE VALLEY

Generally one of the more expensive types of wedding flower, as it is only available during the springtime, Lily of the Valley exudes an air of elegance that is difficult to match. A popular used flower in weddings which gives a bouquet or centerpiece its sweet fragrance.



STEPHANOTIS

Meaning 'marital happiness' the stephanotis flower is a wonderful way to add a touch of elegance to your wedding flowers. These small, pure white, star-shaped flowers exude a beautiful, fragrant perfume and have a timeless look about them, perfect for such a special day.



HYDRANGEAS

Hydrangeas come in different shades ranging from pink, purple, light blue etc and add a touch of elegance to bridal bouquets, table designs and large arrangements. The delicate pink and blue varieties are just perfect for a summer wedding, while the burgundy and deep green shades will enhance an autumn wedding beautifully.



TULIPS

The tulip symbolises love and happiness and come in a wide range of colours making them a popular choice of wedding flower. Tied together in posies or arranged in simple containers, they make truly eye-catching displays worthy of any wedding day celebration.



PEONY

A peony is a bright coloured flower with a strong fragrance and in full bloom looks stunning. Its luxurious taffeta-like flower head makes it also suitable for centrepieces and any other flower arrangements. It is available in different colours to complement the theme of your wedding. The Peony is a seasonal flower and its availability depends on the season.

ORCHIDS

These exotic flowers make an elegant and distinctive choice and look very sophisticated in cascading shower bouquets. Single orchid heads also make attractive buttonholes too which ensures your theme is carried through to the groom's party.

GERBERAS

The gerbera is an extremely popular choice of wedding flower due to its many colour varieties and the fact that it is relatively affordable. Carried alone or in a bouquet with other flowers, the gerbera is great for adding a vibrant accent colour to your big day.

SWEET PEA

Signifying lasting pleasure, the sweet pea is a very popular choice with couples looking to choose their wedding flowers in the summer months. The colours range from classic whites, lilacs, pinks and purples to the more hot colours of reds and corals and they have the most wonderful scent.



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Heather and Ross (11/06/16)



TIME4FLOWERS provided flowers for our wedding at the start of October and they were absolutely gorgeous. I was worried we would not get the colours I had hoped for in October but the flowers they chose were perfect!

Becky and Tom (08/10/16)



TIME4FLOWERS have been The Midland Hotels florist supplier for some time now. The service is always professional and friendly with great creativity. I would thoroughly recommend TIME4FLOWERS no matter what the occasion!

Lee-Harry Hitchmough, Wedding & Events Manager, The Midland

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Cake and Caterers



Traditionally, wedding cakes used to be three tiered and were covered with royal icing. Nowadays, there are hundreds of cakes that you can choose from, which vary in design, look, as well as taste. You can even get a wedding cake customised to your own unique design and have just about any design you can imagine. How about a “naked” cake, a drip cake or even a doughnut tower? Maybe lots of cupcakes with fresh flowers or sugar paste? Have a look on Pinterest for hundreds of ideas. The choices are huge!



Once you have made up your mind what design you wish to have, look around for a cake designer who will be able to create your masterpiece. Go on Google and check out websites and Facebook. Also look in local newspapers and ask family and friends for recommendations. Visit a few shops and look at their style and ask to sample their cakes. (Not too many though... you don't want the dress taking out a size!) Ask for prices, this will depend on the size of the cake you need, the labour and the cost of ingredients. Some designers start filling up around a year in advance, so bear this in mind if you want someone specific.

While it is important that a wedding cake appeal to the visual senses, it is even more important that it tastes good or else you may be left with a whole lot of inedible wedding cake. Choose from the regular vanilla or chocolate, fruit cake or sponge cake, cheesecakes and even wedding cakes with a mousse filling. If you are tempted by different flavours and can't make up your mind, you can have different tiers in different flavours!

Once you have made your decisions, then book this around 6-8 months before the day. Provide them with as much information about your wedding as you can: The colour scheme, the flowers, the location - this will help with the design.

To ensure you get exactly what you want, check that all the details, including the date, place and time of the wedding, plus the style and flavours of the cake, are in your contract with the designer. Your baker should update the contract anytime you change your mind, and as you choose further details. Whether it's with a written description or a sketch, it should be clear exactly how your cake will look on the wedding day.

