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Exclusive:
Designer Hayley Paige, VIEVE and more

Scotland's luxury wedding brand




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WELCOME

Hello! September already! Where is this year going? We've had a busy few months pulling this issue together and I know I say this every time, but it really might be one of my favourites yet.

Inside you'll find our interview with London-based bridal designer Hayley Paige. Her gowns are something else and the conversation was brilliant. By the way, Hayley gets married this month… More on that in the next issue of *YSW*!

We've also got The Big Interview with Kilts 4 U, which is a brilliant read for anyone considering Highlandwear.

Our Your Wedding Journey section has some gorgeous new faces this issue too. Ana-Rose O'Neil, TikTok influencer and bride-to-be, joins us alongside Capital Scotland breakfast host Robyn Richford and TikTok creator Claire Payling. They're all at very different stages of planning and all wonderfully honest about the process.

We've also tackled two topics that don't get nearly enough airtime – inclusive hair and beauty for all grooms and wedding parties, and what record gold prices actually mean for your jewellery choices (with some really exciting alternatives worth knowing about).

As always, Your Wedding Day is full of real couples who've recently said their vows and there are some absolute gems in there this issue.

Every supplier you'll find in these pages has been personally selected by our team and that matters. We want you to trust what you find here, and you can.

Whether you've just got engaged or you're counting down the days, we hope there's something in here for you.

Happy planning,

Lesley x

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ON THE COVER
DR KALY JAFF AT THE ICONIC OLD COURSE HOTEL, ST ANDREWS. ELEGANT, SOPHISTICATED AND VERY CHIC.






Hayley Paige
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THE BIG *Interview*

WITH HAYLEY PAIGE BRIDAL

On emotional design, the evolution of the modern bride and why she's never really chasing timeless.



***Your Scottish Wedding*: How did Hayley Paige Bridal begin and how has it evolved since launch?**

***Hayley Paige*:** The brand began from a desire to create gowns that felt emotionally expressive rather than purely trend-driven. I've always been drawn to movement, texture and silhouette in a way that feels like a love language – an encouragement of helping a bride feel entirely herself. Over time, Hayley Paige Bridal has evolved into something more collaborative and resilient. The romance is still there but now it's paired with a stronger emphasis on craftsmanship and owning your story. REIN, our most recent collection, feels like a very honest expression of that perspective. She's dedicated to the dedicated.

***YSW*: How do you balance romanticism with modern bridal style? What's the Hayley Paige approach to creating gowns that feel timeless but contemporary?**

***HP*:** I'm not really focused on timelessness. I find it a bit subjective. I love that wedding dresses can be considered both an heirloom and a timestamp. Balancing modernity with romanticism comes from exploring the spectrum of architectural lines, softer draping and dimensional texture. I never want a gown to feel overly referential to a specific moment in fashion but I also don't believe tradition requires you to play it safe.

***YSW*: What are brides looking for now that they perhaps weren't 10 or 20 years ago? How have priorities shifted?**

***HP*:** Today's bride wants something that feels like her and provides sartorial authorship to her love story. They're far more interested in individuality and emotional alignment than performing a traditional bridal role. There's also a much deeper appreciation now for construction, versatility and intentional design. Also, brides are incredibly informed today. They understand craftsmanship, silhouette engineering, fabrication and styling in a way that feels much more sophisticated than in previous generations. The conversation has shifted from "What's expected?" to "What feels true to me?"



REIN BY HAYLEY PAIGE | KOKO KING PHOTOGRAPHY

***YSW*: For brides unfamiliar with the process, what goes into creating a Hayley Paige gown?**

***HP*:** Every gown begins with a personality or an emotional narrative before it ever becomes a finished sketch. I love listening to music and going down rabbit holes of art history or pop culture. From there, I go straight into the illustration stage; sometimes more specific artworks, but often a fun doodle that's more cartoon-like. Once I find a rendering that really speaks to me, the process becomes more technical – draping, pattern engineering, fabric sourcing, embroidery placement, internal corsetry, finishing and extensive rounds of refinement. A great bridal gown has to perform beautifully from every angle and under every condition: movement, light, photography, emotion. Many of the dimensional textures and layered details associated with our gowns involve an enormous amount of handwork and engineering, even if the final result looks or feels effortless.

***YSW*: How would you describe the Hayley Paige signature aesthetic?**

HP: The DNA has always centred around love, artistry and imaginativeness. I'm drawn to gowns that feel joyful, niche and full of secrets. There's usually a balance between softness and boldness in the work. Even the more whimsical pieces are grounded in construction and proportion. I've never been particularly interested in ornamentation for ornamentation's sake. I want the details to contribute to the storyline and have a specific point of view.

***YSW*: Bridal fashion has become more expressive and personal. How does that show up in your work?**

***HP*:** Brides today are much more willing to embrace silhouettes, textures and styling choices that reflect their personality rather than adhering to convention. We're seeing strong interest in dramatic sleeves, sculptural skirts, convertible elements, layered colours and gowns that create a distinct emotional mood. What's exciting is that brides are no longer compartmentalising their personal style separately from bridal style. They want those worlds to feel completely integrated.

***YSW*: Are brides thinking differently about how they want to feel on their wedding day?**

HP: I think they're prioritising presence over perfection. There's a stronger desire to feel grounded, confident, emotionally connected and fully themselves, rather than performing an idealised version of bridal femininity. And I say this despite the very real pressure many brides feel to capture all the content.

***YSW*: Your gowns are reaching brides here in Scotland. How are you finding the market?**

HP: I'm still learning and it's been an absolute delight. It's truly special to know our gowns are speaking to brides with such a beautiful heritage. What has struck me most is how emotionally intentional Scottish brides seem to be with their choices. There's a real appreciation for romance, craftsmanship and individuality but also a practicality that feels very grounded and elegant. I've noticed that many Scottish brides are dressing not just for a moment but for a setting. The castles, countryside estates, coastal landscapes and even the moodiness of the weather create such a cinematic backdrop for bridal fashion. It lends itself beautifully to texture, layering, sleeves, dramatic veils and richer fabrics – gowns that feel timeless but still expressive. There's also a wonderful balance between sophistication and personality. They gravitate towards pieces that feel authentic, emotionally resonant and memorable, which, as a designer, is incredibly inspiring.

***YSW*: You work with Scottish stockists. How do those partnerships shape the experience for brides?**

HP: The stockists we work with bring the emotional experience of the collection to life with warmth, attentiveness and trust. Bridal appointments are deeply personal and it's so important that brides feel supported rather than pressured. Our collection is available at Aimee Bridal Couture in Glasgow and Sophia Grace Couture in Haddington.

***YSW*: Tell us about a moment where a bride's gown meant something beyond the dress itself.**

HP: Working with Baylen Dupree Dooley was absolutely fabulous. She's a content creator and TV personality, known for openly sharing her life with Tourette syndrome and OCD. The entire process was a real reflection of who she is – expressive, sparkly and completely unapologetic in her presence. The gown was engineered around the idea of immersive luminosity. It had layers of rhinestone, shimmer tulle, dimensional texture and movement that felt almost cinematic. But what stood out most was how committed she was to feeling fully like herself rather than fitting into a conventional bridal expectation. Beneath all the spectacle, there was tremendous tenderness in how excited she was to create a genuine moment of awe for her husband, United States Air Force member Colin.

***YSW*: What's next for Hayley Paige Bridal?**

HP: REIN marked an important creative evolution for the brand and brought an exciting new cadence to my design work. It felt like my director's cut. Moving forward, I'm especially interested in continuing to create gowns that feel emotionally driven and highly considered in their execution. The goal is always to evolve artistically without losing the emotional core that makes bridal meaningful in the first place.

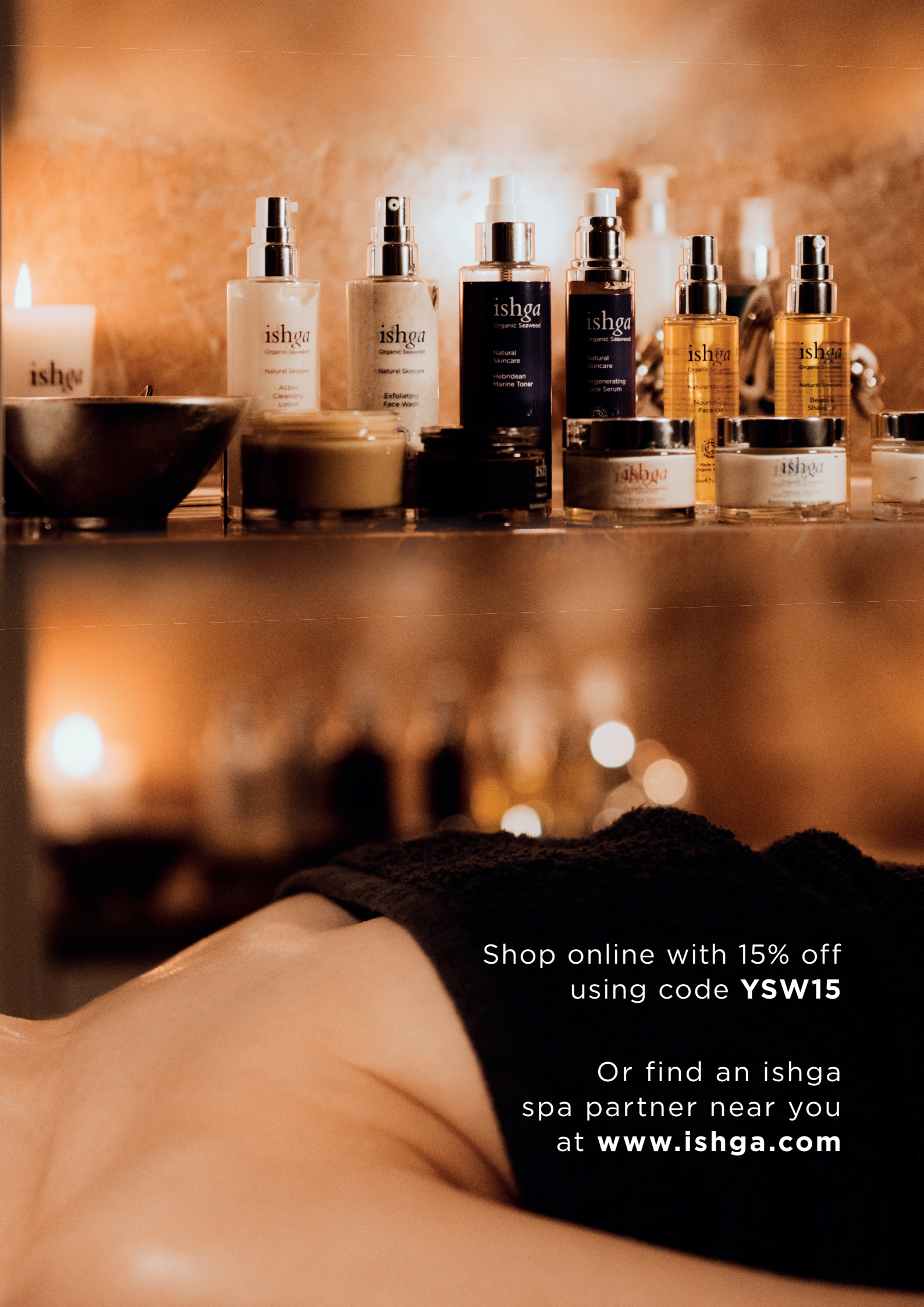


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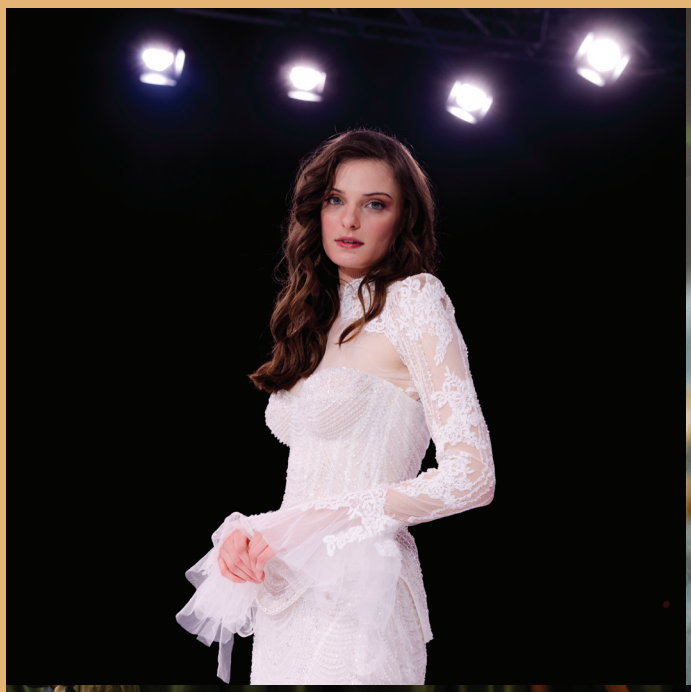
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YOUR MOOD BOARD BROUGHT TO LIFE

A NEW CHAPTER FOR KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE

Dunfermline's only bridal boutique has a new owner – and she walked in as a customer.



When Gayle Morrice walked into Kudos Bridal Boutique in Dunfermline in May, she wasn't looking to buy a business. "We got our daughter's wedding dress at Kudos three years ago. The experience stood out so much that my future daughter-in-law wanted to go there too."

"She'd seen the shop was closing due to Jackie's retirement, and that weekend in May was the last opportunity to place orders before the doors shut at the end of October. We went along and I remember just standing there thinking 'why is no-one buying this?'"

Meetings followed and at the start of August, Gayle officially took the reins, working alongside assistant manager Megan and Jackie herself ahead of her retirement later this year.

THE BACKGROUND

This isn't entirely new territory. Gayle ran her own events styling business for seven years before Covid then moved into interior design. Her eye for detail, her understanding of what's needed for significant occasions and her instinct for making an experience memorable all followed her here.

WHAT'S STAYING THE SAME

What remains consistent at Kudos is what drew Gayle in the first place. "The passion and commitment we carry towards each bride's journey will never change," she says.

As the only bridal boutique currently in Dunfermline, Kudos holds a particular place in the Fife wedding scene – and Gayle is focused on maintaining its outstanding reputation as well as cementing its status as a luxury destination.

WHAT'S NEW

The future is already taking shape. Twenty-three new dresses have been handpicked and some have already arrived. "One especially took my breath away when I saw it," Gayle admits.

New arrivals from Luna Novias, Alma Novia, Martha Blanc and Adriana Alier are expected in store soon. And as Bridal Week in Harrogate approaches, she has a few new designers firmly in her sights too. Watch this space from September onwards.

For brides walking through the door, whether they're just starting to look or ready to pop the fizz, the welcome will be the same. "We want all brides to feel seen, supported and absolutely beautiful."

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What *Really* Matters

She went on national television to marry a complete stranger. It didn't work out the way she hoped. But Leisha Lightbody came out the other side knowing exactly who she is — and what she's worth.

There aren't many people who can tell you what a wedding feels like when you strip away years of planning, the careful choosing of a partner, even the basic certainty of knowing who you'll be marrying. But Leisha can.

When she signed up for Channel 4's *Married at First Sight* (*MAFS*), she went in as a self-described lover girl with high expectations and an open heart. "I went on there really genuine. I just wanted to meet someone," she explains.

What she got was something she didn't expect, and something that changed her in ways she's still unpacking. "I feel like this has done me good," she says. And she means it.

CAMERAS ROLLING

The *MAFS* wedding day started at 6am. Getting ready scenes, interviews, photos – a long, overwhelming build-up before Leisha finally met her husband-to-be Reece at around 5pm. At first, it didn't feel like a real wedding. "There was too much going on and I hadn't met my husband yet. It felt overwhelming."

But once they were finally alone, something shifted. They talked, had a few drinks and she met his family. "At that point it did feel like a proper wedding."

One of the first things that struck her about the experience was how present everyone was. No phones and no distractions. "It was the first time in a long time that we were disconnected from the real world. We could just organically build relationships, whether that was friendships or love."

She chose her own dress; something she felt strongly about. *MAFS* provided £800 but she spent £1,500. "I thought to myself, maybe this would be the only time I get married so I want it to be really special." Décor-wise, she chose cream and green and when Reece arrived in a green suit (entirely independently) she couldn't quite believe it."

She wore the dress twice – at the wedding then again at the final vows. "The first time I met Reece was in that dress, when we were strangers. By the very last vows, I'd fallen in love with him. That was the whole point of the process for me."

The most surreal part of the whole experience wasn't the ceremony itself. It was their honeymoon in Thailand. "I'd only just met Reece and we were flying off together," she says. "I'm a nervous flyer and I'd never been anywhere that far before."

They enjoyed private chefs, Thai boxing classes and experiences she describes as extraordinary. "Things you probably wouldn't be able to afford in normal life. It was just the most surreal thing."

One piece of advice from before filming has stayed with her. A Scottish psychologist on the production team compared the *MAFS* process to an aeroplane. Filming is take-off, the show airing is mid-flight and when everything dies down, you're in descent. "It was so true. When the show is out there it can be overwhelming. Then it does gradually dwindle."

AFTER THE WHIRLWIND

It didn't end the way Leisha had hoped. But the ending gave her something she didn't know she needed.

"The biggest thing I discovered after *MAFS* was that I didn't have a lot of self-worth. I'd forgotten what I bring to the table." She'd always been in relationships, or at least dating someone. Being alone had scared her.


"I thought: if that was my daughter, my sister, my niece, I'd be telling her to know her worth. I needed to hear that about myself."
CHANNEL 4



Leisha on the engagement period: "It's about building trust and creating a life that's your own but integrated. Keep your independence. Build a strong friendship. And don't let the minor things get on top of you. You can't control everything."

"I just wanted to meet someone."

But last summer, post-*MAFS* filming, she stopped dating for the first time. "I just spent a lot of time alone, which I'd never done before. And I really needed it." She pauses. "I thought: if that was my daughter, my sister, my niece, I'd be telling her to know her worth. I needed to hear that about myself."

What followed was a gradual but real shift. Confidence up and self-worth up. A community of women around her (some old friends, some strangers who'd messaged her through Instagram after the show) who have her back in a way she hadn't anticipated. Now, as she connects with businesswomen in Glasgow, the focus is on empowerment – Leisha's building something she describes as a space where women know they always have someone to turn to.

"Women get a really bad reputation sometimes," she says. "But I feel like all of us just want to feel part of something."

Her views on marriage haven't changed. She still wants someone who's her best friend and who shows up through the difficult times as much as the easy ones. Her parents have been together since they were 14 and that's always been her reference point. "I won't settle," she adds.

FOR THE COUPLES

From someone who has experienced a wedding with almost none of the usual build-up, Leisha's advice to couples comes from an unusual place.

"Try to be as present as you can because you'll never get that time back," she says. In a social media environment where you're always two steps ahead, always thinking about the content, the shots, the reel, she urges couples to resist it. "On your wedding day, just be in the moment. It goes so fast and before you know it you wake up the next morning thinking, how did that even happen?"

Her other piece of advice is more straightforward – don't turn into Bridezilla. "I think I did at one point and I wasn't even properly planning it," she laughs. "I just got really het up about wanting everything a certain way."

And for anyone getting lost in the planning, the details or the pressure of making everything perfect? Leisha brings it back to the thing *MAFS*, in its own strange way, confirmed for her. "It's easy to be with somebody when everything's good. When you're with someone through the difficult times and they're still your biggest supporter, that's when you know you've met the right person."

She's still looking for her person. And she's in no rush.



INDIGO WILD STUDIO

After the Whirlwind

She married a stranger on national television. Now, a year on, Sarah Gillanders is busier than ever – and more herself than she's ever been.

There's a particular kind of aftermath that comes with doing something as publicly unusual as *Married at First Sight* (MAFS). The show ends, the cameras go away and real life (with all its ordinariness and possibility) comes back into focus.

For Sarah, that re-entry has been anything but quiet. "I've been super-busy," she says, and she means it. Her full-time role as a recruitment consultant continues alongside a growing portfolio of brand work. She's an ambassador for Malmaison hotels, works with worldwide businesses and brands, attends events and – as she puts it simply – just enjoying life. Next up: hosting the BWC Aberdeen Athena Awards in November..

It's a version of post-*MAFS* existence that looks different from what most people might expect. Less drama, more forward motion.



RECOGNITION AND REALITY

She still gets recognised. Not constantly, but enough. "I love meeting people out and about," Sarah smiles. The reaction when people make the connection is usually the same. "They're pretty shocked when they realise what I did on national television."

There's something she clearly enjoys about that moment; the slight disbelief on someone's face and the questions that follow. After months of keeping the *MAFS* experience relatively contained, being able to talk about it freely has its own relief.

What's changed most visibly since the show aired is the work that's come her way. Content creation, brand collaborations, events – things that feel like natural extensions of who she already was, rather than a reinvention. "I'm very grateful for the opportunities. Working with fantastic brands and local businesses has been something I'm really proud of."





WHAT'S SHIFTED

The bigger change, though, is internal. "I definitely feel completely different since *MAFS*," Sarah admits. "I've done a lot of healing after filming and airing, and I've definitely learnt a lot about myself."

The confidence piece is the one she comes back to most. It shows up in the content she's making, the people she's meeting and the rooms she's walking into with her shoulders back. "It's taken time since airing but I feel more confident than ever."

That's not a small thing for someone who, by her own admission in her first *YSW* feature, went into *MAFS* hoping it would be the moment everything clicked into place.