CATERING

If you've booked a wedding venue that doesn't provide the catering, or you're hiring a marquee and need to provide all the food for your wedding yourselves, then the best way to feed your guests is going to be by hiring a professional wedding catering company.

Whatever your budget, external caterers will be able to offer expert advice on various options to make every penny count, ensuring the festivities are worthy of the occasion.

When choosing a caterer, seeking recommendations from family and friends is always a good idea; it is often difficult to judge the standard of service on offer just by looking at brochures. Caterers can usually supply table linen, crockery and cutlery, and can often also provide drinks. If the caterers are supplying the drinks they may only charge for bottles opened, but if you provide the drinks they may charge a little extra to serve them.

The wedding breakfast is an important part of your wedding day, and something you and your guests will remember. The key is to find the caterer who will create the perfect menu, at the right price for you.

WHAT TYPE OF CATERING DO I NEED?

The catering and refreshments will very much depend on the venue and type of reception you've decided on. Many venues recommend caterers, or may even insist that you use a particular one. However, for the marquee in the garden, local restaurants, bakers, off-licences and even supermarkets will be more than willing to quote.

Once you've found your ideal venue, the couple and/or the bride's parents, should make an appointment with the person in charge to discuss dates, times, the number of guests and the exact prices of things – specifically the cost of the meal, which is usually the biggest expense in the budget.

Your caterer will need to know the date, time of reception, number of guests, level of hospitality you wish to provide and your limit on charges per head to supply you with ideas and quotations. Costs are usually quoted per 'head'. Always ask for quotes and confirmation of everything in writing.

The caterer should also visit the site of the reception prior to the wedding day to decide what further equipment and facilities they will need to bring with them. For a small buffet, they will bring the food already prepared and may only need washing up and coffee making facilities, whereas a larger event may mean the caterer needs to bring a cooker or a fridge.

Most caterers will clear away afterwards, so discuss when the clearing away will be done and let them know if serving staff will be required after the meal to serve drinks. Ask if a member of staff will act as Master of Ceremonies for you so that you have someone to cut and serve the wedding cake too

It's important to give yourself enough time to get estimates and compare catering services, facilities and costs if necessary. Remember that caterers tend to get booked up months in advance.



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Wedding Entertainment



These days the wedding reception is as important a part of the wedding day as the ceremony itself. The happy couple want to let their hair down and celebrate their wedding day with friends and family.

One thing people certainly remember from a wedding reception is the entertainment. Get this right and everyone is sure to have a good time. Everyone's expectations for entertainment are always so high. Speak to friends and family to see if they can recommend anyone but shop around and see what options are available.

WEDDING DJ'S

Hiring a DJ is one of the most popular forms of wedding entertainment. If there is one way to really get the party started at a wedding it's an entertaining, engaging and lively DJ.

Finding the right DJ is essential to having a great wedding reception, make the wrong choice and it can ruin your whole day! A bad DJ can actually turn your reception into a nightmare, so this really is a very important decision and should be made very carefully.

LIVE BANDS

Like the idea of live music? Why not opt for a live wedding band? This kind of entertainment can really transform your wedding reception into something really special.

SOLO MUSICIANS

Couples who have less of a budget but still want live music at their wedding should consider a solo musician. The ambiance that a solo musician can bring to your wedding ceremony, breakfast or even reception is so beautiful.



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Photography and Videography



You've put so much time and effort into planning your wedding you'll want every special moment captured in photos. Wedding photos last a lifetime so it's essential to choose the perfect wedding photographer to suit your style and budget. But how do you know which photographer is right for you?

The quality of a photographer's portfolio should be the first thing that captures your attention. Each photographer will have his or her own style of capturing the happiness and fun of the day, so you need to ensure that it fits with your vision of the event. Early booking is essential, as the best photographers are in demand, and when talking them through your day, make sure you are clear about the kind of shots you do and don't want. If the photographer knows the venue already, then they know where to get the best shots. If they don't, ask them to check it out beforehand.

If you are drawn to a particular photographer, make sure you ask to view all of their images (not just the favourites they pick for their websites!) so that you can check the image quality is consistent throughout. You put a lot of trust and faith in your wedding photographer. In order to get the best images and a true account of the most important day of your life, it is imperative that you feel comfortable and relaxed in their presence.

You can usually tell within the first 5 minutes of meeting someone, whether you feel a connection. First impressions are important and if you instantly feel comfortable then you are on to a good thing. If you feel uncomfortable around your photographer for whatever reason then this will be noticeable in your wedding photos.

Also, think of your guests. If your wedding photographer is approachable, friendly and down to earth, your guests will be at ease allowing the photographer to blend in and capture the day as it naturally unfolds rather than a forced and posed account.

Standard poses, such as the wedding party line up, or the cutting of the cake are always very nice, but you could always try and make your album unique by doing something creative and different! You could freeze-frame it! Still-life pictures can record special wedding day details and capture the mood. The photographer could, for example, snap your dress on the hanger, your old trainers tossed next to the wedding shoes, the bridesmaid's bouquets resting on a table, place cards lined up, and so on.

Above all, the style of the images should say something about you both as a couple. Whether you are looking for relaxed and informal photography or you would like to go for a more adventurous and contemporary style, be sure to do your homework and shop around.

If you would like to have a DVD that actually bears repeated viewing and does justice to your fantastic day, then call in the professionals. With all the back up a videographer has at their disposal, you won't end up with only half the ceremony because the camcorder battery ran out! As with photographers, styles will vary, so ask for demonstration DVD's to see whose work you like, or check out their social media and website. Make sure you ask to see a copy of their public liability insurance and professional indemnity policy just in case of any problems and check the contract as to what the photographer will do in the event of accident or illness.

VALUE FOR MONEY

A photographer should be open about their pricing structures and in turn, you should be clear on your budget. Neither one of you wants to waste any time, so being clear right from the beginning will resolve this.

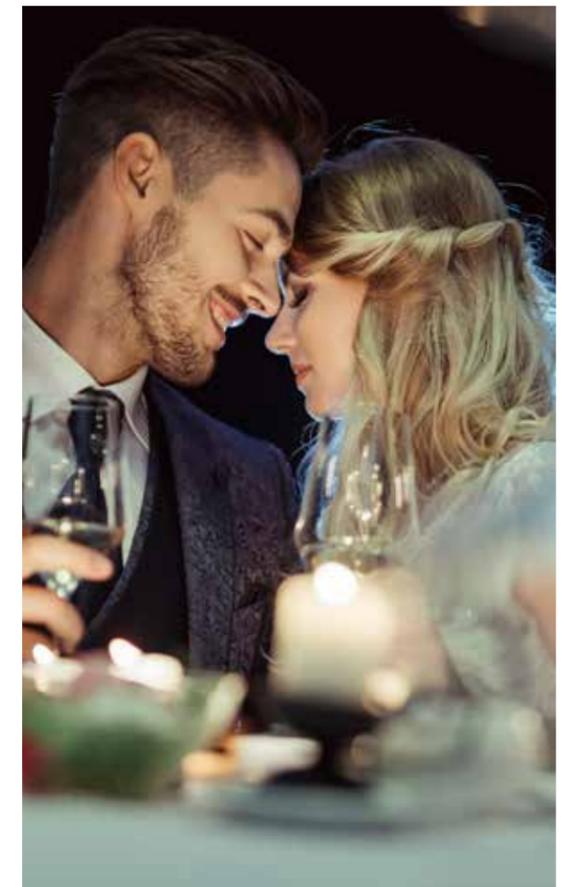
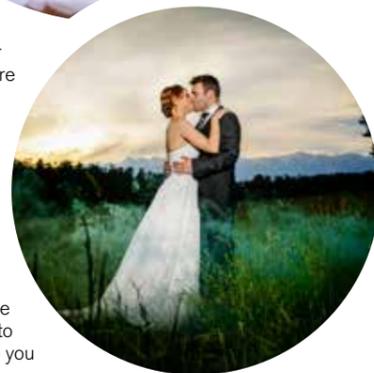
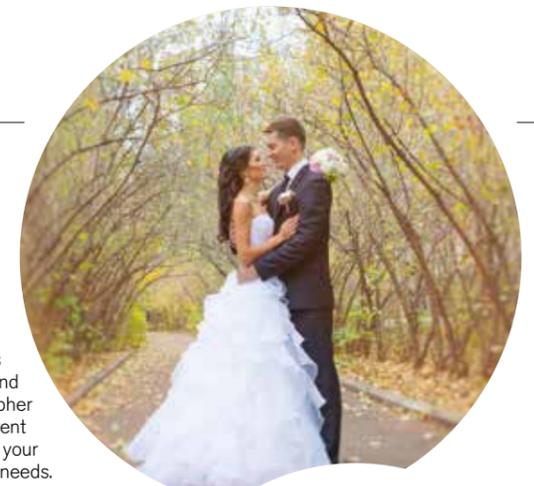
Your photographer should offer a variety of packages to suit all and should always be flexible with pricing and what is included within each package. Your photographer is providing a service and each couple will have different expectations and requirements so do make sure that your photographer can tailor make a package to suit your needs.