The show has also given her something harder to quantify: a clearer sense of what she wants. "I've learnt not to take life too seriously, try not to overthink everything and just enjoy yourself," she says. "I definitely want to meet the right person and settle down. Whenever that happens, I'll be ready."

LOOKING AFTER HERSELF

Being briefly public-facing brings its own pressures and Sarah has been thoughtful about how she manages them. "I've learnt to be kind to myself. I'm very lucky to have a great support network around me and I can lean on them whenever I need to."

The adjustment post-show wasn't something she'd mapped out in advance. "I just take every day as it comes – and still do." The support network she mentions isn't decorative; it's the thing that has really made the difference.

What surprised her most about life after the show? "The amount I've been recognised – and still am." She says it with a smile rather than overwhelm. "I love speaking and meeting new people." For someone who went on television partly because she wanted connection and love in her life, the community that's grown around her since has clearly meant something.

WHAT COMES NEXT

Ask Sarah about her plans and the answer is characteristically straightforward. "Just to keep going, keep working, keep busy, and continue to work with amazing brands and meet fabulous new people." There's no elaborate five-year plan, no reinvention in the works. Just someone getting on with it; enjoying what's come her way, staying open to what's next.

If she could go back and tell herself one thing before signing up for *MAFS*? "Don't be so hard on yourself. And enjoy it more."

Good advice for most of us, as it turns out.



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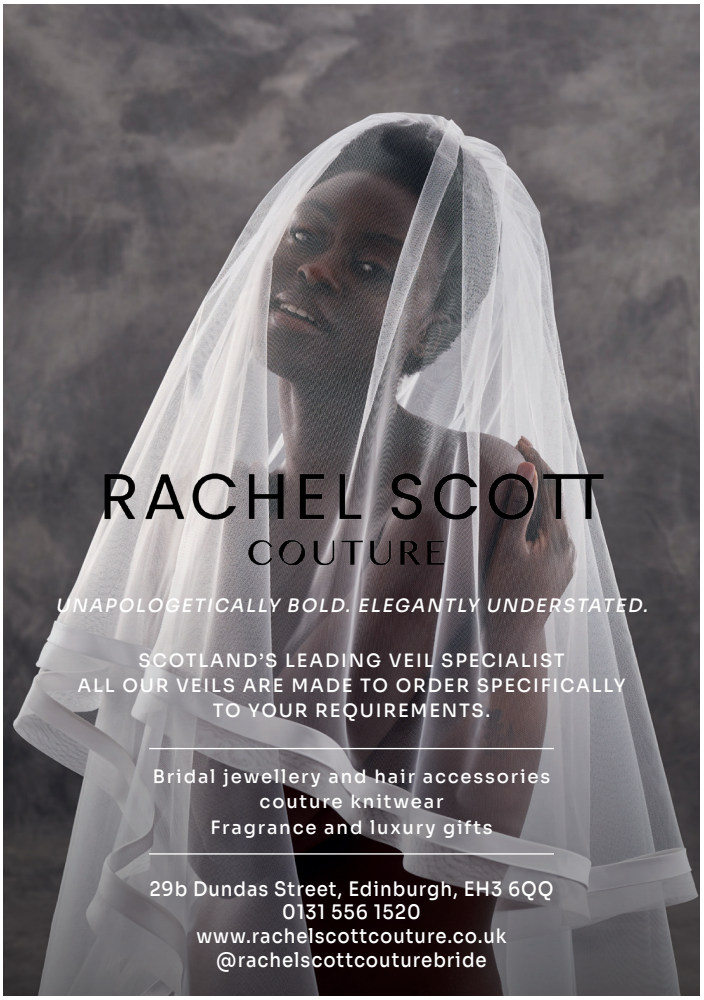
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THE EDIT

FRESH NEWS, LAUNCHES AND HIGHLIGHTS SHAPING SCOTLAND'S WEDDING SCENE





KOKO KING PHOTOGRAPHY

A RING THAT MOVES WITH YOU

One of the most innovative arrivals in Scottish jewellery right now is Serafino Consoli, now available at James Porter & Son. The Italian brand's patented multi-size rings use an intricate system of interlinked gold components (some with up to 198 individual parts and thousands of microscopic soldering points) that allow the ring to expand or contract with a gentle touch. Practical for everyday life – think finger size changes with temperature, pregnancy and time – and designed to pass between generations, it's fine jewellery that adapts alongside the life it celebrates.

JAMES-PORTER.CO.UK

HER MOST PERSONAL COLLECTION YET

Hayley Paige will unveil her Spring 2027 collection at New York Bridal Fashion Week this October. Inspired by the gowns she created for her own wedding, it's being described as her most personal work to date – a new chapter from a designer who always has emotional storytelling at the heart of her craft. Worth watching.

HAYLEYPAIGE.COM

DEMETRIOS 2027: FIRST LOOK

The latest Demetrios collections are here and the direction is clear – confident, romantic and entirely unbothered by convention. Spanning Demetrios, Demetrios Platinum, Alta Moda, Cosmobella, Oreasposa, Destination Romance and the returning Florianna by Demetrios, there's a distinct expression for every kind of bride. Take a look if you're at the early stages of dress research.

DEMETRIOS.COM



STYLE I566 | DEMETRIOS COLLECTION



HAUS OF DENTISTRY STEPS INTO THE SPOTLIGHT

Prestwick-based HAUS of Dentistry recently sponsored the first-ever Miss Great Britain Ayrshire final, a landmark evening bringing together women across the Miss, Ms and Ms Classic categories. For the award-winning clinic, known for smile transformations, Invisalign, whitening and composite bonding, it was a natural fit. The HAUS team recommends brides begin smile planning as early as possible for longer treatments, with whitening and finishing touches timed closer to the day.

HAUSOFDENTISTRY.COM

CONSIDERED

Modern, elegant and beautifully understated, this styled shoot at Rosebery Steading in East Lothian celebrates the impact of truly considered wedding design. Bringing together a talented team of Scottish suppliers, every element has been thoughtfully curated, from sculptural statement cakes and romantic florals to atmospheric tablescapes, elegant stationery and contemporary bridal style. Rich greens, soft neutrals and organic textures create a look that feels both timeless and distinctly modern. Discover the full shoot and the creative team behind it on **pages 90–95**.



BEAUTY WITH PURPOSE

Edinburgh-based makeup artist and hair stylist Caroline Stewart has launched a new website showcasing more than 25 years of bridal and creative work. It ranges from timeless, elegant looks to alternative, gothic and fantasy aesthetics. Caroline is LGBTQ+ friendly and available across Scotland and northern England. She's also a lead volunteer at Maggie's Cancer Centre, delivering makeup and skincare workshops for women undergoing cancer treatment. And, as a cancer survivor herself, it's a role that means something.

CAROLINESTEWART MAKEUPARTISTRY.CO.UK



FUZE CEREMONIES GOES THE DISTANCE

The team at Fuze Ceremonies have had a busy year beyond the ceremony room. So far in 2026, celebrants have completed a range of personal fundraising challenges, including Hyrox events, a skydive, the Kiltwalk and Brave to Bare. And they've raised more than £6,000 for causes close to their hearts. Benefiting charities include Macmillan Cancer Support, the British Heart Foundation, The Marie Trust and The Rainbow Trust.

FUZECEREMONIES.CO.UK

10 YEARS OF MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE



When Mirka Bridal Couture opened its doors a decade ago, it began as a dream and a passion for bespoke bridal design. Now, 10 years on, it's one of Scotland's most respected independent bridal boutiques known for contemporary gowns, one-of-a-kind craftsmanship and a deeply personal approach to every bride it dresses.

Over the past decade, Mirka has built a reputation for working closely with brides to bring their ideas to life from scratch – every sketch, fabric choice and fitting is part of a collaborative process that results in something entirely their own. A particular point of pride has been the launch of With Love, Mirka, a sustainable collection created from consciously selected fabrics, reflecting a belief that bridalwear can be both beautiful and considered.

Like many small businesses, Mirka navigated the challenges of the pandemic and came through stronger. The years since have brought new collections, new collaborations with some of Scotland's most talented wedding professionals – and continued recognition through industry awards and nominations.

This November, the boutique marks its tenth anniversary with special offers, events and a few surprises still to be announced. Follow along on Instagram and Facebook to keep up with the celebrations as they unfold.

MIRKABRIDAL.COM



ALL WRAPPED UP GOES DIY

All Wrapped Up Scotland has launched a new order and collect or deliver service for couples who want to style their own wedding. From tables and chairs through to tea lights and confetti, the range is growing weekly.

ALLWRAPPEDUPSCOTLAND.CO.UK



ETERNELLE | SAMMY TAYLOR WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

SUZANNE NEVILLE RETURNS

Rachel Scott Couture will host Suzanne Neville from 30th October to 1st November for a three-day private appointment event. Brides and mothers of the bride can access personal couture styling advice directly from the designer, with bespoke options created on the day. The boutique will also be among the first UK stockists to receive pieces from Suzanne's new collection, launching around the same time.

RACHELSCOTTCOUTURE.CO.UK

A NEW NAME FOR LEIGH BLANEY

After 18 years in the industry, Leigh Blaney has refreshed her brand. Now trading as Artisté by Leigh Blaney, the rebrand reflects the full breadth of her work – from luxury bridal and editorial makeup to theatre, film and semi-permanent makeup. Same talent, new chapter.

INSTAGRAM.COM/ ARTISTEBYLEIGHBLANEY

NEW ON THE HIREABAND ROSTER

Ultraviolet is the latest addition to Hireaband's lineup and while they're new as a band, every member arrives with years of experience performing at Scottish weddings. The four-piece sing and play live in kilts, covering everything from Fleetwood Mac to Lewis Capaldi. Expect them to read the room naturally and bring a full ceilidh set for when the floor needs it. Available exclusively through Hireaband with an introductory offer available.

HIREABAND.CO.UK/ULTRAVIOLET



NEW FROM GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS

As celebrations continue marking 25 years on the Canongate, Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers has added four new tartans to its hire collection: Hebridean Hoolie, Highland Mist, Holyrood and Red Nicolson Muted. A new range of handmade Scottish cufflinks has also launched, available in curated tartans and Scottish-inspired Liberty London fabrics. And for anyone with appointments at the St Mary's Street Hire Hub, it's open as usual despite ongoing Edinburgh City Council roadworks nearby.

NICOLSONKILTMAKERS.COM





NEW COLLECTIONS FROM STUDIO ELLIS

Two new collections have arrived from Studio Ellis. Ellis Bridals: Reverie works through sculpted corsetry, sweeping skirts and soft draping. It's romantic in feel but confident in construction, and true to the brand's reputation for exceptional fit. KR by Studio Ellis: VOL. 01 takes a different direction. Clean lines, fluid satins, contemporary florals and statement separates for a bride who wants something less traditional and more fashion-led. Both designed in London, both worth exploring if you're at the early stages of dress research.

ELLISBRIDALS.CO.UK | KRBYSTUDIOELLIS.COM

NEW ARRIVALS AT PAMELA JAYNES BRIDAL

Pamela Jaynes Bridal is introducing Ukrainian designer Nataliya Vilchuk to its collection from September, with five styles available to try and buy in store: Si, Filadelfia, Aura, Lulu and Vesta. Known for bohemian silhouettes and soft fabrics, the label offers an eight-week lead time – a useful for brides who need a shorter turnaround without compromising on something new and beautifully made.

PAMELAJAYNESBRIDAL.CO.UK



NEW SEASON, NEW SILHOUETTES

Kudos Bridal Boutique is welcoming the latest Essense of Australia gowns, from minimalist satin styles to bold printed designs. Also new in is the Luna Novias collection, including Jalisa – a sleek Mikado gown that can be styled multiple ways, cape included.

In other news, Kudos in Dunfermline has a new owner. Gayle Morrice takes the reins from August, with new collections and exciting plans already in motion. Twenty-three new dresses have already been handpicked for the collection – and Gayle has a few designers in her sights ahead of her visit to Bridal Week in Harrogate in September. Read the full story on page 24.

KUDOSBRIDAL.CO.UK





JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

SHOWS SHAPING THE SEASON

A CURATED CALENDAR OF THE KEY WEDDING EVENTS WORTH PENCILLING IN FOR 2026.

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, GLASGOW VILLAGE
30 AUGUST – VILLAGE HOTEL, PACIFIC DRIVE, GLASGOW

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, FIFE
6 SEPTEMBER – ROTHES HALLS, GLENROTHES

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH
13 SEPTEMBER – LEONARDO MURRAYFIELD, EDINBURGH

PAISLEY TOWN HALL WEDDING FAYRE
20 SEPTEMBER – PAISLEY TOWN HALL, PAISLEY

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, DUNFERMLINE
20 SEPTEMBER – BEST WESTERN PLUS KEAVIL HOUSE HOTEL, DUNFERMLINE

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, EAST KILBRIDE
27 SEPTEMBER – MACDONALD CRUTHERLAND HOTEL & SPA, EAST KILBRIDE

NORTH AYRSHIRE WEDDING EXHIBITION
10 OCTOBER – GEILSLAND ESTATE, BEITH

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, FALKIRK
11 OCTOBER – MACDONALD INCHYRA HOTEL & SPA, FALKIRK

THE SCOTTISH WEDDING SHOW, GLASGOW
17–18 OCTOBER – SEC CENTRE, GLASGOW

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH VILLAGE
25 OCTOBER – EDINBURGH VILLAGE, EDINBURGH

OLD COURSE HOTEL & SPA, WEDDING SHOWCASE
29 NOVEMBER – OLD COURSE HOTEL & SPA, ST ANDREWS


The Witchy Wedding Fayre
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Scotland's newest alternative wedding fayre
For witches, weirdos & wildly in love
Every vendor proudly LGBTQ+ inclusive
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RAZZMATAZZ
WEDDING EXHIBITION







THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION GLASGOW VILLAGE
30/08/26
Village Hotel, Pacific Drive, Glasgow, G51 1DB
11am to 2pm

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION FIFE
06/09/26
Rothes Halls, Glenrothes, KY7 5NX
11am to 3pm
Fashion & Entertainment Show 1pm

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION EDINBURGH
13/09/26
Leonardo Murrayfield, 187 Clermiston Road, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH12 6UG
11am to 2pm
Fashion & Entertainment Show 12:30pm

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION DUNFERMLINE
20/09/26
Best Western Plus Keavil House Hotel, Dunfermline, KY12 8NN
11am to 2pm
Fashion & Entertainment Show 12:30pm

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION EAST KILBRIDE
27/09/26
Macdonald Crutherland Hotel & Spa, East Kilbride, Glasgow, G75 0QJ
11am to 2pm
Fashion & Entertainment Show 12:30pm

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION FALKIRK
11/10/26
Macdonald Inchyra Hotel & Spa, Falkirk, FK2 0YB
11am to 3pm
Fashion & Entertainment Show 1pm

THE RAZZMATAZZ WEDDING EXHIBITION EDINBURGH VILLAGE
25/10/26
Edinburgh Village,140 Crewe Road South, Edinburgh, EH4 2NY
11am to 2pm

The team from The RWE would love to invite you to our Wedding Exhibitions, which are Free Entry, over the coming months. At our events we have the pleasure of over welcoming over 30 industry suppliers, many of which are Award Winning and Award Nominated, throughout the venue who will be on hand to showcase their products and services for your special day. There is also a welcome drink on arrival, goody bag and your complimentary copy of the latest edition of the Your Scottish Wedding magazine by our media sponsors at YSW.

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Your Wedding Journey

Notes on love, style & the art of saying yes

Real couples, real planning and all the honest moments in between. From the first yes to the final countdown, this is where love stories unfold.


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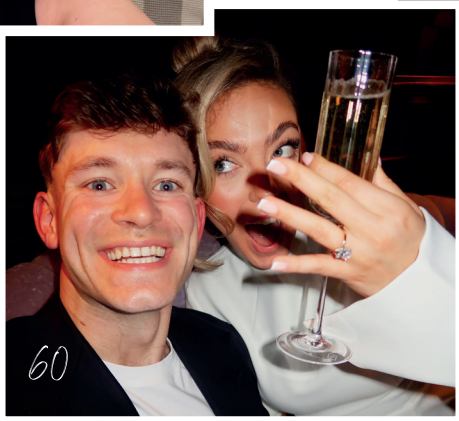

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AIDAN
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A star from *The Bachelorette*, a leading US news editor and a Scottish castle. Katrina and Dustin's love story has quite the cast list.

STANHOPE PHOTO

KATRINA & DUSTIN

Some couples find each other at just the right moment. For Katrina and Dustin, it took a party, six months of seeing each other roughly once a week and a rooftop birthday celebration that changed everything.

They met through a mutual friend in New York (Dustin had just arrived from Chicago, Katrina from London) and stayed connected on social media before their first date. "I knew he was the one pretty soon into dating him," Katrina remembers. "He has a huge heart and I loved how incredibly kind he is to me, other people and animals."

For Dustin, the turning point came at Katrina's 27th birthday party. "She made me feel like a priority and made a real effort to include me in such an important day for her. Seeing the way she brought me into her world made me realise this was becoming something much more meaningful."

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal happened in Oxford, on a family visit to Blenheim Palace; a trip Katrina's mom had planned months earlier with no idea what Dustin had in mind. "The second we got there, I knew," he says. "Small, old, charming streets – exactly the setting I wanted." He'd been carrying the ring for weeks, including through a nerve-wracking dinner after Wimbledon where the moment never felt quite right. Oxford was the one.

Before the big Scottish wedding, the couple said their vows at Chelsea Old Town Hall in London, a place close to Katrina's heart. "I grew up in Chelsea and always knew I wanted to make it official there. Our family home is around the corner." Katrina's parents, her brother and a family friend witnessed their "quiet little yes before the big celebrations."

THE PLANNING

The wedding takes place at Carlowrie Castle in October, a venue Katrina found on TikTok. "It really stole my heart. Who wouldn't want to get married in a castle?" Organising from New York has been made possible by Scottish wedding planner Louize Hollywood. "We wouldn't be able to do it without her," Katrina says.





"It's a truly wild, full circle moment I'll treasure forever."

The vision? "Rustic romance. Elegant, romantic details set against Carlowrie's cobblestone courtyards and rolling fields." Dustin puts it differently: "I want the vibe to feel like an Olivia Dean song. Timeless, classic, elegant."

He previously visited Scotland during his time on TV show *The Bachelorette,* and now he's coming back for something considerably more permanent. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think I'd be on the show, let alone travel to Scotland. And I definitely never thought I'd be getting married there. It's a truly wild, full circle moment I'll treasure forever."

Their guests – many travelling from the US; some from Bachelor Nation – will be encouraged to fully embrace Scotland while they're here. "Whisky tastings, pub culture and Highland coos," the couple say. Two guests are even taking the Belmond Royal Scotsman train during their visit. And for Katrina and Dustin, the most anticipated moment of the day is simple. "Our parents are meeting for the very first time at our wedding."

THE DETAILS

Together ... Since 2021

Wedding date ... October 2026

Venue ... Carlowrie Castle, Edinburgh

Planner ... Louize Hollywood Weddings

ALYSON & LEWIS

All the major suppliers are booked, the vision is clear and Alyson is deep into dress shopping – things have settled into a calmer rhythm.

THE SEARCH

Finding the dress is proving to be a journey. "We've had so many lovely experiences dress shopping, especially Olivia Cameron Bridal in Falkirk," Alyson says. "It was an exceptional experience with the most kind and supportive stylists – and the most beautiful dresses." She's still not settled on the one but admits she's "so close" to finding it.

Lewis has started outfit prep too. He's always wanted to wear a kilt on his wedding day but wasn't up for as many shop visits as Alyson. "I've filtered through websites and socials to find tartans I think he'd love – or at least I do anyway," laughs Alyson. They've narrowed it down to one from MacGregor and MacDuff in Glasgow and another from Kiltpin in Falkirk.

THE VISION

The botanical, timeless vibe is set but pulling everything together from different suppliers is proving challenging. "I wish there was a way of seeing a mock up of everything you've chosen and how it would look on the day. I think once we have our appointments to finalise everything, we'll have a better idea of how our vision will come together."

All the suppliers are booked now, including photographer Julianne Whyte and content creator Say Keepsake. "They seem so lovely. I can't think of anyone better to capture our special day."





"I wish there was a way of seeing a mock up of everything you've chosen."

The fur babies, Layla and Scout, will be trusted as ring bearers. "Layla (the calm one) will probably stop and demand a cuddle from everyone on the aisle seats, whereas Scout (the crazy one) will be more interested in chasing the birds. We wouldn't have it any other way."

THE SHIFT

What's surprised her most is the rhythm of planning. After choosing and booking all the suppliers at the start, months flew by with meetings and appointments. "Now everything is secured and we aren't due to meet with anyone until after summer, I feel like we can relax and just enjoy our time being engaged."

With wedding planning in a calmer phase, Alyson has turned her attention to planning nights out with her bridal party. Next on the list: the hen and stag dos. They both want to go abroad, so thankfully there's plenty of time to book and plan. For now, it's dress hunting and tartan narrowing before everything ramps up again.

THE DETAILS

Wedding vibe ... Botanical and timeless

Ticked off ... All suppliers booked

Dress shopping ... Eighth boutique this weekend

Next up ... Hen and stag plans

Wedding date ... 21.05.27

BETHANY & ALLY

With the band booked, the cake decided and the colour palette taking shape, Bethany and Ally are finding their planning rhythm. And it's working better than expected.