Always remember to ask about any hidden extras. Some photographers charge an additional fee for editing, VAT, creating artwork for an album or even travel and food expenses. You should always ensure that all costs are detailed in a quote before entering in to any contractual agreement.

RECOMMENDATIONS

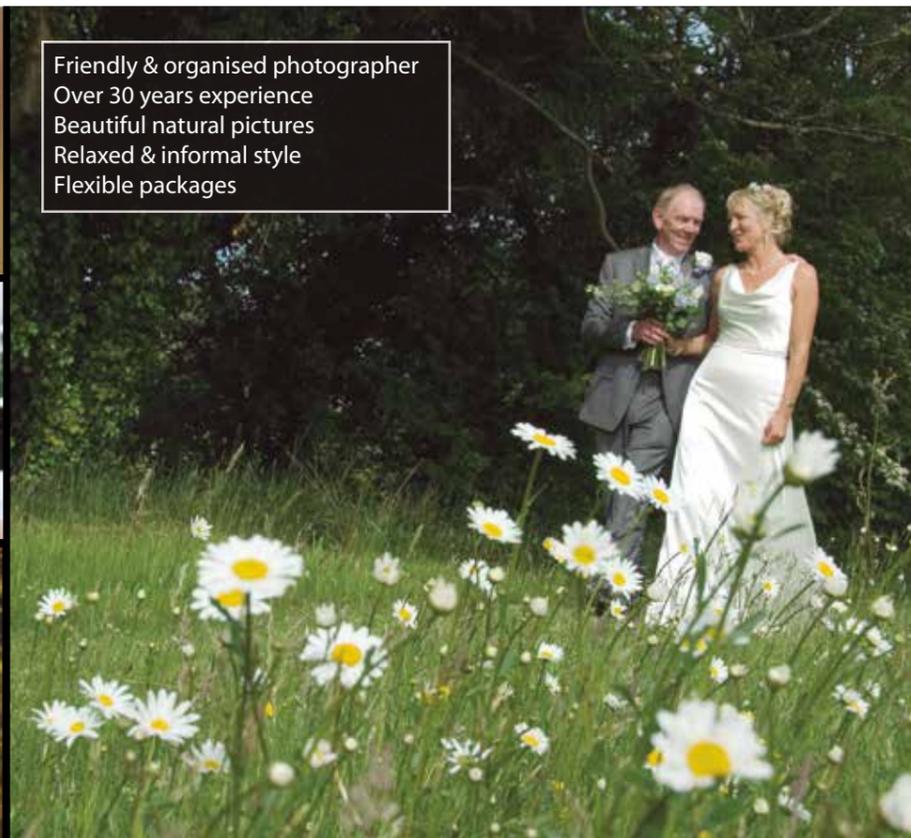
If your friends and family have been happy with the quality of the service and work of a particular photographer then chances are, you will be too. Speak to your friends about their experiences with their wedding photographer and try to make use of tips and advice from those who have organised their own weddings. A good photographer will always be able to give you a testimonial from previous clients upon request or even provide you with contact details should you wish to hear from them directly.

If a photographer has been in the business for years and has experience in abundance, you may want to check that their style has moved with the times and will meet the expectations of a modern day bride and groom.



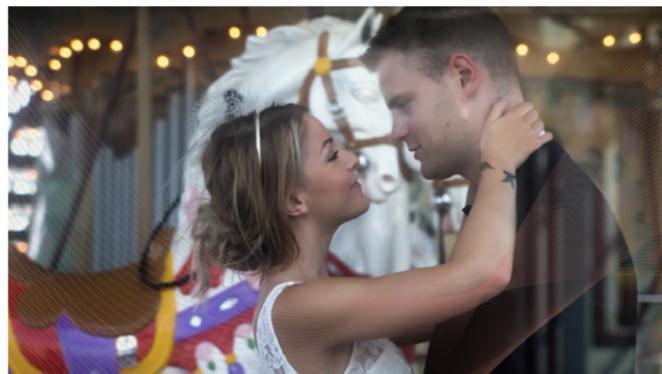


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Arrive in Style



Transport is a very important aspect of the wedding. Choosing your wedding car can be tricky as you and your intended may have completely different ideas. You may like the traditional vintage car, where they may want to drive away as husband and wife in a sports car. There are so many different ways of arriving to your big day, varying from horse drawn carriages, wedding limos, helicopter, vintage VW campers and more.

You need to choose whether you want to appear in a classic or modern car. Also choose the colour of the car, whether it will be black or white, or another colour altogether. Where white is usually on show to symbolise purity, black is slick. You also have to think about the time of the year and the weather this may bring.

More ideas for choosing the perfect wedding transport:

Vintage Rolls Royce, a classic Daimler, suave Bentleys, a fine Mercedes or classy Jaguar – the choices are endless for wedding transport for your big day! Vintage is really fashionable at the moment for wedding transport so head the trend and book your traditional wedding car as soon as possible.

You may not even want to use a car. You could choose to turn up to your wedding in a fire engine, an old fashioned bus or even motorbike and sidecar. The choices are endless and it all depends on your personality and style of wedding (and also the size of the wedding gown as you do not want this to get creased).

For some brides and grooms the only way to travel to and from their wedding is by helicopter. You need to be aware of the obvious extra cost and fit that into your wedding budget! But flying sky high after your wedding can be a magical and stylish way to travel to your reception. Check the company's policy on cancellations – they can't fly in certain weather conditions but may be happy to transfer the booking for an anniversary flight instead. Also check that your venue has either a helipad or an area in their grounds suitable for landing.

Also, booking your wedding transport, you need to check what the package includes. These are normally; an umbrella, uniformed chauffeur and insurance cover. Check the contract and make sure this includes the journey, period of hire, type of vehicle and what is expected on the day and what would happen in the event of a breakdown.

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Hair and Beauty



A special wedding hairstyle is fundamental for your special day. Once you have booked the date for your big day, make sure that you have all necessary appointments made with a professional stylist that you trust. Even if the wedding itself is a year or more away, top bridal hairdressers can be booked up that far in advance, so check their availability, even if you haven't decided on the style you are after - that will depend on your headdress or tiara and jewellery.

Once you have decided on your dress and head accessories, discuss this with your hairdresser to ensure your hair complements your overall look on your wedding day, and have a trial so that they know exactly how to prepare your hair for the occasion.

In advance, regular washing and conditioning, along with an invigorating scalp massage and deep conditioning treatment (about 4 weeks prior to the event) not only feels good, but stimulates the hair follicles and encourages the growth of healthy hair. It is a good idea to have it cut about a week before the wedding day, so that it still retains its shape but has had time to settle.

BEAUTY:

Make sure you cleanse, exfoliate and moisturise your skin everyday in the run up to the wedding, to keep it glowing and healthy as well as drinking lots of water. If you are prone to spots, use an aqueous (water-based) cream which you can buy from your local pharmacy. This way you aren't putting oil into your skin which can increase the chance of spots, but you are still hydrating the skin and encouraging it to heal and clear.

Facials and face masks will also help to remove any blemishes and impurities in the skin, as well as feeling and smelling luxurious, but be aware that having one a few days beforehand might lead to a blotchy face on the actual day! Always do a patch test in the crook of your elbow before using a face mask to make sure you're not allergic to it, you don't want a blotchy, peeling face on your big day.



TEETH

Make sure your teeth are looking white for all those beautiful photographs you're going to be posing for. Most toothpastes on the market include whitening ingredients, but for better, faster results, choose one specifically targeted at whitening. Teeth whitening strips are also a great option but be careful not to overdo it, as they can make your teeth very sensitive to hot and cold (and you want to be able to enjoy that chilled glass of fizz at the reception!).



NAILS

Book a manicure and get your nails and cuticles tidied up. Have a shellac or gel manicure with coloured polish which will protect them and won't chip.