THE PROGRESS

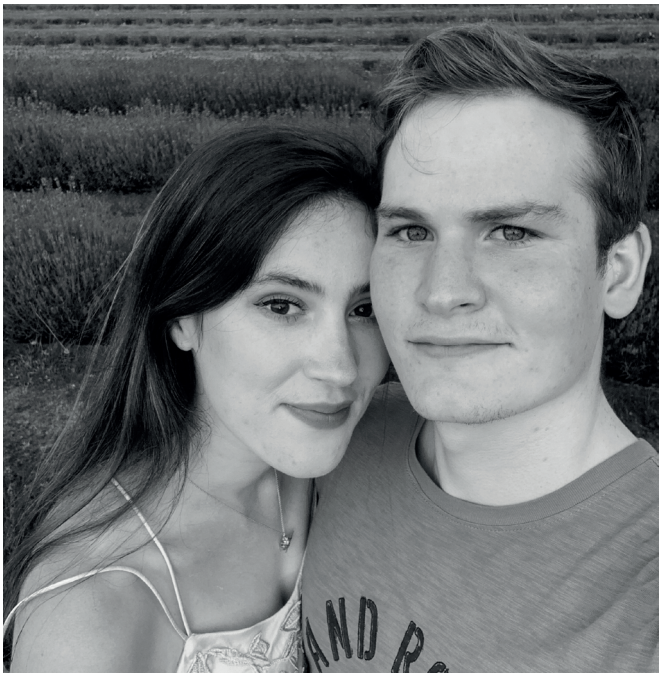
Since we last caught up, two big decisions have been locked in. Nightjar Ceilidh Band and DJ are booked as a package deal, and after a final cake tasting, the flavours and design are confirmed with Libby's Cakes. "We have now officially finalised our cake," Bethany says. Tough work, but someone has to do it.

The colour palette is coming together too. Lilac and purple tones will run through the day; in the flowers, the bridesmaids' dresses, the invitations and even through the tartan in the kilts. But it'll be subtle, Bethany assures us, leaving room for the Scottish touches that have always been central to their vision. "Not too overwhelming," she explains. There's no exact shade quite yet but the direction is clear.

In keeping with the theme, Scottish traditions are still being explored. A handfasting during the ceremony is something they're considering and they're hoping to weave a nod to the country into the invitations too.

THE MINDSET

What's surprised Bethany most is how well she and Ally have made decisions together. She'd expected to find it harder –





and of course there have been moments of feeling the stress of it all, particularly when she's been taking the lead on planning while processing the weight of what the day means. "I've felt overwhelmed at times," she admits. "But we always come back to what we both want and compromise where needed. It's worked really well."

For Bethany, Ally's perspective has been grounding. "He's made me realise that the planning and everything is important but ultimately this is a day for us and about us. That's what matters." For someone, who in the last issue reflected on the difficulty of being decisive (and the significance of planning a day while holding the memory of those who won't be there) that clarity feels hard won and really meaningful.

The overall approach has shifted too. "I've become a lot more relaxed within what I want our day to look like," Bethany says. Less focused on getting everything perfect, more focused on getting it right for them.

Next on the list is looking at kilts, choosing a tartan and "slowly starting to look at wedding dresses." The couple have also decided they'd like their day captured on film so the search for the right videographer begins now too.

THE DETAILS

Wedding date ... 07.10.27

Together ... Nine years

Proposal ... Neist Point, Isle of Skye

Venue ... Gleddoch Golf & Spa Resort

CHLOE & TOMO

Fresh from her hen do in Cannes and with just months until Sorrento, Chloe is feeling all the emotions. She's nervous, excited and very aware of how fast it's all going.

THE LATEST

"I'm just back from my hen do in Cannes and it was amazing," Chloe reveals. "I had the best time ever but I'm so conscious of how fast it went." The realisation that the wedding will fly by even quicker has her determined to soak every moment up. With the hen do ticked off, Tomo's stag is still to come. Chloe went early as, working in weddings herself, it was her only free weekend during peak season.

In other news, the bridesmaids' dresses changed colour (again!) from champagne to green. The girls didn't love the original choice and green is Chloe's favourite colour, so a final switch felt right. "Honestly, they're beautiful. Olive satin from Wed2Be and the girls look stunning." They're due in the shop in the next four weeks.

Tomo, a Celtic supporter, was very happy about the green choice. His groomsmen still need their tuxes sorted, and Suited and Booted is the plan. For Chloe, next month will bring wedding shoe shopping and the Jo Malone scent experience, something she's particularly looking forward to.





"I'm loving how laid back they are in Italy."

THE MINDSET

Planning has been surprisingly easy. "Because I'm heading into wedding season here, I'm loving how laid back they are in Italy," Chloe explains. "It's making me feel more relaxed." That means her focus isn't on napkins and chair covers – it's about everyone having the best time, and seeing her and Tomo's favourite places in Sorrento. That clarity has kept everything simple. That said, she's reconsidering a hiring content creator. Photo and video are booked but she's starting to think she'll love having that extra coverage.

The closer it gets, though, the nerves are kicking in. "I'm scared! But it will be okay, I hope." Writing their own vows is adding to the butterflies. The legal ceremony in Scotland will be super chilled – just the two of them; nothing crazy, as they don't want to ask their guests to take more time off work. "But of course I'll have my hair and makeup done," she adds.

Honeymoon planning is on pause for now. They're due to start IVF as soon as they're back from Italy, so they need to see how that goes first. For now, it's shoes, scents, a Sorrento count down – and remembering to take it all in before it flies by.

THE DETAILS

Ticked off ... Hen do, bridesmaids' dresses (now green)

Next up ... Wedding shoes, Jo Malone experience, groomsmen tuxes

The plan ... Legal ceremony in Scotland (just them), celebration in Sorrento

Vibe ... Relaxed, emotional, slightly nervous

Wedding date ... 07.09.26

MEGAN & JASON

Since we last caught up, Megan and Jason have ticked off some major decisions. But as a facialist, Megan's approach to wedding prep goes deeper than most.

THE PLANNING

The classic, minimalist décor direction has stuck. "I've started a list of all the little details we'd like," Megan says. The bridesmaids' colour tone has been decided and the girls are all keen on hair ups.

The Orkney Cog tribute to Megan's dad is taking shape – a family member has asked to purchase it for them, so they're looking at designs. "It'll be incorporated into the drinks reception or meal time." Catering is all booked and the groomsmen have been picked – they'll be asked in the coming days. The DJ will be there all day, so they haven't decided on additional entertainment yet; they're waiting to see if they'll need it.

Hen and stag planning is still in progress. Jason wants to go abroad while Megan would prefer to stay closer to home. Watch this space.

THE SKIN PREP

As a professional facialist, Megan's bridal skincare approach is refreshingly level-headed. She's not doing anything excessive. Instead, she's focusing on consistency and products that respond well to her sensitive skin. "I haven't started giving myself any more regular facials than I usually do."

Her routine centres on two non-negotiables: hydration and SPF. "Hydration and a healthy skin barrier is what makes your skin look glowy," Megan says. "Exfoliating is fine, but if you over-exfoliate, you actually strip away your skin." She's using hyaluronic acid serums and wearing SPF every day, all year round, regardless of weather to protect against sun damage that will show up later.

Treatment-wise, she's doing a combination of different light therapies, including a full-body treatment. "It's really good for producing collagen and reducing inflammation in your body."

Closer to the wedding, she'll be doing her signature Glo Facial – her most popular pre-event treatment. It includes dermaplaning (which removes vellus hair and surface dead skin) and mesotherapy, a serum that nourishes deeply.

THE ADVICE

Megan wishes other brides knew that skincare routines don't have to be excessive. "You don't need a 20 step routine. Less is actually more a lot of the time."

She says balance is everything – and overdoing it can cause redness and breakouts. And crucially, don't just get a facial a month before your wedding if you've never had facials before. "This can cause a whole bunch of issues, like breakouts. You might just not be suitable for the facial and it's not the practitioner's fault."

Megan recommends starting facials at least six months before; ideally earlier if you have skin concerns like extreme dryness or acne. That gives you the best chance of getting results without last-minute disasters. For her, wedding skincare isn't about transformation. It's about showing up as the healthiest, most hydrated version of yourself – with a routine that actually works.



"I've started a list of all the little details we'd like."

THE DETAILS

Wedding vibe ... Classic and minimalist

Venue ... Netherdale House

Ticked off ... Catering, bridesmaids' colour, hair direction, groomsmen

Skin focus ... Hydration, SPF, light therapy

Next up ... Décor details, hen and stag locations

Wedding date ... 27.08.27

CATRIONA & JOSH

With under four months to go at the time of writing, the pieces are falling into place – and Catriona's dress has just arrived in store.

THE PROGRESS

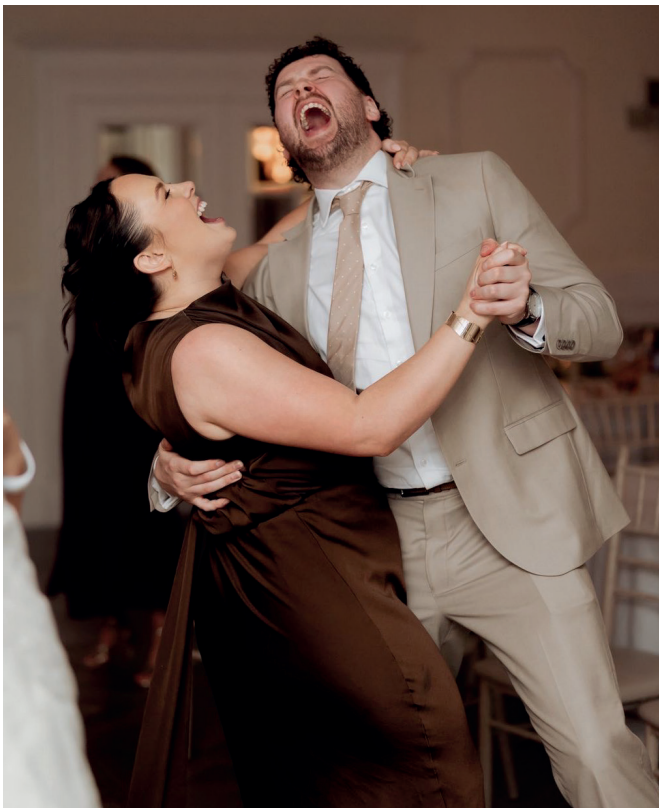
The pressure of being "in the year of the wedding" without knowing what to do next has eased naturally. "Certain suppliers don't need much from us until much closer to the time," Catriona explains. "But we've been working with some throughout this period, which has been great for planning décor and stationery."

Both have come together beautifully. Karin at The KB Suite has designed stationery that exactly meets the classic, minimal brief – just a few tweaks to wording and spacing, and it's good to go. Florals and candles will be handled by Paperwhite Floral Design and signage is by RoseBee Events. "They'll all complement each other and bring our timeless vibes together," Catriona says.

Bridesmaids are sorted too. Champagne-coloured dresses felt like the natural choice from the start. "It ties in perfectly with the black tie dress code whilst keeping them different to how a wedding guest would dress." There's an extra layer of care going into the process too. One of Catriona's bridesmaids is expecting her second baby, so making sure she feels happy and comfortable in her dress matters just as much as the aesthetic.



The Collector's Hall will be styled in keeping with everything else. Expect candles, plinths and florals as the main elements, letting the venue speak for itself.



THE PERSONALITY

One personal touch in particular gets Catriona emotional. She lost her final grandparent 15 years ago, meaning no grandparents will be at the wedding. But her Granny Pat left her a gift that allowed her to buy her dress. "She's a massive part of my wedding day in such a meaningful way," she smiles.

The dress itself has just arrived and any nerves about waiting disappeared the moment the call came through to say it was in store. "The White Collection nailed it and the whole experience was absolutely amazing."

Booking suppliers was the easiest part of planning – so many were already on their radar that decisions came naturally. The trickier part has been the finer details. GeO Gospel Choir was always going to be part of the day but landing on the final song choices is proving harder than expected.

Next up: rings and tuxes for the guys, with dates already in the diary.

THE DETAILS

Wedding date ... 02.10.26

The venue ... The Collector's Hall, Glasgow

Must-haves ... Media team and all-day entertainment

Best moment so far ... Finding the dream dress

ANA-ROSE & AIDAN

Ana-Rose O'Neil isn't someone who waits. The morning after Aidan proposed, she had a venue shortlist. Within weeks, the key suppliers were booked. This is a woman who knows exactly what she wants and isn't shy about going after it.

THE PROPOSAL

They met at work. Aidan had just watched Ana-Rose finish a presentation when he walked over and asked if she wanted to go for a coffee. "It was such a bold move," she says. "And from that day onwards he's made me smile, laugh and feel incredibly happy."

Four years later, he proposed at Schloss Roxburghe, beginning four days of what Ana-Rose describes simply as "complete and utter luxury." Afterwards, Aidan had arranged for them to go straight to London to celebrate with her brother and one of her best friends. "We ended up having the most incredible week with the people we love most."





THE PLANNING

"The best way I can describe this chapter of my life is surreal," she says. "I've dreamed of marrying my best friend since I was a little girl, so to actually be in this season now feels like a dream come true."

Planning has felt exciting and emotional throughout – and notably unstressful. The venue – the Old Course Hotel in St Andrews – was never really a question and the suppliers came together just as decisively. "I don't allow it to become stressful because I know how lucky I am."

Ana-Rose started documenting her wedding journey online in December and has loved capturing every moment. "It's been so special creating memories in real time." Working with brands along the way has been a bonus but the real value, she says, is having a record of a chapter she wants to remember completely.

One thing she feels strongly about is not letting the planning overshadow the experience itself. "Life is short and not everyone gets the chance to marry their best friend. I want to cherish every part of this."

THE PERSONALITY

One detail she's particularly excited about is writing more than 80 individual personalised letters to every guest. They'll be placed at each seat and opened at the same moment during the celebration, as her favourite song plays in the background. "I already know that'll be one of the most emotional and meaningful parts of the entire day."

Next on the list: the wedding website going live, wedding shoes, veil, jewellery and the bridesmaids' dresses.

THE DETAILS

Together ... Four years

Proposal ... Schloss Roxburghe, Scottish Borders

Venue ... The Old Course Hotel, St Andrews

Planning mood ... Decisive, excited and living every moment

Wedding date ... 19.12.26

FIONA & WILL

With just months until their November wedding, they're in the final stretch – rediscovering old playlists, taste-testing cakes and adding personal touches.

THE DRESS

Finding the dress has become Fiona's favourite planning moment. She'd been drawn to Vivienne Westwood and was keen to wear a British designer. But trying gowns in person, she quickly fell for Suzanne Neville's work. "Her gowns feel feminine, romantic and timeless. The clever hidden corsets create an amazing silhouette but also feel soft and effortless to wear."

At the same time, a friend recommended Still White, a pre-loved bridal website. Fortunately, the stars aligned and someone was selling her dream style in her size. As the seller was in Cheshire, Fiona and Will set off on a whirlwind road trip. "She welcomed me into her childhood home for a proper try-on while Will watched TV with a cup of tea!"

The gown was pristine and worn only briefly before the seller changed into a second look. Fiona bought it on the spot then headed to the local village pub with Will to celebrate. "The whole thing felt like fate," she smiles.

THE FINISHING TOUCHES

Working with stylist Lynsay Borthwick has taken the stress out of bringing their vision to life. The Royal College of Physicians is already so grand that they don't want to overdo it. Instead, they'll focus on a warm and sparkly atmosphere – twinkly lights, wintery foliage and candles everywhere.





The wedding ring search is next. Fiona loves her engagement ring and now comes the task of finding a band to complement it. "I'd love something really special, maybe in a unique design." Cake is proving tricky with professional bakers on both sides of the family. So, rather than choose a side, they're keeping it neutral and sourcing through Edinburgh bakeries. The only criteria? It needs to taste completely out of this world. Fiona confirms cake testing has been one of the best wedding tasks so far.

THE TIMING

After a long engagement, they gave themselves just a year for planning; relatively short by wedding standards. "But it's been easier than I expected," Fiona says. Getting married in November, a quieter month, meant securing their favourite suppliers easily. And the shorter timescale has kept them focused.

They've tried to keep fun in the process with weekends away trying out local hotels, chatting through details over takeaways and wine, and celebrating little planning milestones. "For anyone thinking of planning in a year or less, I'd say don't overthink it. People will say you're cutting it fine but you're absolutely not."

Now just a few months out, they're adding personal touches with readings and music, which has involved finding old playlists made in the early days of dating, rediscovering songs from more than 15 years ago. "It's been so nostalgic."

THE DETAILS

Dress ... Suzanne Neville via Still White

Venue styling ... Lynsay Borthwick

Ring ... Perfectly custom made

Venue ... Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh

Next up ... Hen and stag, menu tastings, honeymoon plans

Wedding date ... 28.11.26

PAULINE & STUART

After years together, Pauline and Stuart are now deep in planning mode – and for someone who's coordinated and celebrated hundreds of weddings, being on the other side feels "wonderfully strange".

THE PLANNING

The date is set for Sunday 25th October 2026 at The Exchange. Getting there was surprisingly straightforward, though perhaps not in the way most couples expect. "After being stuck in Thailand for three and a half weeks, we very much came home and just booked everything," Pauline laughs. "No dilly dallying."

They knew what they wanted and settled on a date based on their preferred suppliers' availability. Pauline messaged her list asking for Sundays in September and October – 90% had 25th October free and that decided it.

Choosing The Exchange was never really a question. As a celebrant and former wedding coordinator of eight years, Pauline knew any venue was going to feel somewhat like work. But The Exchange is different. "Being part of its launch was the biggest success so far of my career in the wedding industry. It felt right to celebrate our marriage there." Stuart was by her side throughout the entire process, from the sleepless nights to the 60-hour weeks in the lead-up to opening. The emotional connection runs deep here.





"Always the coordinator or celebrant, not the bride in the white dress."

Working in the industry for over a decade has made decisions much easier. "I knew the people we wanted to work with, so we just booked and didn't stew on too much really."

THE SURPRISES

The biggest challenge so far has been the guest list. They both wanted something "smallish" but their families are too big. "We wouldn't want to celebrate without any of them, so we're just rolling with the 140-person day wedding," Pauline smiles.

And then there's the strangeness of being the bride. Picking the dress felt odd and Pauline knows the ceremony will be another surreal moment. "Always the coordinator or celebrant, not the bride in the white dress. I've never worn white and even joked with Stuart that I'd turn up in a blazer as I always do for work."

Right now, invitations are the focus – getting those out and making it all feel properly real. The vision is clear, the suppliers are booked and the venue holds meaning that goes far beyond aesthetics.

For someone who's been behind the scenes of so many weddings, stepping into the white dress (or the blazer – jury's still out) will be the strangest, most wonderful shift of all.

THE DETAILS

Proposal ... The Exchange

Planning mood ... Efficient, aligned, slightly surreal

Next up ... Invitations

Wedding date ... 25.10.26

CLAIRE & OLLIE

When Claire got engaged at Gleneagles in April 2024, she did what any bride-to-be does – went to the bathroom, sent a video to her girls' group chat and posted it on TikTok. She woke up the next morning to 11.8 million views, setting the tone for a joyful Mallorca wedding countdown that captured the attention of thousands along the way.

THE HISTORY

The backstory is as good as the proposal reaction. Claire and Ollie met in 2018 after years of him sliding into her DMs went unanswered – until he replied to her parking ticket story offering to pay it. "He didn't but it got my attention," she laughs.

A girls' trip to Ibiza (strategically planned because she knew he'd be there) followed, before they finally got together in 2020. "We've been inseparable since."

THE PLANNING

Bridal prep began soon after the engagement, with monthly facials with Jola at J.G Aesthetics since July 2024 ("She can look at your skin and tell you exactly what you need – an absolute expert when it comes to bridal skin") and hair extensions by Pamela Docherty. Botox and skin boosters with Nurse Rhi Bell at Clinic 22 have become a regular fixture too. One unexpected discovery was underarm Botox. "An absolute must-have for my wedding, especially in the Mallorcan sun."

Dress shopping started nervously but Opus Couture quickly changed that. Stylist Sarah listened carefully and read every reaction with zero pressure throughout. After a solo trip





to London (an experience she'd recommend) to try a dress at Galia Lahav, she eventually said yes at Opus. And a look for the night before the wedding came from Pretty Woman in Edinburgh, discovered while modelling for their socials.

Claire loves documenting the journey on TikTok. "There's such a lovely community, especially destination brides." She's kept a few details hidden to make sure her guests are surprised on the day but admits it's a struggle not to share absolutely everything. "TikTok is also so good for inspiration and DIY tutorials," she adds. "I've learned so much and can't wait to share more after the wedding."

THE COUNTDOWN

The hen was a weekend in Ibiza for six with pale rosé and lots of dancing. "No one prepares you for how special you feel being surrounded by your best friends celebrating one of the biggest seasons of your life."

Now, the nerves are kicking in but they're the good kind. "I refuse to get stressed over tiny details guests probably won't even notice." She's most looking forward to marrying the love of her life and having everyone she loves in the same place at the same time.

Her advice for brides is not to rush decisions. "My style and what I want have changed quite a bit since we first started planning. Being authentically you is better than any trend."