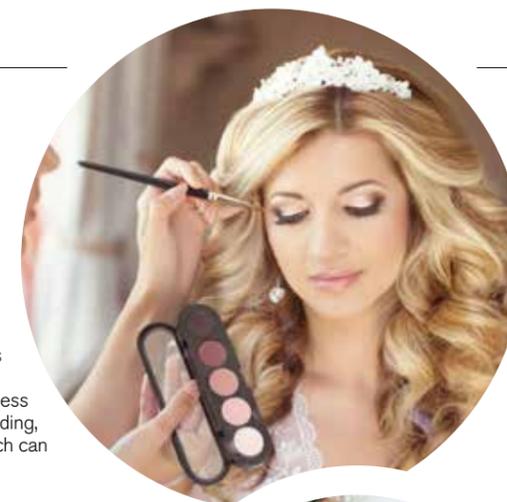
EYES

Since the skin around your eyes is particularly sensitive, be gentle and take off eye makeup with a water-soluble remover (don't scrub), and keep rubbing to a minimum. A nightly application of eye cream, in combination with adequate sleep, will improve the appearance of dark circles and a cool compress once or twice a week (or as needed) helps keep puffiness at bay. During the days before the wedding, steer clear of too much salty food, which can cause eyes to look swollen.



LIPS

For that all-important kiss at the end of the ceremony, you'll want your lips to be in the best possible shape. You should also exfoliate your lips at least once a week, to clear away dead skin. Wet a toothbrush with warm water and brush lips with a gentle back-and-forth motion. Finally, protect your lips with sunscreen, as the sun can leave lips looking and feeling parched.



LEGS

Your wedding dress might have your legs covered, but that's no reason to ignore them. Shave only after you've softened the skin with warm (not hot) water and use a moisturising shave cream. One of the simplest rules for keeping them smooth post-shower, apply a rich moisturiser while legs are still damp. Or, about a week before the wedding, book yourself in for a leg and bikini wax so you can forget about having to de-fuzz on your honeymoon.

FEET

Use a pumice stone or foot rasp daily to scrub away dry, cracked skin on heels and toes. Feet should be damp, not completely wet -- a soaking wet foot is too slippery to be properly exfoliated. Then treat your feet while you sleep. Slap on a thick layer of moisturiser and slip into a pair of cotton socks, which will retain body heat and help seal in moisture overnight.

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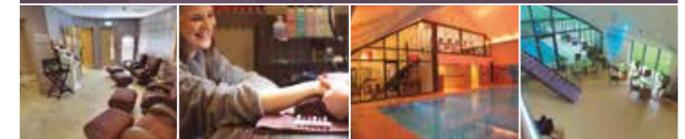
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Finishing Touches



Church? Done! Reception? Done! But what about all the little things when it comes to planning a wedding? Personalising your wedding can be one of the most fun parts of wedding planning, and much easier than you may think. Every couple's wedding is unique to them, and the list of ideas are endless, so it is difficult to put into words exactly what final touches you will need to take care of... but we hope we can give you some inspiration!

WEDDING HASHTAGS

For users of Instagram or Twitter, creating your own wedding hashtag is a great idea for keeping all your guests' photos and well-wishes in one place. By coming up with a hashtag and sharing it with your guests, you can go back after the wedding and take a look at your big day from the perspective of your guests. They may snap shots from different angles, or capture moments you didn't even know happened during the day.

If your names are common or you can't come up with anything quirky, using the year or date of your wedding is a quick and easy way to make it your own.



POM-POMS AND HANGING DECORATIONS

Struggling to decorate your marquee wedding venue? Your best decorations will be on the ceiling!

Paper pom-poms are affordable to buy, and even cheaper to create yourself using just tissue paper and string... group in clusters or hang individually on different lengths of ribbon, they can also look fabulous attached to pew ends and chair backs too, or placed in bowls around the venue.

If you're having a country garden or vintage style wedding, some lights and lanterns will look fab! Drape them around the grounds of your venue, from trees in the garden for that romantic feel or hang around your sweetie table.

FUN & GAMES

Wedding receptions are a great relief for everyone involved in the wedding because it means the most stressful part is over, and it's party time!

Wedding games are a fun way to celebrate the wedding couple and give the audience a few laughs!

JENGA

If you want something unique rather than a traditional guestbook, how about Jenga? Have your guests sign individual Jenga blocks so that you can put together your own custom Jenga set. You'll be reminded of all the lovely sentiments your guests shared on your magical day every time you play the game.

PHOTO BOOTH

Your wedding is one of the most special days of your life, and one that you will want to remember forever. There's no better way of capturing the fun and enjoyment you have on this special day with your friends and family, than hiring a photo booth to capture those memories.