THE DETAILS

Together ... Since August 2020

Proposal ... Gleneagles in April 2024

Wedding planners ... Wedding Besos

The plan ... A home wedding (23 Montrose Street then Dakota Hotel) then a Mallorcan celebration

Wedding dates ... 29.08.26 and 12.09.26

ROBYN & MARK

Robyn and Mark met the old-fashioned way – in a bar. It was Foundation in London, on a Monday night. By Thursday they were on a first date at a jazz bar and three weeks later they were officially a couple. "Mark is Welsh and I'm Scottish, so we quickly became each other's home in a big city."

Six years followed, much of it long distance while Mark travelled the world as a theatre actor. "Which is his excuse for taking so long," Robyn adds. The timing has worked out rather nicely though, as they're getting married a week before their 10-year anniversary.

THE PROPOSAL

The proposal happened in Venice, on a trip Mark had arranged as Robyn's Christmas gift. On the morning of, he was acting strangely. "I just thought he was hungry." He found what he thought was a hidden bay – and it wasn't until after he'd proposed that they heard a huge cheer and looked up to find a bridge full of people watching. An Italian man shouted down: "Is it a yeahhhhs?" They spent the next three days exploring Venice in their engagement bubble.

The halo-style ring is Welsh – it was important to Mark to choose it with his mum, so they visited a local jeweller in North Wales together.

THE PLANNING

Two days after the proposal, Robyn got a job at Capital Scotland. They packed up their lives in London in three weeks and moved back. Wedding planning went on hold for about a year before they started looking at venues.

They're getting married at Villa Dalmacija in Split, Croatia – a destination that made sense practically (friends scattered across the UK, family in Scotland and Wales) and emotionally. Robyn fell in love with Croatia while dancing on cruise ships and it was the first place that came to mind. Mark is yet to go – "Fingers crossed he likes it," she smiles.





"We quickly became each other's home in a big city."

With a planner on board and both working in fast-paced media careers, decisions have been made decisively. Venue, music, videographer, photographer, hair and make-up are all booked (a mix of local and Scottish suppliers). And rather than traditional invitations, they hired a speed boat on holiday and filmed a video invite instead. "We have zero expectations of what a wedding should be," admits Robyn.

Next up is the dress and sourcing accommodation – plus planning activities for the days either side of the wedding.

THE DETAILS

Together ... Six years before engagement

Proposal ... Venice

Wedding date ... June 2027

Venue ... Villa Dalmacija, Split, Croatia

CHERYL & GAVIN

Some love stories start with a swipe. This one started with a puppy.

Cheryl and Gavin had known of each other since high school – same year, different friend groups but always a hello in the corridor. Years passed and Cheryl moved to Australia. Then, just before Covid, she came back – just as Gavin's sister got a new puppy. A cute Instagram story, a puppy-related DM and daily messages followed. Within a few months they were dating.

THE PROPOSAL

Five years together and a babymoon at Gleneagles later, Gavin proposed. He suggested an early morning walk around the grounds with their dog Ollie and asked Cheryl to pose for a photo in front of the hotel. As she turned around, he was on one knee.

The ring (a plain silver band with a large central diamond and smaller diamonds beneath) came from James Porter & Son in Glasgow's Argyll Arcade. They celebrated that evening over dinner in the luxury hotel.





"We thought we'd be able to plan our wedding whilst having a baby. Turning out to be very difficult."

THE PLANNING

Life has moved quickly since the engagement. Baby Matthew arrived shortly after – at the time of writing he's six weeks old and keeping his parents very happily occupied. "We thought we'd be able to plan our wedding whilst having a baby," Gavin admits. "It's turning out to be very difficult!"

Nothing is booked yet but the vision is starting to form. They're thinking between 50 and 80 guests for an intimate ceremony, followed by a larger celebration afterwards. Two ideas are pulling at them equally – a rural barn wedding where guests can stay nearby, and an inner-city venue that's easier to travel to and more flexible for guests. "As you can tell, we're still undecided," Gavin laughs. "Hoping we'll come to an agreement at some point."

Location is equally open. Home town Oban, Glasgow, Edinburgh or somewhere in the Highlands all remain in the mix. The timeframe is within the next two years – once they've found their feet as new parents and a venue they love.

For now, Matthew comes first. The wedding can wait a little longer.

THE DETAILS

Together ... Five years before getting engaged

Proposal ... Gleneagles

Wedding date ... Within the next two years

Next up ... Finding the venue

SAMANTHA & DYLAN

Some love stories start close to home but this one started with a Tinder swipe between Glasgow and Northern Ireland, when Samantha and Dylan were both still at school. "What started as a bit of silly lunchtime swiping with friends somehow turned into a boyfriend," she smiles.

They were 16 and 17, and spent months FaceTiming before convincing their parents to let them meet. Twelve years later (having travelled the world in 2024, bought their first flat in 2025 and brought home a puppy in January 2026) they felt the time was right.

THE PROPOSAL

Dylan planned a weekend away up north without revealing a single detail. On the Friday evening, they drove from Glasgow to Glencoe and he suggested stopping somewhere scenic "to get some pictures" – something he'd never suggest and she takes very seriously. Samantha started getting nervous. They walked over a bridge and across a field to the edge of Loch Achnambeithach before he asked her not to turn around while he set up the tripod. When she did turn around, he was on one knee with the Highland views stretching out behind him.

The ring was made by Samantha's sister, jewellery designer Sophie Whitelaw. The three-stone trilogy of old cut elongated cushion cut diamonds was set in 18 carat white gold on a yellow gold band. "We went ring shopping in March but it turns out Dylan had already contacted Sophie to design the ring so he did some good acting!"

They spent the weekend in a cabin with a jacuzzi, celebrating over Champagne and FaceTime calls with friends and family, before coming home to celebrate in person. A family holiday to Portugal followed the week after – and an engagement party for their Glasgow friends and family was booked for August.





"I want to live out my dream of being a princess for the day."

THE PLANNING

Samantha was looking at venues within a week. "I was just so excited!" The process felt overwhelming at first with venues pricing so differently and packages varying so widely. But once they got their heads around budgeting, it became exciting rather than stressful.

She's very much a visual person and the viewings have helped enormously. She's even been dress shopping already. "I was just too excited and it was such a gorgeous experience with my friends and sister."

The vision is clear: a castle with fairytale vibes. "I want to live out my dream of being a princess for the day." They've viewed one they love in Ireland and have more Scottish venue visits to come. May 2028 is the target date – spring weather, spring flowers, and a season that feels just right.

Next up: booking a venue by the end of August so planning can properly begin.

Together ... Since they were 16 and 17

Proposal ... Loch Achnambeithach, Glencoe

Vibe ... Fairytale castle, princess energy

Wedding date ... May 2028



BRIDAL FASHION



DR KALY JAFFE | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

THE OLD COURSE

Elegant, sophisticated and entirely chic – Dr Kaly Jaff proves that the best bridal looks start with confidence.



DRESS SOREN BY LUNA NOVIAS AT KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE |
VEIL C626A BY RICHARD DESIGNS AT KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE



DRESS | LADY BY VIVIENNE WESTWOOD AT RACHEL SCOTT COUTURE | **NECKLACE** I8CT WHITE GOLD PEAR-SHAPED TRIO NECKLACE (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY





DRESS CAMILLA BY MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE





DRESS & CAPE | JALISA BY LUNA NOVIAS AT KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE | **EARRINGS** | I8CT WHITE GOLD PRINCESS CUT DIAMONDS WITH TAPERED BAGUETTE CUT TOP DROP EARRINGS (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY





DRESS ELARIA BY SUZANNE NEVILLE AT RACHEL SCOTT COUTURE | **FLOWERS** | HANDTIED BOUQUET OF PALE PINK SARAH BERNHARDT PEONIES, CHERRY BLOSSOM | **EARRINGS** I8CT WHITE GOLD PEAR-SHAPED CLUSTER DROP EARRINGS (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY





DRESS | ALEXANDRA BY MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE | **EARRINGS** I8CT WHITE GOLD PEAR-SHAPED CLUSTER DROP EARRINGS (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY







DRESS | NEIMY BY ALMA NOVA AT KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE | **EARRINGS** | I8CT WHITE GOLD PEAR-SHAPED CLUSTER DROP EARRINGS, (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY





DRESS SOREN BY LUNA NOVIAS AT KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE | **VEIL** C626A BY RICHARD DESIGNS AT KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE | **FLOWERS** HANDTIED BOUQUET OF WHITE HYDRANGEA, CHERRY BLOSSOM





DRESS | VALENTINA BY MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE | **EARRINGS** I8CT WHITE GOLD PEAR-SHAPED CLUSTER DROP EARRINGS (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY


OLD
COURSE
HOTEL
ST ANDREWS
GOLF RESORT
& SPA



DRESS | ELISA (PRESENCE OF BLOOMS PRINT) BY VIVIENNE WESTWOOD AT RACHEL SCOTT COUTURE | **FLOWERS** HANDTIED BOUQUET OF PALE PINK SARAH BERNHARDT PEONIES, CHERRY BLOSSOM | **EARRINGS** | I8CT WHITE GOLD PEAR-SHAPED CLUSTER DROP EARRINGS (AVAILABLE IN LAB GROWN AND NATURAL DIAMONDS), FENNES JEWELLERY

Behind *the* Scenes



The Old Course Hotel doesn't need much help looking spectacular. But eight hours, 10 looks and one of the hottest days of the year… The *YSW* team had their work cut out here!

The shoot moved through the hotel's foyer, corridors and gardens before heading off-site to the beach, giving each look a different mood and backdrop. The architectural elegance of the interiors gave way to the softer romance of the gardens, then the open coastal light of the beach. It was a natural progression that gave the collection real variety.

The heat was the day's defining challenge. Timings were tight at points, but everyone worked efficiently and kept the energy up throughout. A lunch break at the hotel came at exactly the right moment. A chance to cool down, recharge and reset before the afternoon shots was so welcome.

The beach provided some of the most impressive imagery of the day. It also provided the shoot's most memorable moment – after wrapping there in the intense heat, someone suggested ice cream. A reasonable decision, until the ice creams immediately started melting. Everywhere – on hands, on clothes, all over the place. Everyone ate faster and laughed harder than was probably dignified.

High energy, elegant and genuinely fun. A summer shoot that felt like a destination escape, and looked like one too.



"It's always an honour to be part of *YSW* shoots. When you're asked to do the makeup and hair for a skincare guru like Dr Kaly, you know the canvas is going to be amazing. And wow, was she a dream to work with! I wanted her skin to be the emphasis for this look; for the glow to be the glamour. Then I added soft, pretty eyes and kissable lips. The hair had to emphasise the face, so a sleek style made the cheekbones and jaw line pop."

Kirsty MacPherson Hair and Make Up Artist









DREAM TEAM

VENUE | OLD COURSE HOTEL
MODEL | DR KALY JAFF
PHOTOGRAPHY | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY
HAIR AND MAKEUP | KIRSTY MACPHERSON HAIR AND MAKE UP ARTIST
FLOWERS | CHERRY BLOSSOM
JEWELLERY | FENNES JEWELLERY
SOCIAL MEDIA | JB MARKETING
DRESSES | KUDOS BRIDAL BOUTIQUE, MIRKA BRIDAL, RACHEL SCOTT COUTURE ■



RACHEL SCOTT COUTURE

On setting expectations for your wedding dress search – and why aiming unrealistically high is exactly the right approach.

Let me say something that might surprise you. When a bride comes to me at Rachel Scott Couture, the first thing I want to know is what her expectations are. And whatever she tells me, my immediate response is the same: triple them.

This is the one area of my professional life where I take an entirely different stance to the rest of it. In most things, managing expectations feels sensible. Don't get your hopes too high, be realistic, leave room for compromise. But not here – not with your wedding dress.

WHY HIGH EXPECTATIONS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE

There's a version of wedding dress shopping that goes something like this: 'don't get too excited, don't expect too much, you probably won't be one of those people who has that moment. Just be realistic.' I will not have that conversation under my roof.

Your wedding dress is a once-in-a-lifetime outfit for a once-in-a-lifetime occasion. The idea that you should approach it with tempered enthusiasm or managed expectations is, frankly, not something I will accept for any of my brides. So, set your minimum expectations threshold as outrageously high as you can imagine. Then make sure your dress surpasses them, without hesitation.

Why would you limit yourself? Why curtail the experience before it has even begun? Why feel that you should compromise on something this significant? The dress just can't be a practical, tick-box exercise. It has to be fully emotional, completely all-in and entirely without second thoughts or what-ifs. That's not negotiable.

THE MOMENT (AND WHAT IT ACTUALLY FEELS LIKE)

Now, I want to be honest about something. We don't do jazz hands theatrics or over-the-top 'it's the one' drama in our boutique. And we won't make you hold up an 'I said yes to the dress' sign! It's not our style and it's probably not yours either. But that doesn't mean I'll accept anything less than a real, deep, unambiguous connection between a bride and her dress.

For most of my brides, the moment arrives subtly. It's not always a gasp or a flood of tears – though sometimes it is. More often it's the most wonderfully calm sigh of relief. A

settling and a sense of: 'this is me. I feel confident. This feels inexplicably right.'

That's the moment I'm holding out for on your behalf. And I'm telling you now, you're going to have it. You think you're not one of those people? You are. You have to be. I won't accept anything less.

Whether you end up in the biggest, puffiest princess gown the world has ever seen or something sleek, architectural and entirely unexpected, when you know, you know. That's the one cliché I allow in my boutique – it exists because it is true.

NO COMPROMISE. NOT EVER.

Here's something else I see too often: brides who almost found the dress. She came close; she found something she liked very much and decided it was probably good enough. But it's not good enough. Good enough is not what we are doing here.

You don't have to choose between ethereal, soft femininity and a dramatic, statement entrance. You can have both. In fact, I insist that you do (if both are part of who you are). The point is that your dress should reflect you fully, not a slightly edited, slightly sensible, slightly cautious version of you. Commit to your look completely. Do it your way. Otherwise, what is the point?

Let's embrace the freedom of choice, our own choice, and most definitely not having to choose anything we don't want to. We no longer need to be restricted. There are simply too many options to be limited in that way.

The feeling you're looking for is your own uniquely personal version of certainty. It won't necessarily look the way you imagined. It might arrive in a dress you would never have picked off the rail yourself. It might happen in the first appointment or the fifteenth. But it will happen – and when it does, you'll know.

So, hold out for it. Don't settle before it arrives. And don't let anyone, including yourself, talk you into lowering the bar.

WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

When you walk into a boutique, bring your expectations with you. All of them – the high ones, the specific ones and the ones that feel slightly unrealistic.

A good bridal stylist won't be thrown by ambitious expectations. They'll be inspired by them. At Rachel Scott Couture, I want to know everything – how you want to feel, what you want to say, what kind of bride you are at your most authentic and unguarded. That's the brief I am working from.

Your dress should exceed your expectations, not merely meet them. And if it's not doing that, we're not done yet.

ABOUT RACHEL SCOTT

Founder of Rachel Scott Couture, one of Scotland's most respected luxury bridal and occasionwear studios, Rachel has spent more than two decades championing design innovation, fabric excellence and a deeply personal approach to couture styling. With a background in textile science and a reputation for empowering women through choice, craft and confidence, she brings an insider's perspective to modern bridal and occasionwear fashion.

rachelscottcouture.co.uk



BLUE SKY PHOTOGRAPHY

CONSIDERED

A styled shoot at Rosebery Steading, East Lothian. Featuring six suppliers, one vision and a day that showed what happens when creativity leads.

CAROLINE STEWART MAKEUP ARTISTRY AND HAIR STYLIST

Twenty-five years in the industry, 16 of them specialising in weddings – Caroline Stewart has worked across every kind of celebration. From traditional to alternative and intimate to elaborate, her approach is the same. Listen first, then create something completely personal.

Her work spans soft, timeless bridal glam through to bold, expressive looks inspired by everything from romantic boho to Viking aesthetics. Whatever the brief, the look feels like the person wearing it. Caroline is proudly LGBTQ+ friendly and works across Scotland and beyond.

carolinestewartmakeupartistry.co.uk

ALL WRAPPED UP

Established in 2007, All Wrapped Up started out as wedding planners and has grown into one of Scotland's most versatile wedding suppliers. From a 4,500 sq ft warehouse in Glenrothes packed with furniture, linens and décor, the team works with venues, venue styling companies and couples alike.

To mark its 20th year in the industry, All Wrapped Up has launched Craikie's Collection – a new click and collect DIY hire service for couples who want a hands-on approach to styling their day.

allwrappedupscotland.co.uk





Menu
STARTER
Earl Grey cured loch
MAIN
DESSERT
Darcy
STARTER
Earl Grey cured loch
MAIN
DESSERT

Keira

Menu

STARTER

Earl Grey cured loch
etive salmon, lemon crème,
black pepper & hash brown

MAIN

Pork Belly & Seared Monkfish Duo,
Carrot & chorizo risotto, carrots,
toffee apple & lime jus

DESSERT

Chocolate & Orange delice,
cinco nib, chocolate sauce
& clementine ice cream



KATIE'S CAKES

With a background in architecture, Katherine brings a distinctive sense of structure and elegance to every edible work of art. Her signature style combines refined architectural form with intricate handcrafted sugar flowers, resulting in statement cakes that are as considered as everything else on the table.

Two designs featured in this shoot. The Long Banqueting Cake – a modern interpretation of the traditionally piped buttercream cake, with soft fondant waves – and the Architectural Cake; minimalist and structural with subtle textural interest and a touch of mystery. Less, very definitely, being more.

Katie's Cakes delivers to luxury venues across Scotland.

katiescakesscotland.com



BEHIND THE DAY

CONCEPT AND ORGANISATION | Katie's Cakes and Timshel Pictures
CAKES | Katie's Cakes
PHOTOGRAPHY | Timshel Pictures
VENUE | Rosebery Steading
FLOWERS | Duchess Seerra
STYLING | Lumen Design Scotland
CONTENT | Sona Content
DRESSES | Gwenne
SUIT | ACS Rental
HAIR AND MAKE-UP | Caroline Stewart Makeup Artistry and Hair Stylist, Totu Makeup Artistry
ILLUSTRATION | Ana Guajardo
CHARGER PLATES AND GLASSWARE | All Wrapped Up
STATIONERY | Love Paper Co.
MODELS | Amy Hepburn, Luke Colvin, Isla Mosquera, Johnathan Heredia


GROOMSWEAR

GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS AT CROMLIX | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

KILTS

MODERN GENTLEMAN

A true classic, redefined – kilts offer a confident, stylish nod to tradition for the modern groom.


BEST
UK HOTELS
R&B
HOTELS











KILT CLAN KILTS





















KILT CLAN KILTS



KILT GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS











KILT GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS



















KILT GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS



KILT KILTS 4 U | **SPORRAN** CLAN KILTS



















KILT KILTS 4 U



KILT KILTS 4 U















Behind *the* Scenes

If you've been there before, you'll know Cromlix doesn't need much staging. The challenge here isn't finding a beautiful backdrop, it's choosing between them all.

The *YSW* team spent six hours working their way through the estate; outside on the lawn, down to the tennis court, into the glasshouse (where a grand piano made for some unexpected shots), through the chapel with every candle lit and the stained glass casting light across the stone, into the dining room and the lounge. Finally it was time to head into the surrounding forest, which required climbing through long grass and over fallen logs in entirely the wrong footwear. Everyone laughed.

There were ten outfit changes. Cloudy skies with pockets of sun (ideal conditions, as it turned out). A relaxed lunch break in the middle. And one moment nobody planned for – a bird handling class nearby sent an eagle straight onto the bonnet of a Range Rover parked at the entrance. The camera was already rolling.

Cromlix's decoration is expressive and specific. It's the kind of venue where ideas arrive as you walk, rather than before you get there – the hidden pond at the back of the lawn and the tennis court, which turned out to be one of the most creative locations of the day. And, of course, the chapel that stopped everyone in their tracks.

A relaxed shoot, a striking location and Highland dress that looked exactly at home in both.

ABOUT CROMLIX

Cromlix is a five-star Scottish country house hotel set within a 34-acre private estate near Dunblane, owned by Sir Andy Murray. The Victorian property features ten bedrooms and five suites, a chapel licensed for civil ceremonies, a walled garden, tennis courts, a glasshouse restaurant and grounds that manage to feel both grand and genuinely intimate.

For weddings, Cromlix offers exclusive use of the entire estate, making it one of the most private and personal settings in Scotland. The chapel seats up to 40 guests for the ceremony, with receptions held across the house and grounds.

cromlix.com









DREAM TEAM

VENUE | CROMLIX
PHOTOGRAPHY | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY
FASHION | KILTS 4 U, CLAN KILTS, GORDON NICOLSON KILTMAKERS
SOCIAL MEDIA | JB MARKETING CONSULTANCY ■

GORDON
NICOLSON
KILTMAKERS

Welcome to Gordon Nicolson Kiltmakers, a family-run highlandwear retailer, proudly based on Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile.

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LoullyMakes

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IN *His* WORDS



A long ENGAGEMENT and the big pieces finally in place, Will is enjoying a CALM run-up to the day.

"We wanted to do something fun for our save the date announcement. I'd seen a few reels on my social feeds and thought it would be great to give it a go.

We headed to Craigtoun Country Park early in the morning and caught a beautiful sunrise. We'd roped our parents in to help with the confetti and streamers (and we cleaned up afterwards – everything was biodegradable just in case)! Because it involved spraying a bottle of fizz, we only had one practice run before the real take. We filmed it in slow motion and used *At Last* by Etta James as a bit of fun, since we've been engaged for so long.

FINDING A PHOTOGRAPHER

This took longer than expected, mainly because I had a style in my head that I couldn't quite articulate. We wanted something that felt a bit more editorial, with a documentary approach.

I'd been searching for a while – to the point where my social feeds turned into a stream of wedding photographer ads, and that's actually how I found Isaac Craig. We sent an enquiry and had an introductory video call, which was great. He was really chilled and knowledgeable. We feel like we're in safe hands.

WHAT TO WEAR

Fiona has now got her wedding dress and my outfit journey is, in comparison, pretty straightforward.

About 13 years ago my gran bought me a kilt I love, so I'll be wearing that... Hopefully it still fits! The tartan is Fraser Red Muted for a few reasons; mainly because red is my favourite colour and we don't have a family tartan but also because the kiltmakers looked into our clan heritage and found a connection to the Fraser clan.

One of my favourite parts of my kilt is my custom-made sporran from Morrison Sporrans. I went to their workshop and looked at all the different components – fabric, chain, the cantle. I chose gunmetal chrome with a stag design and was even able to personalise the inside. I went for red suede with pockets for keys and cards. My parents want to buy me a fly plaid to match the kilt, so that's next on my list.

WHAT'S NEXT

I'm still feeling really relaxed about everything. For the day itself, I'm most looking forward to getting everyone together in such an amazing venue. And with the Edinburgh Christmas Market on at the time we're getting married, everything will feel extra festive. Next up is our menu tasting, invitations, groomsmen and stag do planning."





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KILTS 4 U
WEAR WITH PRIDE

THE BIG *Interview*

WITH IAIN OF KILTS 4 U

From a garage in Glasgow to three stores, a global Scotland tartan waitlist and the only kiltmaker with the official licences for Celtic, Rangers and the Scottish national team, Kilts 4 U's Iain reflects on rewriting what Highland dress looks like.

***Your Scottish Wedding*: How did Kilts 4 U begin and evolve?**

Kilts 4 U: It began very humbly from our garage. We recognised mainly two things – there was very little unique product or design in the market and virtually no matching children's outfits. Those were the gaps we set out to fill. Over the years, we've set ourselves apart from the competition by listening to and focusing on the ever-changing trends and styles in the sector. We've always tried to be ahead of what's coming rather than catching up with what's already happened.

***YSW*: Unlike many kiltmakers, you focus on entire wedding parties. How does that change the planning process?**

K4U: We always start with the groom or partner. It's the biggest day of their life too and that focus shapes everything else. Once we have their vision, we build the rest of the party around it. The logistics of coordinating kilts for a full wedding party – groomsmen, ushers and fathers – is a big job but we always remember that most couples have never done this before. Once we've spoken through the logistics of the day and where every family member is travelling from, we build that into collection times as well as pre-wedding fittings. Nobody gets left behind.

***YSW*: How do couples typically decide between hiring and buying?**

K4U: Many of our couples wish to buy so there's no limit on choice. We build the guests' outfits around the colour and spec of the groom or partner's outfit to match the colour theme of the wedding. When everything is coordinated from that starting point, it just works.

YSW: Tell us about Frank's Gold Room. What makes the made-to-measure experience there different?

K4U: We rolled out the concept in all our stores around five years ago. The vision was simple. There are two people getting married so why can't two dream outfits be created from head to toe, exactly as the partner wishes? After speaking to our suppliers, we made the dream a reality. We truly create some very special outfits. The best bit is the day of the final fitting, when we see some incredible reactions.

***YSW*: You also offer a wedding day dressing service. How does that work?**

K4U: We send a team out to the venue on the morning of the wedding to dress all the groomsmen. Many people have never worn a kilt before so this relieves a lot of stress. It also makes a huge difference to the photos. When everyone is dressed properly and feels confident, it shows.

***YSW*: Have attitudes towards wearing kilts shifted over the years?**

K4U: Definitely. We've set many trends with colours, style and feel – we've made the kilt outfit more on point and up to the minute. The days of Prince Charlie jackets and shiny buttons are long gone.

***YSW*: What actually happens at a fitting, especially for those who've never worn a kilt before?**

K4U: Not all wedding parties are the same – some choose a mix of components to make certain members of the party


JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY


JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

"We've always tried to be ahead of what's coming rather than catching up with what's already happened."



stand out. That flexibility is part of what makes each wedding feel individual. But our process is standardised in that we build outfits around the kilt first. The choice of jacket and accessories comes later.

***YSW*: How do people choose a tartan when outfitting multiple people with different family connections?**

K4U: Some still choose family tartans but many don't match the colour, theme or vibe of the wedding. Our exclusive tartans are very on trend and many are chosen to purchase, which makes it very easy to style the whole wedding party. If the partner is having one of our own tartans, everything flows from there.

***YSW*: You hold the official licences for Celtic FC, Rangers FC and the Scottish national team. How does that connect to weddings?**

K4U: Rangers and Celtic weddings do happen. And, as you can imagine, it creates a real buzz when either party comes in for fittings, especially in Glasgow. The Scotland tartan journey is still very early and I have to say it's been incredible to be part of it. We've been astonished by the demand and have sent kilts to every corner of the planet.



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IN *His* WORDS

With the team in place and the décor already stacking up in the office, Aidan Barlow is COUNTING DOWN to his Christmas wedding.



"The biggest thing I'd say to any groom about choosing suppliers is to choose people you genuinely like. Talent obviously matters, but if your suppliers are legends, easy to get along with and bring the right energy, that makes such a difference on the day itself. You're spending one of the biggest moments of your life with these people around you, so you want them to feel like a positive part of it.



"We've been THOUGHTFUL about who we're surrounding ourselves with."

Ana-Rose definitely had a clearer vision from the beginning than I did. She has an amazing eye for detail and specific ideas for the feel she wants to create – even if the easiest way to describe it is simply 'boujee'. That's shaped a lot of the choices we've made.

THE TEAM

We've been thoughtful about who we're surrounding ourselves with. Our photographer is Steph Nicol, who came highly recommended by a close friend. Our videographer is We Are One Wedding Films and we have That Magic Moment as our content creator, so we'll be able to relive everything from so many different angles.

Entertainment was one of the hardest choices but The Soul Establishment came highly recommended and completely stood out to us. We also have Andrew Scott as our celebrant, Hannah Hart Studio as our illustrator and Marte Studios bringing a luxury photo booth experience in the evening.

The cake is coming from Lola's Cupcakes in London, which says everything about how much Ana-Rose loves it, because we're literally having it brought up from another country. She's loved Lola's for years and even has her own discount code. There was never really any doubt.

GETTING CLOSE

The Christmas theme is coming together really well. The trees are ordered, we've chosen the colour palette and a lot of the décor is already sitting in our offices. Ana-Rose has also been working closely with the Old Course Hotel on their Christmas décor plans, so it's all starting to tie together beautifully.

The stag do is planned too and I've made it clear that the less I know, the better. All I want to hear is where I'm going and what time I need to be at the airport. As far as I'm aware, it's Budapest in September. Or at least that's what I've been told.

Eight months out, we're really happy, excited and just very much in love. And what am I most looking forward to? The ceremony. The moment Ana-Rose appears at the doors, I know everything else will disappear. That's the only thing that matters."


STEPH NICOL PHOTO

Mums' *Collections*

The mother of the bride or groom deserves to feel as considered as everyone else. Here, the boutiques, the designers and the advice that makes that happen.



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DR KALY JAFF AT THE OLD COURSE HOTEL & SPA | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY

BEYOND GOLD

Gold prices are at record highs. But the conversation around wedding jewellery has never been more interesting – because the alternatives have never been better.



ALTERNATIVE METALS

Platinum and silver offer compelling alternatives to gold but jewellery experts say they're not interchangeable.

"Platinum is naturally white, exceptionally strong and highly resistant to wear," explains the team at Sheila Fleet Jewellery. "Rather than wearing away, it develops a soft patina that many people love and requires very little maintenance. This makes it ideal for rings worn every day for a lifetime."

Silver is a different proposition. "It's a wonderful choice for fashion jewellery or pieces worn less frequently. But as a softer metal it's more susceptible to scratching and can tarnish over time, so it isn't typically recommended for engagement or wedding rings that will see decades of everyday wear."

The advice? "When working with our customers, we always discuss how a ring will be worn. This helps them choose a precious metal that's not only beautiful but suited to their lifestyle for years to come."

THINKING DIFFERENTLY ABOUT STONES

"Brides are increasingly confident about bringing their own style into the wedding day rather than following one prescribed bridal look," says Angela at Emma Rose Jewellery. "A pale blue crystal can become their something blue, while blush, sage or champagne tones can echo the wedding flowers. And deeper jewel shades can add a beautiful contrast to a simple gown."

At Sheila Fleet, where pieces are handcrafted in the Orkney workshop, the shift is equally clear. "While rising gold prices have certainly encouraged people to explore different options, there's also been a broader shift towards individuality. People want jewellery that tells a story."

Pearls deserve particular attention, adds Angela. "They have that rare ability to feel both timeless and modern. Their soft lustre is incredibly flattering, photographs beautifully and works with almost every style of dress. Freshwater pearls are particularly lovely because their subtle variations give each piece an organic, individual character. And they become jewellery that can be worn long after the wedding, which makes them feel like a meaningful purchase rather than something for a single day."


EMMA ROSE JEWELLERY

For couples unsure where to start, Sheila Fleet's advice is consistent. "Think about colours you're drawn to, special places or the personality you want your jewellery to have. Some couples choose a gemstone because it reminds them of where they got engaged. Others select a birthstone or a colour they've always loved. Start with what feels meaningful rather than expected."

SOMETHING OLD, MADE NEW

For most jewellers, record gold prices have changed the conversation. For Fennes Jewellery, the conversation was already happening.

"I don't really think that now is a particularly good time to consider repurposing – it's something that should be kept in mind all the time," says Jo. "When we live in a world of buying new, sometimes something unworn or inherited can be given a new beginning. Customers just aren't aware of what can be done. That's why it's lovely to sit with them and explain what can be achieved."

The examples tell the story better than any description. "Sadie wanted a heart pendant for her wedding day but costs were spiralling," explains Jo. "She brought in a ring inherited from her grandmother (a heart cluster) and it became exactly the pendant she'd imagined.

"Kirsty wondered whether a family ring could work alongside her engagement ring. Years of wear had sharpened the edges and worn the pattern, and the ring was too wide. But a resize, a narrowing and a polish revealed a lovely pattern beneath. She loves it.

"Tracey wanted to use her mother's wedding band but needed a shaped design, and the band couldn't be adapted that way. Fennes turned the ring into a



heart-shaped pendant instead, keeping the integrity of the original piece."

Jo's advice for anyone sitting on a piece they're unsure about is to do nothing. "Everything happens for a reason and an idea will come in the future. Now just isn't the right time."

When the time does feel right, let your jeweller check it first. "If you have a design in mind, show me and I can help manage your expectations." Appointments run from 30 minutes to an hour and a half. Straightforward work takes around two weeks. For more involved pieces, four to six.

HEIRLOOMS WORN DIFFERENTLY

One of the most moving alternatives to buying new isn't about the gold or the jewellery, it's about where it's worn.

"Transforming inherited jewellery into a bespoke hair accessory is one of the most meaningful parts of my work," explains Angela. "I've remodelled family pearls and vintage jewellery into tiaras, combs and other bridal pieces – including an heirloom tiara redesigned into a more contemporary style while retaining its original history and sentiment. A bride can carry someone she loves with her in a very visible yet beautifully subtle way."

The possibilities are wider than most brides realise. "Brooches work particularly well as the focal point of a comb or headpiece. Strings of pearls can be rewired into hair vines or scattered through a comb. Even a broken necklace or a single earring may contain beautiful components that can be reused."

Where possible, she creates pieces that will live on beyond the wedding day. "Pearls or jewellery elements may be removable from a bridal comb and can later be made into earrings, a bracelet or a pendant. They get yet another life rather than hiding in a jewellery box."

Her advice to brides with a meaningful piece and no clear idea is to start with the story. "Who it belonged to, what it means to you and whether you'd like the transformation to be permanent or reversible. Inherited jewellery doesn't have to stay exactly as it was to honour the person who wore it. Thoughtful transformations can be a beautiful continuation of a story and means something loved in the past can be loved and worn again on one of the most precious days of a family's life."

WHERE TO START

Gold prices may have started this conversation but the real story is about choosing jewellery that reflects who you are and the life you're building together.

Talk to a jeweller who will take time to understand your taste and your lifestyle. Ask to see alternatives alongside traditional options. And don't be afraid to start with the story rather than the stone.

A NOTE ON DIAMONDS – BUT DIFFERENT

Lab-grown diamonds are diamonds created in a controlled laboratory environment rather than mined from the earth. But misconceptions remain.

"They're not imitation stones like cubic zirconia or moissanite," advises the team at James Porter & Son. "They have the same chemical composition, crystal structure, optical properties and durability as natural diamonds. But they're formed in a lab in a matter of months instead of millions of years underground."

"To the naked eye, there's generally no visual difference between a comparable natural and lab-grown diamond. Both can display the same brilliance, fire and sparkle. Specialist gemmological equipment is normally required to determine how a diamond was formed."

For many couples, the appeal is straightforward. "The main attraction is the freedom to choose a larger diamond or a higher colour and clarity grade without exceeding their budget. The choice is ultimately an emotional one. Some people love the rarity, geological history and tradition of a natural diamond, while others are drawn to the technology, value and flexibility offered by a lab-grown stone. Neither option is automatically better – it's about selecting the diamond that feels right for the individual couple."

It’s about selecting the
diamond that feels right.”
– James Porter & Co



JAMES PORTER & CO

A STORE WORTH THE JOURNEY

Sheila Fleet Jewellery has just been named Store Design of the Year. Here's the story behind the boutique that won it.

When Sheila Fleet Jewellery opened its two-storey boutique on Edinburgh's Hanover Street in July 2025, the brief was simple – create a space that felt like Orkney. A jewellery shop all about the experience; somewhere customers would slow down, explore and feel immersed in the world that inspires every piece Sheila designs.

Just over a year later, the judges at the UK Retail Jewellery Awards called it "a masterclass of store design" as it won Store Design of the Year over some of the UK's largest retailers. For a family-run Scottish business rooted in an archipelago off the north coast of Scotland, it's a remarkable thing.

THE SPACE

Nature was at the heart of every design decision. The boutique features textured stone finishes, flowing curves and natural materials that echo Orkney's dramatic coastline and sea-worn cliffs.

One particularly striking detail is the sculptural stonework inspired by the basalt rock beneath Edinburgh Castle. This was Sheila's way of bringing a piece of Edinburgh into the space and creating a subtle connection between the capital and the islands.

Bespoke cabinetry, organic forms and carefully selected materials mirror the textures and colours of Orkney. The result feels distinctly Scottish while remaining unmistakably Sheila Fleet. Working alongside SPLINTR, Helen Lucas Architects and Rockcraft UK, every decision was made to create something that truly reflected the brand's identity rather than simply housing it.

THE FAMILY

Sheila founded the business in 1993 and, at 80, remains creative director and the sole designer behind every collection. She works alongside her son Martin and daughter-in-law Mairi (also directors) while more than 100 team members bring her designs to life across the workshop, office and retail.



"Being family-run shapes everything we do," the team says. "Decisions are made with a long-term view. We really care about the experience people have with us, whether they're visiting one of our shops or receiving a piece that'll become part of their own story."

FOR WEDDINGS

Sheila Fleet's jewellery has long been a favourite with couples and it's easy to understand why.

Every piece is handcrafted in Orkney, carries a story rooted in Scotland's landscapes and can be personalised with different precious metals, gemstones or enamel colours. Wedding rings are a particular strength, available in everything from classic gold and platinum to Scottish gold.

For those seeking something with meaning, the Secret Hearts, Seasons and Primula Scotica collections are worth exploring. And with a new Kirkwall flagship in development for 2027, the Sheila Fleet story is far from finished.

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THE BIG *Interview*

WITH VIEVE

Born in Glasgow, stocked in Sephora and worn by some of the world's most recognisable faces, VIEVE has become one of the most exciting beauty brands to emerge from Scotland in years. We sat down with the team to talk Scotland, weddings and what comes next.

Founded in 2020 by Scottish makeup artist Jamie Genevieve, VIEVE was built on the simple but powerful idea that makeup and skincare should work together – rather than against each other.

What began as a passion project (rooted in Jamie's years working makeup counters in Glasgow, and the social media following she built along the way) grew into a global brand. VIEVE is stocked at Sephora, Space NK and Cult Beauty, with a flagship store in Glasgow and a community of devoted customers who genuinely love what they wear.

The name says it all. VIEVE means 'full of life,' and that energy runs through everything – from the formulas to the way the brand shows up in the world.

YSW: VIEVE has a strong connection to Scotland through Jamie's roots and the Glasgow store. How does that Scottish identity show up in the brand?

VIEVE: The foundation is rooted in where we started. While we're a global brand, we've always stayed connected to our beginnings. That comes through in the way we approach the business. Like the Scottish nature, we try to remain down to earth, warm and approachable. And we want people to feel welcome wherever they interact with the brand. We reflect those values in everything we do, from how we work internally to how we show up in the world.

YSW: The Glasgow store has become more than a retail space with masterclasses, exclusive products and local residencies. What makes it different from a typical beauty retail experience?

VIEVE: It was always designed to be much more than somewhere to shop. We wanted it to feel like home; a space where customers can experience the brand in a much more immersive way, whether that's through makeup appointments, community events or artistry-led masterclasses. Education has always been central to the brand, so the store gives us an opportunity to have real conversations with our community, help people build confidence in makeup and create experiences that stay with them long after they leave.

YSW: What does the Scottish market mean to VIEVE and how does the brand's Glasgow home shape its identity?

VIEVE: Scotland will always play an important role in our story. Having that presence in Glasgow keeps us closely connected to our community and gives us a place to bring the brand to life through events, education and experiences. As we've expanded internationally, we've been careful to retain the authenticity and sense of community that have been part of VIEVE since the beginning.

“You should still look like you, just elevated.”





YSW: What would your advice be to brides thinking about their wedding makeup? Where do they start and what are the most common mistakes?

VIEVE: Start by thinking about how you wear makeup in everyday life and build your look from there. One of the biggest mistakes is trying to become someone else on your wedding day. You should still look like you, just elevated. A look that makes you feel most confident.

***YSW*:** Which VIEVE products would you reach for on a wedding morning, and why?

VIEVE: I always use Skin Nova Primer on a wedding day. It creates a smooth, hydrated base that helps makeup apply beautifully while giving the skin a naturally radiant finish. I also always reach for Skin Dew. It's the perfect finishing touch for bridal makeup, giving the skin a soft, natural-looking glow that catches the light beautifully in both real life and photographs.

***YSW*:** The wedding day is long. What's your advice for makeup that really lasts?

VIEVE: Long-lasting bridal makeup starts with good skin prep and priming, and Skin Nova creates the perfect base. Using a setting powder like Modern Powder Perfector to lock everything in place, followed by Invisiveil Setting Spray, helps your makeup stay fresh from the ceremony through to the last dance. Also, carry your lip combination and blotting paper for quick touch-ups throughout the day.

***YSW*:** What's your advice for bridesmaids and the wider bridal party when it comes to coordinating looks without being too matchy-matchy?

VIEVE: Keep everyone's makeup cohesive rather than identical. A shared colour palette or overall style creates a polished look, while tailoring the makeup to each person's skin tone, features and preferences ensures everyone feels comfortable and confident. The best bridal party makeup enhances each individual while still complementing the bride and the overall feel of the wedding.

***YSW*:** Makeup trials: how important are they and what should brides be asking?

VIEVE: A makeup trial is an important part of wedding preparation. It allows you to work with your artist to create a look that feels right, while testing how it photographs and wears throughout the day. Use the appointment to discuss your inspiration, skin type, product choices and any questions or concerns you have.

***YSW*:** VIEVE recently got investment to fuel its next phase of growth. What does the next chapter look like?

VIEVE: The investment gives us the opportunity to accelerate what we've been building, from looking at new markets like the US and growing our retail footprint to continuing to invest in product innovation. At the same time, we're focused on protecting what makes VIEVE special. Growth is important but we want to do things our VIEVE way. We're committed to maintaining the quality of our products, our artistry-led approach and the close relationship we've built with our community as we continue to scale.







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HAUS®
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What wedding photography actually captures about your smile – and why confidence matters more than perfection – with Adam Morgan, clinic director, HAUS of Dentistry

Your wedding photographs will outlast the flowers, the favours and the carefully chosen centrepieces. And in almost every wedding gallery, there's a moment where everything else disappears, leaving just a face, a feeling and a smile.

It might be the split second before walking down the aisle, a burst of laughter during the speeches or a quick glance across the room. In those moments, what the camera captures is never just how someone looked – it's how they felt. That's why a smile matters more than most people realise.

WHAT THE CAMERA SEES

When you think about your wedding photos, you focus on the details you can control, such as styling, lighting, posture and angles. But do you stop to consider that one of the most powerful elements in any image is expression? We're talking about ease and confidence, as opposed to flawlessness and perfection – because the camera is remarkably good at picking up what is real.

Most of you won't think seriously about your smiles until relatively late in the planning process. By then, it's become tied up with appearance in the narrowest sense. You'll be thinking: do my teeth look white enough? Straight enough? Perfect enough? But those are rarely the things that make a smile beautiful.