A general photographer can't get the fun and exciting images at the reception that you can get in a booth. Nothing can beat a brilliant photographer at your ceremony, but this is the best way of capturing your guests on camera and video. Photo booths have become a very popular alternative for this reason.



BOUNCY CASTLE

Who says that bouncy castles are just for children? Wedding bouncy castles are coming increasingly popular, they can be a brilliant way of entertaining children (and adults) during the excitement of the day. Perfect for making your wedding that little bit different.



CARICATURE

When you hire a Caricaturist for your wedding, it is the perfect entertainment for between proceedings, during the photographs or at the wedding reception. If you hire a Caricaturist not only will it serve as a fantastic ice-breaker for guests, it will entertain everybody and provide a great talking point. And, in addition, it will also leave your guests with a cherished memento of your special day.

PINATA

One of the favorite new trends is the wedding pinata! These are paper art pieces designed and constructed to complement your wedding. Fill it with sweets, small favours for your guests like lottery tickets, small toys (for the kids) and miniature alcohol bottles (for the adults).

FAVOURS

Your wedding favours are a way of saying thank you to your guests; a small token of your appreciation for their sharing in your special day.

Traditionally guests would receive a small bag or box containing 5 sugared almonds representing the five blessings of Wealth, Health, Happiness, Long Life and Fertility. Now, of course, your wedding favours can be almost anything to reflect your own taste, budget and personality.

Fortune cookies are a highly affordable option and you could even personalise them with your own message.

Sparklers would give an amazing touch to an outdoor evening reception. If your guests use these on the day itself, then you can guarantee some amazing wedding photos.

Everyone likes a doughnut! Pop them in individual boxes for a special touch that would make amazing favours.

Feeling lucky? If you are, then share your luck with your guests by giving them a lottery ticket. This is a fun and affordable favour idea that could lead to some big wins!

WEDDING PLAYLIST

Your wedding music playlist will quite literally be the soundtrack to your wedding night and it's fair to say that picking the right music can be an incredibly personal, yet difficult process. You want your guests to hit the dance floor, so why not suggest your guests choose the songs for you? On your invites, ask them to choose a song they would dance with you to on the night. Not only is it a great conversation-starter but it means they have no excuse not to have a boogie!

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Legatities and Contacts



Some venues have facilities to allow you to get married in a permanent outdoor structure. Remember that even if you are retreating to a romantic hideaway to get married, on the day of the wedding you will need at least two people to witness the marriage and sign the register for it to be official.

LEGAL FORMALITIES

Before you can get married, there are certain legal formalities to be fulfilled. Both bride and groom must attend the register office in the district where you live to individually inform them of your intention to marry, a process known as 'giving notice'.

It doesn't matter if either of you move, although you must have lived in the district for the preceding seven days. You must do this personally, and it is advisable to make an appointment to do this, as it takes about half an hour.

You must also then make arrangements with the district where you wish to be married. 'Giving notice' can be undertaken up to a year before the wedding, to show that you are both free to marry. You will need to provide your passport, birth certificate, proof of address and driving licence. You will be asked about you and your partner, including full names, addresses, ages, occupations, nationalities and whether you've been married before.

If either of you are under 18, there will be some forms that must be completed by your parent or guardian. After giving notice, there must be at least fifteen clear days before you can marry.

CHARGES

You will have to pay fees for each individual part of your marriage, each district has different prices, so check with your local register office for more information. Be sure to include these fees when considering your overall budget, as well as any other costs that arise when booking a church or other ceremonial venue.

RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES

If you are planning a Church of England wedding, visit the vicar of the church where you live. The vicar will register the marriage for you so that there is no need to involve the local superintendent registrar.

Usually, you must live in the district where you plan to marry, unless the building is your usual place of worship. Please check fees with the vicar where you are planning to marry, as prices can vary enormously depending on location, accessibility, popularity and size.

CIVIL CEREMONIES

At a register office, you need to arrive fifteen minutes before the ceremony. The registrar will then ensure that all information is correct on the day, they will see you and your partner separately, in order to confirm the details.

At approved premises, the ceremony is similar to a register office marriage, but any additional vows may be added and non-religious music and poetry can be included, but there are certain words and phrases that must legally be included.

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registrationservice@cumbria.gov.uk

KENDAL - 0300 303 2472
County Offices, Busher Walk, Kendal LA9 4RQ
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PENRITH - 0300 303 2472
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