Actually, what you obsess over in the mirror very often doesn't show up at all – especially on camera. Things like a tiny overlap, one tooth slightly tucked back or some other detail that's felt glaringly obvious for years.

These are the things you notice because you know your face intimately. You've studied it closely, often critically, for a long time. But wedding photography doesn't examine a smile the way a magnifying mirror does. It captures the overall impression. And that impression is shaped by very different things.

THE THREE THINGS THAT MATTER MOST

The first is brightness. Not an unnatural, over-bleached whiteness but brightness in the truest sense – the kind that makes a smile look fresh, healthy and full of life. In photographs, that lift can have far more impact than people expect. It can soften the whole face and make someone look more vibrant, more awake and more luminous.

The second is harmony. We're not looking for mathematical perfection here – it's about balance. Does the smile feel in tune with the face? Does it look natural when someone laughs? The most striking wedding smiles are rarely the most 'perfect.' They're the ones that belong completely to the person wearing them.

The third, and most overlooked, is comfort. Someone who feels self-conscious about their teeth holds something back. They smile more cautiously, cover their mouth when they laugh or keep their lips together for photos. They become aware of the camera in a way that interrupts the moment. A person who feels confident does the opposite – they relax and let go. And that presence is what makes a photograph beautiful.

WHY NATURAL ALWAYS WINS

Natural-looking dentistry almost always photographs better than work that's been pushed too far. Teeth that are too opaque, too uniform or too idealised can lose the individuality that makes a smile feel alive. In wedding photographs especially, your smile has to feel like it has always been yours; it's just its best-looking version on that day.

The most elegant results are often the ones nobody can quite put their finger on. A little more brightness or balance. More polished than normal. Just enough to make someone look fresher and more confident without making the smile

> "The most beautiful wedding smiles are not the ones that look the most perfect. They are the ones where the person wearing it looks completely, confidently themselves."

feel separate from the face around it. That's where the real artistry lies.

The treatments that make the biggest visual difference are not always the most dramatic. Professional whitening can be incredibly effective because it refreshes the overall appearance without changing the person. Hygiene and gum health are equally powerful and often underestimated. Clean, healthy teeth and well-maintained gums create a polish that translates well in close-up photography. For some, small alignment changes can make a meaningful difference too, particularly where crowding affects the natural flow of the smile.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

Not every smile needs changing. That is probably the thing you least expect to hear but it is true. Sometimes what someone needs is simply a clearer understanding of what already works. The real value often lies in refinement rather than reinvention.

In any couple's wedding prep, that's the most reassuring thing to understand. You don't need to become a different version of yourself to look extraordinary in your photographs. The goal should never be a smile that feels manufactured. The goal is a smile that fits you and only you.

That might mean whitening. It might mean a hygiene appointment. Or it might mean beginning a more considered journey if there is something you have wanted to improve for years. But whatever it means, it should always feel like you. Just the most confident, most radiant version.

Because in the end, the best wedding smiles aren't the ones that look the most perfect. They're the ones where the person wearing it looks completely, confidently themselves. And that is exactly what the camera remembers.

ABOUT ADAM MORGAN

Adam Morgan is clinic director at HAUS of Dentistry, one of the UK's leading luxury private dental and aesthetic clinics. With a reputation for natural-looking results and a philosophy centred on confidence over perfection, HAUS of Dentistry works with couples across Scotland to help them feel their best for the moments that matter most.



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Beauty for *Everyone*

The wedding industry has come a long way but finding hair, makeup and wellness suppliers who are genuinely experienced working with grooms, trans and non-binary clients remains harder than it should be. Scottish experts talk it through with *YSW*...



ARTISTÉ BY LEIGH BLANEY | WHITNEY GRAHAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Attitudes are shifting and skills are evolving. Here, suppliers across hair, beauty and wellness share how they approach inclusivity in practice – and explain what every couple should know before they book.

CAROLINE, CAROLINE STEWART MAKE-UP ARTISTRY AND HAIR STYLING

"I trained for three years, and part of it was men's makeup and drag. So, working across genders and identities has always been part of what I do. It doesn't matter what or who you identify as. It's just another amazing face to work on.

Men and trans clients often tell me they struggled to find artists who do all styles for all genders. My consultation approach doesn't differ at all depending on who's sitting in my chair. It's a kind, safe space for all.

If you're unsure how to communicate what you want, find some images you like on social media or Pinterest. But don't use AI, it's unrealistic. Bring a photo of how you might normally wear your makeup. And don't worry if your look is way out there. We can always adjust slightly so it fits with the wedding vibe."

KATRINA, VIEVE

"True inclusivity means creating products and experiences where everyone feels seen, represented and comfortable expressing their own style. And VIEVE's products are designed to enhance individuality rather than create a one-size-fits-all look.

For grooms or male members of a wedding party wanting to look their best without it feeling like a big step, our Modern Radiance Concealer is a great starting point. It evens out the complexion, reduces redness and brightens under the eyes. Fresh, natural-looking skin that's comfortable and camera-ready."

MAUREEN, THE BRIDE TO BE...

"Over the years I've had the pleasure of styling brides, grooms, same-sex couples, non-binary and trans clients. To anyone who feels nervous about asking for hair or makeup services outside the traditional bridal setup, I would simply say: 'Please don't be.'"

ADAM, HAUS OF DENTISTRY

"We have a platinum rule at HAUS – treat each person how they want to be treated, not how you want to be treated. It doesn't matter who someone is, where they are from, what they look like or what their role is in a wedding.

Today more than ever, people have so much choice. Our job is to make the experience so good that the choice is easy, regardless of what your role is in the wedding."

DR KALY, THE SECRET CLINIC

"If you're curious about aesthetic treatments but nervous about whether you'll feel welcome, you don't need to fit a particular mould to belong here. Our job isn't to tell you who you should be. It's to create a safe, respectful space where you feel heard, understood and empowered."



HAUS OF DENTISTRY

RHONA, H BEAUTY

"Whether we're helping a groom build a skincare routine, creating a makeup look for a same-sex couple or helping someone who is new to beauty feel completely at ease, our approach is always the same, we listen first. If they leave H Beauty feeling looked after, understood and excited for their special day, then we've done our job."

LEIGH, ARTISTÉ BY LEIGH BLANEY

"I'm trained across all skin types, ages, ethnicities and genders, and I'm fully LGBTQ+ friendly. I worked with two brides bringing their looks to life. Amy loves her makeup and prefers a fifties pin-up look while Pauline likes a very natural, glowing look. On the day it was so relaxed because they went for what they wanted and stayed true to themselves.

My aim is always to help people feel comfortable and confident. Whatever that looks like, we can work together to create it."

The Stacking Effect

WITH DR KALY JAFF

Why the smartest brides aren't booking more appointments – they're booking better ones.



VISIBLE BY HANNAH

There's a change happening in bridal beauty, and it's long overdue.

For years, the advice has been the same. Start your skincare early, book your facials, see your aesthetics practitioner and squeeze in your body treatments. It's all good advice but what nobody talks about is how much of that time can be reclaimed – and how much better the results can be – when treatments are planned together rather than in isolation.

This is what I call treatment stacking. And for those planning their wedding, it changes everything.

WHAT THIS ACTUALLY MEANS

Treatment stacking is all about doing things smarter. Rather than spreading compatible treatments across multiple appointments over several weeks, carefully selected treatments are combined into a single, bespoke session. They're chosen specifically because they work in harmony and deliver stronger results together than they would apart.

Here's a simple example. Imagine relaxing in a lymphatic drainage compression suit (reducing puffiness, encouraging circulation and supporting your body's natural recovery processes) while getting advanced skin treatments, like microneedling with polynucleotides and exosomes.

There are two things happening at once, each enhancing the other, in the time it would normally take to do one. For someone with a full life and a long to-do list, that matters.

THE TREATMENTS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT

Lymphatic drainage is one of the most underestimated tools in wedding prep. It reduces puffiness, supports detoxification and leaves most clients feeling noticeably lighter and more refreshed, inside and out. Many clients also report improvements in bloating and digestive comfort. It photographs beautifully and the effects are cumulative.

Body contouring treatments like EMSCULPT NEO take a different approach, simultaneously building muscle and reducing fat in targeted areas. Whether your goal is improving posture for your outfit, feeling stronger walking down the aisle or simply feeling more confident in your skin, these treatments are about enhancing rather than changing.

For skin, the most exciting recent developments involve regenerative treatments (microneedling with polynucleotides and exosomes) that work at a cellular level to support collagen production, improve texture and restore luminosity. Combined with professional LED therapy and a properly structured skincare routine, the results in the months before a wedding can be genuinely transformative.

And for those concerned about hair – maybe due to stress, hormonal changes or other factors – there are now advanced regenerative options available. Look for LED scalp technology and targeted microneedling, which can make a meaningful difference with the right lead time.

THE WELLBEING PIECE

One thing I've seen change significantly in wedding-related consultations is the conversation around overall wellbeing, not just appearance. Weddings are emotionally and physically demanding. The planning, the family dynamics, the financial pressure and the sheer anticipation of such a significant milestone all takes a toll.

> "The goal is never to arrive at your wedding looking like a different person. It's to arrive feeling like the most confident, most luminous version of yourself."

Personalised IV infusion therapy is increasingly part of the prep journey for this reason. Tailored blends of vitamins, minerals and compounds, such as NAD+, can support energy, hydration and overall resilience throughout the run-up to the day. And many clients find the post-wedding recovery period benefits just as much.

WHERE TO START

The most important thing is a proper consultation before committing to any treatment plan. Every person's skin, body and timeline is different. What works beautifully for one person may not be right for another. And a good practitioner will tell you that clearly – including when something isn't needed.

Start earlier than you think you need to. The treatments that deliver the most meaningful results for your skin, body and hair need time to work. Six months is a strong starting point. A year is better.

The goal is never to arrive at your wedding looking like a different person. It's to arrive feeling like the most confident, most rested, most luminous version of yourself. That's what treatment stacking done well and done thoughtfully is designed to deliver.

ABOUT DR KALY JAFF

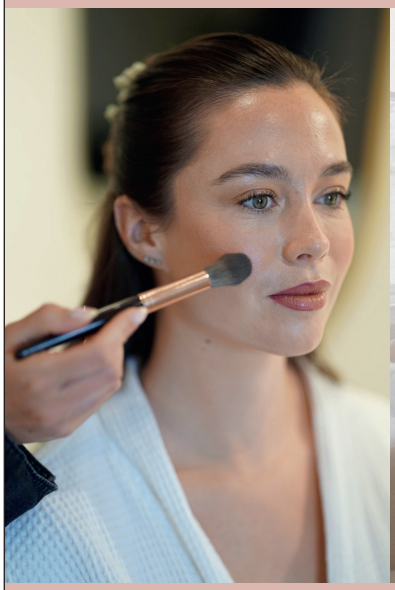
Dr Kaly Jaff is an award-winning aesthetics practitioner and founder of The Secret Clinic in Glasgow, one of the UK's leading family-run aesthetic clinics. Known for her natural-results philosophy and expertise in advanced facial aesthetics, skin rejuvenation and regenerative medicine, she specialises in bespoke treatment planning that prioritises long-term skin health and facial harmony. She is also a podcast host, mentor and entrepreneur.

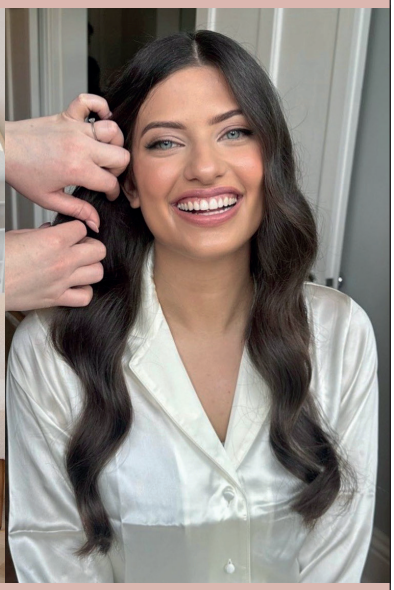
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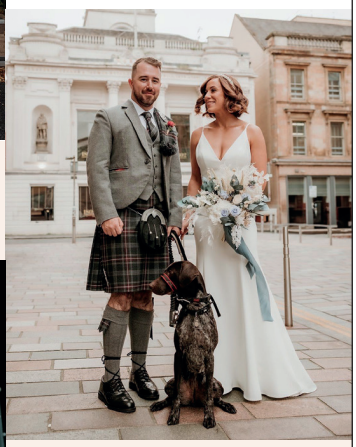
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SAFFRON EVENTS





An opulent celebration of romance unfolds in this bespoke wedding design for Zahrah & Zunair, set within the iconic surroundings of Trump Turnberry.

Framed by the venue's legendary grandeur, this all-fresh-floral wedding transforms the ballroom into a vision of timeless elegance. A luminous white aisle, delicately bordered with lush hydrangeas, garden roses, and seasonal blooms in soft lilac, blush, and ivory, draws the eye toward a striking custom-built stage. Sculptural floral installations rise in graceful arcs, framing an ivory lounge setting beneath classical arches, where modern refinement meets traditional romance.

Flowing powder-blue linens, gold-accented chairs, and abundant floral cascades create a seamless harmony throughout the space, while crystal chandeliers shimmer overhead, reflecting the refined luxury synonymous with Trump Turnberry. Every element has been meticulously tailored, celebrating Zahrah and Zunair's love story through thoughtful design, scale, and detail.

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YOUR WEDDING DAY



ISAAC CRAIG PHOTOGRAPHY

The Long Game

LUCINDA STEWART & SHAUN SANDS

Sixteen years is a LONG TIME to know someone before MARRYING them. For Lucinda and Shaun, it was worth every minute.

Lucinda and Shaun met through showjumping in 2009. He worked at Ingliston Equestrian Centre and started getting involved in their British Showjumping (BS) competitions where she competed. Shaun became a BS course designer, she continued to be a keen competitor and they saw each other most weekends at shows over the years.

It wasn't until 2017 that things shifted. There was no traditional first date but their first weekend away together was in September (which is why they chose that month for their wedding eight years later).

Shaun proposed on Lucinda's 30th birthday at Enterkine House Hotel before her birthday meal with family. It wasn't the original plan – he'd had the ring for over a year but something always got in the way. When the moment finally came, the dinner became a double celebration.





WEDDING DATE:
THURSDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2025
VENUE: LOCHGREEN HOUSE HOTEL & SPA, TROON
PHOTOGRAPHY: EQUISCOT PHOTOGRAPHY





THE DECISIONS

From the start, they knew they wanted a small wedding with family and friends who supported them. No fuss, no performance, just the people who mattered.

Lochgreen House Hotel & Spa had everything they needed. The layout allowed the wedding to flow between different beautiful spaces and the team made planning easy. "The staff at Lochgreen were extremely helpful," Lucinda explains. Alex, their main contact, went above and beyond to make sure the day was perfect.

The vibe was relaxed and focused on them. They listened to advice from the venue and their celebrant, David Mitchell, then made decisions quickly and moved on. "We had a clear image of what we wanted. When it came to booking things, we were very decisive."

Lucinda wore McKinley by Enzoani from Opus Couture with a cathedral-length veil scattered with Swarovski crystals. Shaun designed his own three-piece suit with a tartan waistcoat, made by Kilts 4 U. Personal touches appeared throughout – a bow from Lucinda's mum's wedding dress pinned to her bouquet and a full-size show jump as their welcome sign. "Showjumping is in our blood," Lucinda smiles. "We wanted something unique to us."



"Showjumping is in our blood. We wanted something UNIQUE to us."



THE DAY

Walking back up the aisle after saying 'I do' is the moment Lucinda will never forget. "That feeling of knowing the dream had become reality was incredible."

They grabbed a drink and a few minutes alone before joining their guests. "We were both like, 'OMG we're husband and wife now!'" Lucinda laughs. "My hands were shaking with adrenaline and excitement."

The day flowed beautifully. Their best friend Holly surprised them with a speech and Lucinda's mum had a song written for them, performed during the celebration. When evening guests arrived, they let their hair down knowing all the important moments had gone well.

Photo time was particularly special; just them and Jackie and Brian from Equiscot Photography, who've known them for 14 years through showjumping. "It was time to laugh and enjoy being together," Lucinda remembers.

One small hitch: Lucinda wasn't ready on time and it annoyed her that she was late to the ceremony. The delayed start meant their champagne tower couldn't happen when planned but the venue adapted everything seamlessly. "No one knew anything had changed except us. It really didn't matter. Alex at Lochgreen went above and beyond to make sure our day was pure perfection."

THE REFLECTIONS

Looking back, what's stayed with them most is that relaxed photo time – just them with friends who've been part of their journey from the beginning. They didn't get caught up in details that would go unnoticed. "Looking back, we're really glad because they weren't missed," Lucinda admits. Their advice is clear: don't get overwhelmed by everything available. Stick to your plan, don't be afraid to say no and make it unique to your relationship. As David Mitchell told them from the start, make it something everyone will talk about.

For Lucinda and Shaun, that meant a show jump, a relaxed celebration and eight years of friendship turned into forever. The long game, played perfectly.





BEHIND THE DAY

BRIDE'S ACCESSORIES
CHISHOLM HUNTER, CARVELA
BRIDE'S DRESS
MCKINLEY BY ENZOANI AT OPUS COUTURE
BRIDE'S VEIL
ELIZABETH WALLACE BRIDAL
CAKE
CAKES BY REBECCA
CELEBRANT
DAVID MITCHELL, TLC FAITH
DÉCOR
CRACKIN EVENTS
DJ
DEVOTION WEDDINGS
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PAPERWHITE FLORAL DESIGN
GROOM'S OUTFIT
KILTS 4 U
GROOM'S ACCESSORIES
LOAKE SHOEMAKERS, VICTORY & INNSBRUCK, CHARLES TYRWHITT
HAIR AND MAKEUP
THE BRIDE TO BE
RINGS
TIMOTHY J SHARP
STATIONERY
GREENVELOPE
VIDEOGRAPHER
EQUISCOT PHOTOGRAPHY

EQUISCOT PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"Brian and I knew Lucy and Shaun before they even met. So when they asked us to capture their wedding, it felt like an honour. We knew exactly how to let them relax and be themselves, and the day was full of laughter from start to finish." ■

JACKIE, EQUISCOT PHOTOGRAPHY

Love in the Barn

KERRY LINEY & ELIZABETH HOLDEN

Two brides, one vision and a RUSTIC CELEBRATION that felt like home.

Kerry and Lizzy met in Dundee through a mutual friend in 2020.

Lizzy was about to start her master's degree and Kerry was in her final year of undergrad, both at the University of Dundee. The connection was instant.

On date three or four, they stayed up late one night chatting about life and showed each other their wedding Pinterest boards. They were almost identical – down to the same saved pins. Rustic barns, wildflowers, the works.

Six years later, Lizzy proposed at Glencoe Lochan in a forest of Canadian fir trees planted by a man for his homesick Canadian wife. "It's very special to us," Kerry explains. They'd visited almost every year since they met, usually around Christmas for Lizzy's December birthday.

The proposal spot couldn't have been more perfect.





WEDDING DATE:
SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2026
VENUE: KINKELL BYRE, ST ANDREWS
PHOTOGRAPHY: SIMON HIRD

THE DECISIONS

From the start, they knew what they wanted – everyone comfortable, everyone having fun, good vibes only and no dress code. Bridesmaids chose their own dresses. A ceilidh was non-negotiable. And Welsh and Scottish touches woven throughout, honouring both their backgrounds.

Kinkell Byre had that wow factor the moment they saw it. The layout kept everyone together all day and night in one beautiful, open space. But they made one immediate decision that shaped everything; getting married in the entrance way rather than the usual ceremony room. "We just loved the natural light that filled the space," Kerry says. The ceremony room became their cake-cutting and first-dance spot instead, and it worked perfectly.

Kerry wore the Romina dress by Jenny Yoo while Lizzy chose Olya Mak. They had no idea what the other had picked. "We couldn't believe how well our dresses complemented each other."

Personal details appeared everywhere. They spent months creating a wedding newspaper packed with inside jokes and fake adverts featuring friends and family. It was a hit. Their dog Rue served as ring bearer, wearing a bow made from offcuts of Lizzy's dress. Plus a sign-in frame where guests drew themselves and a Polaroid camera that meant everyone could capture their own moments.

THE DAY

Their celebrant Alexis included a secret qualities section in the ceremony. Kerry and Lizzy had answered questions about what they loved most about each other and sent them separately without the other seeing. Hearing those words for the first time at the altar was unforgettable. "There wasn't a dry eye in the room. And so many laughs too."

The drinks reception buzzed with relaxed, happy energy. By dinner, the atmosphere had lifted even higher then ceilidh band Skyrie got everyone (even the Welsh side) up dancing. Then piper Dean Saunders hit the dance floor with his pop music set and the entire room erupted. "Everyone went crazy," Kerry laughs.

Dean had been with them start to finish. He piped them into the venue, down the aisle and into dinner. Then he set up his pizza station for the evening buffet (he does piping and pizza, hence 'Piping Hot Pizza') before returning with the bagpipes for a set people are still talking about.

Friends and family had travelled from Australia, the Isle of Man and across the UK just to celebrate with them. "It was quite overwhelming to have everyone there. You realise how lucky you are."

One near-disaster, though. They misplaced their marriage schedule five minutes before the ceremony started – and the weather forecast predicted torrential rain and high winds right up until the morning. Instead, sunshine all day and a beautiful sunset. "We couldn't believe our luck."





THE REFLECTIONS

What's stayed with them most isn't a single moment but the love from each other and from every person in that room. "We were just blown away."

Their advice is to enjoy every minute, stick together the whole day and remember that feeling of everyone you love in one room celebrating your love.

Next up, a honeymoon in French Polynesia (swimming with humpback whales included), then back to their perfect little life with Rue, plenty of hikes, good food, cosy evenings and last-minute adventures.

As Kerry puts it: "We really are the luckiest people on earth."

"We couldn't believe how well our DRESSES complemented each other."







The couple's wedding newspaper was designed by Lizzy and the template is now on sale via Etsy.

BEHIND THE DAY

BAND
SKYRIE
BRIDES' DRESSES
ROMINA BY JENNY YOO FROM UNBRIDALED
OLYA MAK FROM ONE OF A KIND
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES
AZAZIE
CATERING, DÉCOR, FLOWERS
PLATTER & POP
CELEBRANT
ALEXIS MCKENZIE
DOG CHAPERONE
SOLO PAWS
ENTERTAINMENT
DEAN SAUNDERS PIPER
EVENING BUFFET
PIPING HOT PIZZA
HAIR
MICHELLE REID HAIRDRESSING
MAKEUP
KIRSTY SUTTIE MAKEUP, DORA BRIDAL MAKEUP ARTIST
PHOTOGRAPHER
SIMON HIRD
RINGS
AUSTEN & BLAKE
VIDEOGRAPHER
RAEBURN FILMS
VENUE
KINKELL BYRE



PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"Lizzy and Kerry brought together such a wonderful team of suppliers and it was such a joy to be a part of. I loved all the personal touches and how much fun these two had with their friends, family and lovely dog Rue." ■

SIMON, SIMON HIRD

Never Say Never

MELANIE COUSIN & KEITH MARSHALL

Mel said she'd never MARRY again. Then she met Keith...

Mel and Keith were introduced by mutual friends Judith and Graham in February 2024. It took a second gentle nudge before things clicked, and they became a couple in February 2025. A proposal followed in November 2025 and the wedding was booked for May 2026. "Quite quick," Mel admits. "But when you know, you know."

Keith asked Mel's 17-year-old son Alexander and her 20-year-old daughter Olivia for permission before asking her to marry in their favourite place – their own conservatory, with a beautiful diamond ring. Mel had previously vowed she'd never get married again – and had told Keith this when they met. "But, as they say, never say never," she smiles.





WEDDING DATE: SATURDAY 2ND MAY 2026
VENUE: THE INN AT CHARLESTOWN, FIFE
PHOTOGRAPHY: KRIS SOUL PHOTOGRAPHY







THE DECISIONS

They both wanted a small wedding, though their definitions of small differed slightly. The ceremony room held 60. "I managed to rein Keith in at 64, including us," Mel laughs. "It was cosy."

The venue was never really a question. Mel grew up nearby – her grandparents lived locally, her grandpa played for and chaired Charlestown Bowling Club, and her parents celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary at the Inn at Charlestown. The personal connection ran deep. Practical considerations helped too – hotel rooms, glamping pods and a five-bedroom lodge meant travelling guests were well looked after, and the surroundings were a photographer's dream.

From the start, the priority was a relaxed, stress-free day with their closest people around them, including their dog Beau. As planning progressed, they decided to make the ceremony more personal with their own vows, a ring warming and two guest readings.

Mel wore a Goddiva dress from Debenhams, altered to perfection by Mirka Bridal Couture ("She made my off-the-peg dress absolutely perfect for me") and Keith went for a stylish suit from Slater Menswear. The flower displays in the ceremony room were arranged by Mel herself. Funny wedding cards doubled as table names. And Beau took on the role of flowerpuppy.

As a surprise, Mel arranged to have a photograph of Keith's late father ironed to the inside of his tie, so he'd be with him on the day. Mel's children walked her down the aisle, and the moment Alexander – dressed in his RAF uniform – shook Keith's hand and placed Mel's hand in it brought tears to more than a few eyes.


"When you
know, you
KNOW."


“She made my off-the-peg dress absolutely PERFECT for me.”



THE DAY

The morning was "surprisingly" calm. Keith and Mel had spent the night before together, attended the rehearsal first thing, collected lunch from the local baker and walked Beau before Mel headed to the hotel to get ready.

Neither of them felt the reality of it until Mel was actually walking down the aisle. "It had been so relaxed on the lead up to that moment," she explains.

Kevin and Tina at the Inn at Charlestown made sure every detail was right, gave the couple time to breathe and take it all in, and worked closely with them throughout. The cake, made by their friend Anna at Epic Bakes, featured flavours nobody had ever tried before – pistachio, white chocolate and raspberry mousse; Kinder Bueno infused Russian buttercream with cherry jelly; and a gluten-free Victoria sponge. Everyone raved about it. "We wanted a simple design so she really went to town with the taste."

The weather forecast had threatened thunder and lightning. But instead, they got sunshine.

THE REFLECTIONS

What's stayed with them is how fun and relaxed the day was. The things that mattered (their closest people, the personal touches, and laid-back vibe that reflected their day-to-day life) all came together exactly as they'd hoped. Keith was delighted Mel had agreed to his vision of a 'larger' wedding. And photographer Kris stayed later than planned to catch the first dance.

Their advice to couples planning now: communicate early, get the fundamentals agreed and booked quickly – and make sure you're both on the same page before the details take over.

Next up is life in their new home, pottering in the garden with Beau and possibly a rescue greyhound joining the family next year.

BEHIND THE DAY

BRIDE'S BRACELET
SWAROVSKI
BRIDE'S DRESS
GODDIVA AT DEBENHAMS (ALTERATIONS BY MIRKA BRIDAL COUTURE)
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES
EVER-PRETTY
CAKE
EPIC BAKES
CELEBRANT
HEATHER CRUICKSHANK
DJ
GARY NICOL
FLOWERS
POPPY FLORAL DESIGN
GROOM'S OUTFIT
SLATER MENSWEAR
HAIR
GEMMA DOW
RINGS
LAINGS
STATIONERY
INVITATION WORKS
VENUE
THE INN AT CHARLESTOWN



PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"Mel and Keith's love, partnership and care for one another shone through in every moment. Although the forecast promised storms and rain, the weather held beautifully so we could capture lovely shots outside and around the harbour." ■

KRIS, KRIS SOUL PHOTOGRAPHY



JENNIFER GLEN

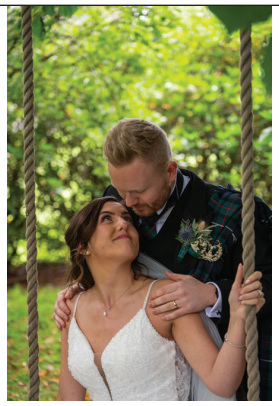
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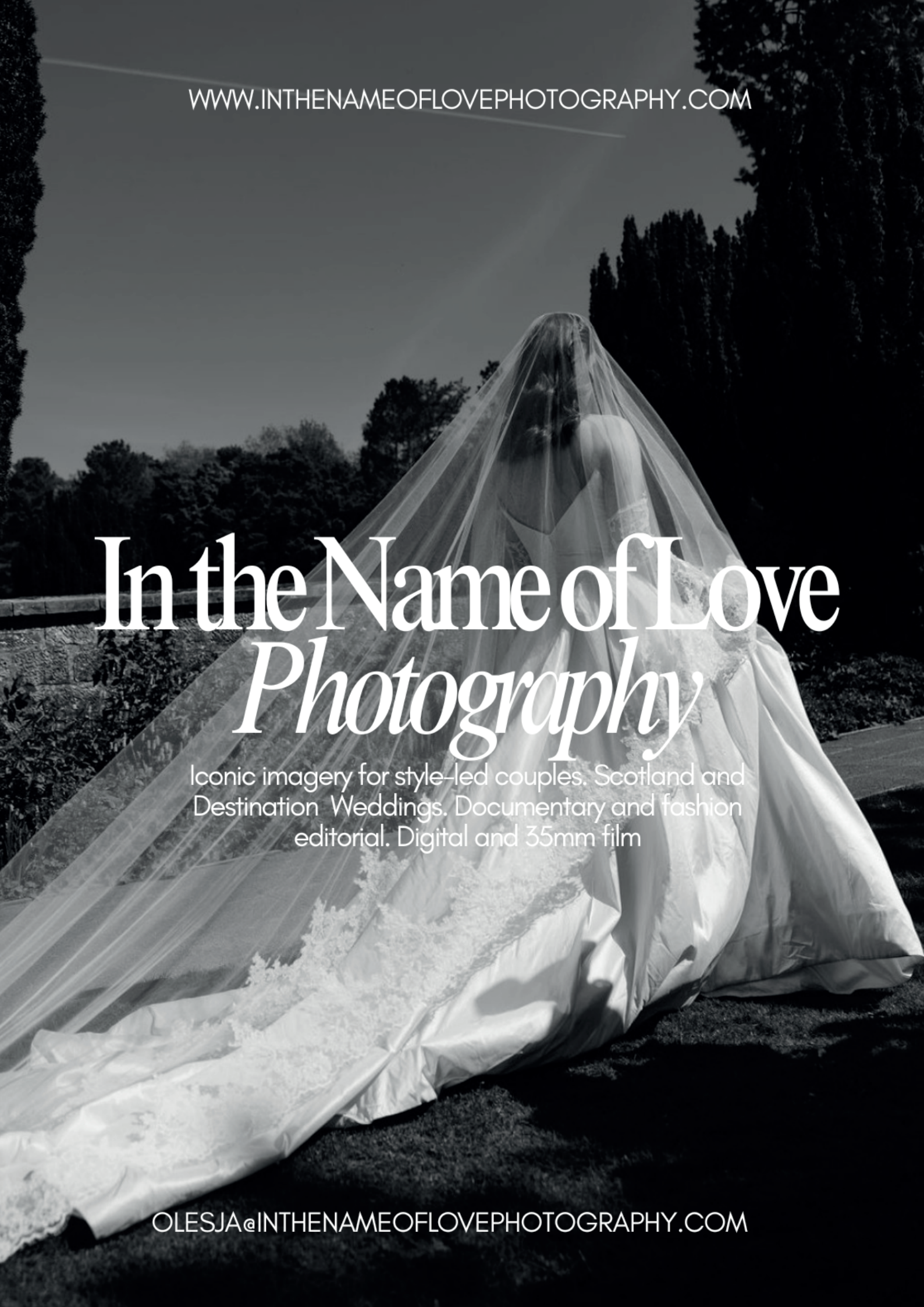


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MAXIMISING MEDIAS

Wedding content creation that arrives before the confetti settles – triple award-winner Hannah Wallace tells all...

I started Maximising Medias in 2023, when wedding content creation was still a relatively new concept in the UK.

With a background in social media marketing (we also manage social media accounts for businesses across Scotland) we spotted an opportunity to bring that expertise into the wedding industry.

Nearly four years on, we've grown into a multi-award-winning brand (three in one year!), working with hundreds of couples and helping establish content creation as a real part of the Scottish wedding experience.

BEFORE THE DAY

The wedding day starts before we arrive. From the first enquiry, building trust with our couples is everything. We take time to understand what they want, the moments that matter to them and the timings of the day. So, when we arrive, we're already fully prepared.

On the day, we start by liaising with the wedding coordinator and the wider supplier team, then capture the day as it naturally unfolds.

WHAT WE ACTUALLY DO

One of the most common misconceptions we hear is that you need to be an influencer or have a strong social media presence to benefit from wedding content creation. In reality, you don't even need to have an Instagram or TikTok account.

Wedding content creation isn't solely about social media. It's about capturing the atmosphere, emotion and candid moments of your day – and giving you access to those memories almost immediately. Posting is entirely your choice. The real value is being able to experience your wedding all over again the very next morning. Our couples often tell us they were surprised by how involved we are throughout the whole day. Not just observing but bringing ideas for reels and edits and guiding couples through creating them when they want to.

Kirsty said she felt she was able to be present in the moment instead of worrying about taking pictures, while Taylor hadn't anticipated the level of involvement. She said: "They're literally with you from morning until night, capturing so many little moments you'd otherwise miss. It was so much more than I expected."

THE MORNING AFTER

Our job doesn't stop when we leave the venue. We're downloading, organising and editing immediately so couples can wake up the next morning to hundreds of photos and videos from their wedding.

That next-morning delivery is one of the things we're most proud of. We always say within 24 hours but our aim is to have everything with our couples the morning after. We know how excited they are to see it.

Couples get a minimum of 600 raw photos and videos alongside three edited videos with music and highlights from the day. Our clients Anna and Ewen loved the behind-the-scenes footage and candid moments and said, "You capture more natural, emotional moments compared to posed photographs," while Elizabeth realised we'd caught parts of her wedding day that she hadn't even seen.

WHY IT MATTERS

Your wedding day goes by so quickly. It's something every couple hears beforehand – and it's true. The morning after, you're still on a high from one of the biggest days of your life.

That's exactly when you want to relive it.

While photographers and videographers create incredible full galleries and films, a content creator gives you something different: immediate access to the moments that made up your day.

Whether you're continuing the celebrations with family, having breakfast together or simply taking it all in, you can watch it back without waiting.

instagram.com/maximisingmedias


“It was so much more than I expected.” – Taylor, client
HANNAH, FOUNDER OF MAXIMISING MEDIAS

NAVAE CREATIVE

Wedding content creation with intention, honesty and heart



I started my first business at 18. A beauty brand, built from scratch, that taught me more about storytelling and human connection than anything else ever has. Growing that business gave me a deep understanding of what it means to create content that connects. Not content that sells – content that makes people feel something. After eight years, I moved into marketing and content creation, helping other business owners tell their stories with more confidence and clarity. Then everything changed. A family friend asked if I would capture her wedding.

She told me I had "a great eye for detail" and trusted me with one of the most important days of her life. I said yes. And from that moment, I knew exactly where I was meant to be.

THE MORNING

Every wedding day starts the same way for me – with intention.

I arrive early, introduce myself and take a moment to absorb the atmosphere. Building trust from the very beginning matters because the more comfortable everyone feels around me, the more naturally the day unfolds.

My favourite chapter of any wedding is the morning preparations. The room is filled with excitement, anticipation and so much love. Friends and family singing, laughing, sharing stories, completely hyping up the person about to marry the love of their life. Those are the moments couples don't realise they'll treasure until they watch them back.

THE APPROACH

I'm there like your best friend – but with a camera. Fixing your veil before you walk down the aisle. Holding your bouquet during portraits. Calming last-minute nerves, making sure you've had a sip of water, cheering you on every step of the way. I become someone you can lean on rather than someone documenting from a distance.

It's this approach that makes the content feel so personal. When you watch it back, you're not seeing your wedding through the eyes of a supplier. You're reliving it through the perspective of someone who was right there beside you.

WHAT I'M CAPTURING

Great wedding content isn't about perfectly curated shots or following trends. It's about emotion.

The tear your mum quickly wipes away before anyone notices or the way your partner looks at you when you aren't looking back. The burst of laughter during the speeches and your grandparents holding hands on the dance floor. Anyone can capture what happened; my job is to capture ***how it felt.***

WHAT YOU GET

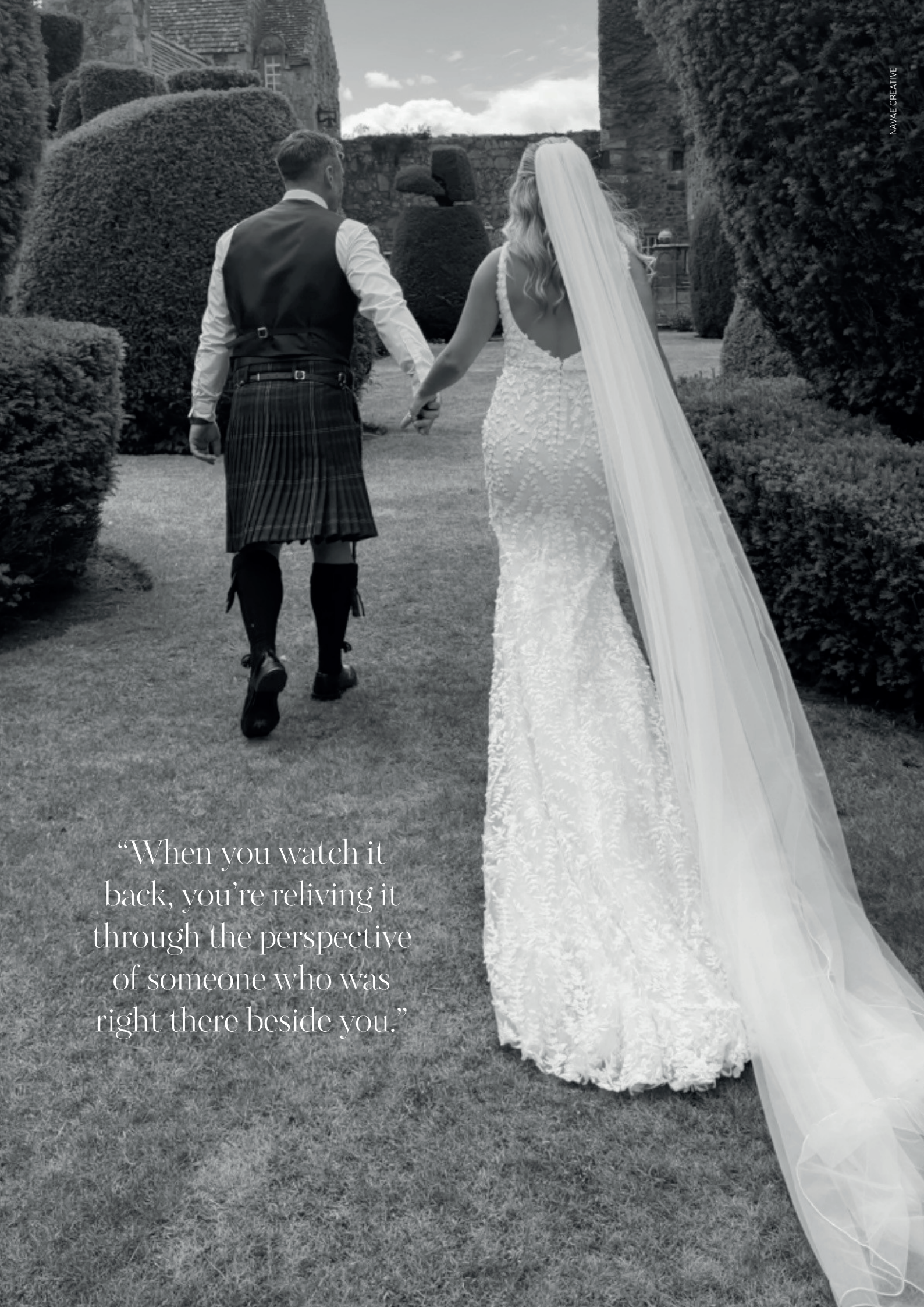
Within 24 hours of your wedding, I deliver a selection of edited highlight clips while the memories are still fresh. Your full gallery follows shortly afterwards, full of carefully curated vertical videos, candid moments and behind-the-scenes memories. Each one is edited to reflect the emotion and atmosphere of your day.

One thing I want every couple to know: a content creator isn't there to replace your photographer or videographer. We're there to complement them. While they focus on timeless, professional imagery, I'm capturing the day from a different perspective. I get the candid laughs, the happy tears and all the little moments happening in between.

The thing I hear most often, after delivering a couple's gallery, is: "We almost didn't book a content creator, and now we can't believe we nearly missed out."

Those words are exactly why I do what I do.

@navaecreative



NAVAE CREATIVE

"When you watch it back, you're reliving it through the perspective of someone who was right there beside you."

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DR KALY JAFF AT THE OLD COURSE HOTEL & SPA | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY



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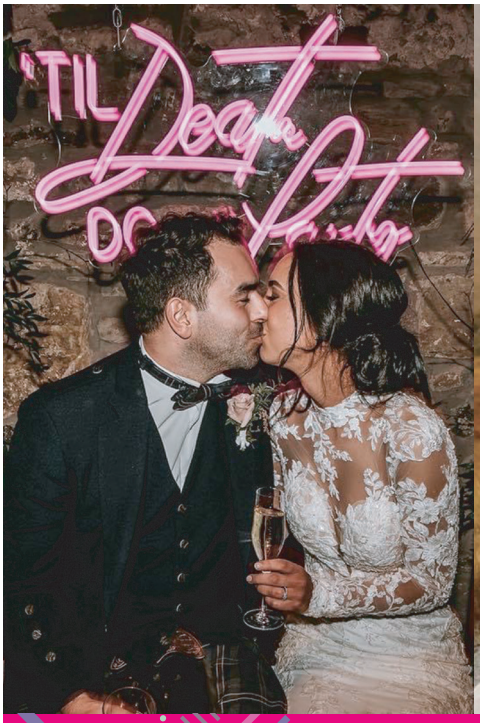
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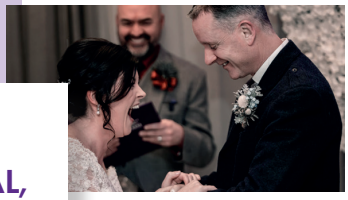


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Your Pet, Your Wedding



For many couples, pets are family. Solo Paws makes sure they're part of the day too. Owner and multi-award-winning dog chaperone Laura Findlay talks to *YSW*...

There's a moment in many wedding galleries that stops you in your tracks. Not the dress, not the flowers, not the carefully chosen centrepieces. It's when you see a couple, their dog and a look between them that says everything.

For the couples who know, they know. Their pet is a non-negotiable part of the day, not just an add-on. And that's exactly where Solo Paws comes in.

Based in Scotland and covering both here and Northumberland, we specialise in professional pet wedding chaperone services. The team helps couples include their dogs and cats in the celebration in a way that's safe, calm and genuinely memorable. Whether the wedding is an intimate elopement in a secluded glen or a large traditional celebration, we have experience across every kind of setting.

HOW IT WORKS

The possibilities are wider than most couples realise. Some dream of their dog carrying the rings down the aisle. Others want their pet greeting guests during the drinks reception, mingling through cocktail hour or just being there for the photographs (images that often become some of the most treasured of the entire day).

For elopements, Solo Paws can even act as an official witness, adding a deeply personal touch to an already intimate celebration.

The service isn't just about the ceremony itself. We've got flexible care options before and after the wedding too. Think overnight stays, care at the venue or at home, and transport to and from the location. And for couples marrying further afield, Solo Paws holds a DEFRA Type 1 licence, allowing pets to be transported safely and legally over longer distances.

YOUR PET'S WELLBEING, ALWAYS FIRST

Weddings can be overwhelming environments for animals. Large crowds, unfamiliar spaces, music, emotion... It's a lot. The Solo Paws team monitors each pet's comfort carefully throughout the day. And if a pet becomes stressed or tired, they'll always advocate for the animal's needs and make appropriate decisions to ensure they remain happy and settled.

The service includes feeding, access to fresh water, exercise, toilet breaks and plenty of reassurance throughout. Every member of our team (and their contractors) are fully insured, disclosure checked and trained in feline and canine first aid, so couples can enjoy their day knowing their pet is in genuinely experienced hands.

THE MOMENTS THAT MATTER MOST

Ask any couple who had their dog at their wedding and they'll tell you the same thing. It wasn't just a nice touch. It was one of the best decisions they made.

The right support makes all the difference, between a pet who's settled, happy and fully part of the celebration, and one who's anxious and needs to go home early. Solo Paws exists to make sure it's the former, every time. Because the best wedding days are the ones where everyone you love is there. All of them.

solopaws.co.uk

IMAGE TOP LEFT: LLOYD STEVENSON PHOTOGRAPHY



Your *Scottish* Venues

From clifftop castles to converted warehouses, Scotland's venues don't need much persuasion – the hard part is choosing. Here's where to start...



JA MAR HALL GOLF & SPA RESORT

THE VENUE EDIT

STANDOUT SPACES SHAPING SCOTLAND'S WEDDING SCENE



BRISBANE HOUSE | NICOLE PARRACK CREATIVE

MORE WAYS TO MARRY WITH MANORVIEW

Manorview Group has expanded its wedding offering with a range of new micro and twilight wedding packages. Micro-weddings are now available at Lynnhurst and Bowfield Hotel & Spa while twilight packages have launched at Redhurst Hotel, Brisbane House and Torrance Hotel. For couples wanting something intimate, relaxed or simply a little different, it's worth exploring what's on offer across the group.

manorviewhotels.co.uk



AN EVENING AT NORTON HOUSE

Norton House Hotel & Spa is hosting a Wedding Evening Showcase on Thursday 24th September, from 6pm. Expect both the Usher Suite and Garden Suite dressed for the occasion, as well as drinks, canapés, live music and a chance to meet recommended suppliers. Wedding coordinators will be on hand throughout to answer questions and talk through plans. To join the guest list, email nortonhouse@handpicked.co.uk

nortonhousehotel.co.uk



JANUARY JUST GOT INTERESTING

Unusual Venues of Edinburgh – The Caves, The Rowantree and Marlin's Wynd – is offering remaining January 2027 dates with no venue hire fee. Three of the city's most atmospheric underground spaces, available at a rare discount. Worth moving quickly.

unusualvenuesedinburgh.com

FROM THE FLOOR TO THE FRONT

Òran Mór's wedding manager Barry Shaw has completed his celebrant training with Celebrants Scotland, adding a new string to the venue's bow. Having spent more than five years coordinating weddings at one of Glasgow's most atmospheric spaces, Barry brings an insider's understanding of what makes a ceremony work and what makes it memorable. Couples marrying at Òran Mór now have the option of working with someone who knows the venue, and the moment, intimately.

oran-mor.co.uk





A WINNING VENUE

JA Mar Hall Golf & Spa Resort has just been named Golf Hotel of the Year at the 2026 Scottish Hotel Awards (Prestige), and for couples considering a wedding weekend near Glasgow, the timing couldn't be better. Fresh from a £20 million refurbishment and newly completed Clubhouse renovations, the 240-acre estate is in exceptional shape. With 74 guest rooms, lodges, a spa and grand private event spaces set within ancient woodland overlooking the River Clyde, it offers everything a wedding weekend needs – and then some.

jaresortshotels.com/scotland/ja-mar-hall





JA MAR HALL GOLF & SPA RESORT



NEW FROM FORGAN'S

Forgan's St Andrews has launched two new offers for 2027. Book a Monday to Thursday wedding and get a £500 celebration credit to use across any of the St Andrews venues – think pre-wedding drinks at Vic or Hide, the wedding itself at Forgan's, or a farewell brunch at Mitchell's or the Bothy the following morning. For smaller celebrations, the Wee Wedding Package now comes with a rather good incentive – the couple go free. Available seven days a week (excluding key dates) on this package only.

forgans.co.uk

MARK WILD PHOTOGRAPHY



A NEW LOOK FOR CORNHILL

Cornhill Castle has unveiled a refurbished wedding Pavilion and it's impressive. You'll find herringbone wooden floors with a basketweave aisle, clear ceiling panels flooding the space with natural light, twinkling chandeliers, white fabric and foliage drapery and two grand flower plinths at the end of the aisle. The exterior has been given a white timber archway framed with greenery and white flowers. The space seats up to 120 and sits just off the Grand Ballroom, alongside the castle's scenic grounds, new bandstand and three-floor Honeymoon Suite.

cornhillcastlehotel.co.uk



A STAY UNLIKE ANYTHING ELSE

Eden Leisure Village near Cumbernauld has added two Vessel Pods to its accommodation, a design-led concept said to be the first of its kind at any UK wedding venue. Each pod sleeps two and comes with en suite facilities, an outdoor kitchen and bar, a fire pit and a cinema screen projector, from £250 per night. Open to Eden couples and those marrying elsewhere, they're designed as a private retreat before or after the wedding – a celebration that carries on after the celebration ends.

edenleisurevillage.co.uk



Based in Newtonmore, The Lunchbox Boys—recent winners of Your Scottish Wedding Awards Caterers of the Year—have built a strong reputation for locally sourced food and exceptional service across Scotland. Their friendly, dynamic approach makes them one of the country's most in-demand caterers, delivering over 100 weddings each year. Check out their socials and reviews to find out more.



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Brodie Castle



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Culzean Castle

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Whether your dream special day is a hillside elopement in the wild Scottish landscape, a micro wedding in a beautiful heritage garden, or a grand celebration at a castle, by choosing our venues you're also supporting our vital conservation work across the country.

Make your wedding a truly unique experience, and help our charity to protect these treasured places for generations to come.



Fyvie Castle

© Sophie Alexandria

nts.org.uk/weddings

NATIONAL TRUST *for* SCOTLAND

The National Trust for Scotland is a Scottish charity, SC007410

Prior Engagement

The most memorable wedding venues aren't always built for weddings. Here, six spaces with a history worth knowing and a story that becomes part of yours.



FORGANS | MARK WILD PHOTOGRAPHY

FORGAN'S

Before it was a restaurant, Forgan's was a cleek factory where golf clubs were crafted by hand in the late 19th and early 20th century. It belonged to Robert Forgan, one of the most respected club makers in golfing history. Later, the building formed part of the commercial premises behind Mitchell's Butchers, a well-known St Andrews family business.

When the Scotsman Group restored it in 2013, they honoured that history rather than erased it. The result is a venue that feels completely rooted in its setting. St Andrews alumni, returning visitors and couples drawn to its subtle sense of place all find their way here.

Celebrations are bespoke by design. No two weddings run the same way and the layout gives real flexibility – from semi-private bothies for celebrations of up to 50 to larger arrangements that fill the full space.

For those who want to stay over, preferential rates are available at No1 Apartments and Space to Stay nearby.

forgans.co.uk

FYVIE CASTLE

Some venues ask couples to bring the atmosphere but Fyvie Castle already has it – and then some.

One of Scotland's grandest castles, Fyvie has been standing for more than 800 years and was home to five great families, each of whom left their mark in the form of a tower bearing their name. The last, the Forbes-Leith family, added a chapter that reads like a fairytale in itself.

The layered history is visible throughout, especially in the opulent interiors. Most couples find there's little need for extensive theming or décor – Fyvie is the complete opposite of a blank canvas venue yet offers lots of flexibility.

Couples choose their own suppliers and shape the day around their vision. Up to 100 guests can be accommodated within the castle and there's a marquee on the grounds for larger celebrations. On-site accommodation for up to 16 means the closest family and friends can stay and make a proper weekend of it.

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



FYVIE CASTLE | SOPHIE ALEXANDRA PHOTOGRAPHY





DORNOCH STATION

In 1904, the Highland Railway built a hotel at the end of its new line to Dornoch. The 60-room Edwardian retreat was designed to put travellers within walking distance of Royal Dornoch Golf Club, one of the oldest and most revered links courses in the world. For more than a century it stood as the gateway to a town that golf made famous. Acquired in 2022 and reopened in 2023, it was restored and returned to its original name.

The interiors carry that history warmly. Bar Ross, named after Donald Ross (the Dornoch-born architect who shaped modern golf in America) is lined with Royal Dornoch tartan. The restaurant, The Golden Gorse, takes its name from the plants that turn the links gold each spring. Behind the Edwardian facade, 89 rooms now face the view the building was always built to face.

Getting to Dornoch takes a little intention, and that's part of the point. A wedding becomes a proper gathering rather than an evening that ends at midnight. Big Highland skies, the Firth, the cathedral town and the links nearby make for a backdrop that photographs beautifully and stays with people long after.

Exclusive use is available. Ceremonies can be held on site or at Dornoch Cathedral, with the reception at the hotel.

dornochstation.com

BRIG O' DOON

The bridge that Robert Burns immortalised in Tam o' Shanter stands just outside the window. It's been there since the 13th century and the hotel that grew up beside it has been welcoming guests for generations – first as a private country house, later as a hotel and now as one of Scotland's most-loved wedding venues.

The setting does something few venues can. Overlooking the River Doon, a short walk from the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum, it carries a layer of cultural history that belongs to Scotland rather than any single owner. Couples who marry here are marrying somewhere the world already knows.

Weddings range from intimate celebrations to larger receptions, with event spaces, elegant dining and accommodation all on site. Experienced wedding coordinators look after the detail throughout. The surrounding gardens, the historic bridge and the riverside make for photographs that need very little else.

brigodoon.com



BRIG O' DOON | CONNOR BARRETT PHOTOGRAPHY



CAMBO ESTATE

The Erskine family has been welcoming guests to Cambo Country House for 350 years. The original house burned down in 1878 (following a particularly raucous staff party while the owners were away) and the family had one instruction for the rebuild – make it bigger than Balbirnie, the house belonging to their friends the Balfours.

That competitive spirit seems to have served them well. Cambo is now one of Scotland's most sought-after wedding venues, sitting between the East Neuk's coastal villages and St Andrews, surrounded by ancient woodland that leads down to one of the most celebrated beaches in Scotland.

The estate offers more settings than most venues manage in total. Courtyards, family rooms, walled garden, woodland, lawns, a burn running through the grounds and a beach nearby. Accommodation for 43 guests within the house makes it a proper weekend destination rather than a single-day booking.

What couples consistently mention alongside the setting is the team – wedding coordinator Joanne Quinney in particular, who's been known to write pub quizzes for welcome dinners, return excess wine to vendors after the wedding and do whatever it takes to make sure couples leave on honeymoon without a single loose end.

camboestate.com

CORNHILL CASTLE

The estate dates to the 1500s but the building that defines Cornhill Castle today came later, commissioned in the 1860s by Glasgow merchant Alexander Kay and designed by William Leiper (the architect behind Dowanhill Church and the Doge's Palace at Glasgow Green).

Blending French Renaissance influences with Scottish Baronial architecture, he created the striking château-style building that still stands on the river bank. Much of what he built remains. The intricate stonework, stained glass, timber bargeboards and dormer windows are all original, as is the historic wooded driveway leading to the estate. Over the years the castle has served as a residential home and a hotel before becoming a dedicated wedding venue in 2008.

Manorview Group took over in 2016 and has invested steadily since with luxury lodges, a three-floor honeymoon suite and, most recently, a transformed ceremony pavilion, new bandstand and refurbished bridal suite.

The history is visible throughout – and so is the investment. Between them, they make Cornhill one of those venues where the building does half the work.

cornhillcastlehotel.co.uk



CORNHILL HOUSE

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FYVIE CASTLE | SOPHIE ALEXANDRIA PHOTOGRAPHY



ABERDEEN, GRAMPIAN, HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS



WEDDING DATE: SATURDAY I9TH APRIL 2026
VENUE: MACDONALD PITTODRIE HOUSE, ABERDEENSHIRE
PHOTOGRAPHY: MICHAEL CARVER PHOTOGRAPHY

Unapologetically Us

YTHAN JOHNSON & CORRIE DOCHERTY

Two grooms, a GRAND Scottish manor and energy that never dropped.

Ythan and Corrie met on Tinder in 2017 while Ythan was studying at RGU and Corrie at Stirling. They moved in together in early 2018 and built a life that felt right.

In June 2024, Ythan proposed on the top of the Pink Rib of Beinn a' Chrulaiste in Glencoe with Buachaille Etive Mor as the backdrop.

It was a gorgeous sunny day and the moment felt perfect.

They'd always known they wanted a traditional, regal Scottish country manor wedding. When it came time to make it real, that vision hadn't changed.





THE DECISIONS

Pittodrie House sold them immediately. Driving down the long tree tunnel driveway with views of Bennachie then seeing the grand statement building with beautiful grounds was exactly what they'd imagined. Inside, the traditional Scottish vibes were regal and warm.

What mattered most was surrounding themselves with a team of great vendors they could trust. "We wouldn't change a single thing," they say. "Every one of our vendors was exceptional."

They wanted their wedding to feel energetic, well-structured and like the best day of their lives. As planning progressed, their priority shifted to ensuring guests enjoyed the entire celebration without any lulls, keeping the energy high so the dancefloor stayed full.

Both wore kilts from Mitchell Scott in Inverurie. Personal touches included lighting a candle to represent two families becoming one and honouring loved ones who couldn't be there. Corrie wore his grandfather's pocket watch and Ythan's mum wore a pendant locket with his grandmother's picture inside. Their friend Lynda made the cake – a vanilla buttercream with raspberry jam two-tier naked cake, plus a sticky toffee sheet cake for serving.



The biggest challenge was the sheer number of small details to coordinate. "You don't get a practice run despite the significant costs involved!" But every detail came together.

THE DAY

The first moment of realisation came when they started getting into their kilts. The second arrived when they heard the piper playing outside 30 minutes before the ceremony.

Their happy tears during vows were a surprise, so much so that Ythan had to repeat what he said. Then Corrie put Ythan's ring on the wrong hand. But none of that mattered. "It added some comedic, light-hearted value to intimate moments." Walking hand in hand as newly wed husbands, surrounded by


“Many more
ADVENTURES together
as husbands.”



loved ones during the confetti shot, is the moment they'll never forget.

The atmosphere never shifted, with high energy from start to finish. "We've never experienced that over the course of an entire day, with everyone having an amazing time."

It felt authentic and natural, like they were just living one of the best days of their lives. Unapologetically and proudly them.

THE REFLECTIONS

What's stayed with them most is how much their family and friends mean to them, many travelling from afar and at great expense to show up and celebrate their marriage.

The small details they stressed about (from personalised drinks stirrers to tissues) were barely noticed on the day. "Don't overthink the small details," they urge.

Their advice is to start early, research vendors thoroughly then meet with them a few times, and do things little and often. "It's the quickest day of your life, so make sure you take a moment to stand back with your partner and take it all in."



What's next? Creating a life that feels like their wedding day – full of love, a bit of magic and intention. "We're not putting pressure on what it has to look like, just focusing on choosing each other every day and enjoying where it leads. Many more adventures together, side by side, as husbands."

"Every one of our vendors was EXCEPTIONAL."



BEHIND THE DAY

BAND
AURORA QUARTET
CAKE
LYNDA SANGSTER, A FRIEND
CELEBRANT
NEIL MELLIS OF INDEPENDENT HUMANIST CEREMONIES
DÉCOR
THOUGHTS AND CROSSES, ILLUMIN8 EVENTS
DJ
SMH ENTERTAINMENT
GROOMS' OUTFITS
MITCHELL SCOTT
HAIR
S.A.M HAIR AND BEAUTY
PHOTOGRAPHER
MICHAEL CARVER PHOTOGRAPHY
PIPER
THISTLE PIPING
VENUE
MACDONALD PITTODRIE HOUSE
VIDEOGRAPHER
WEE WEDDING FILMS BY NIALL GIBBON



PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"Corrie and Ythan were the best to work with. It's hugely important to me that, as well as getting all the shots I need, the couple feel present on their wedding day. We grabbed a few minutes at various points during the day and sneaked them out after dinner to catch the last of the evening light. My photos capture the joy and love on the day." ■

MICHAEL, MICHAEL CARVER PHOTOGRAPHY



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Photography kindly provided by Christie Johnston Photography and Sophie Alexandria Photography

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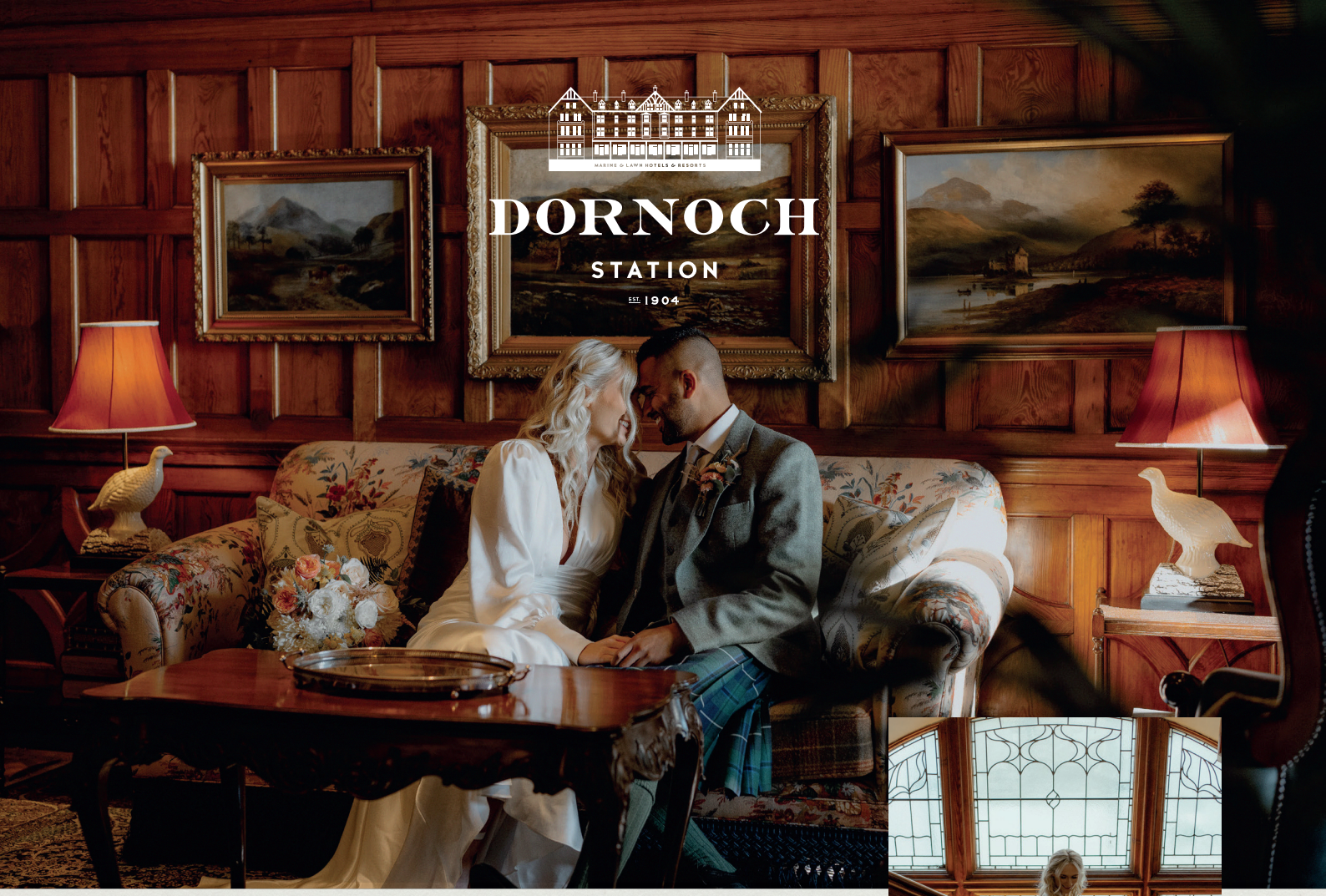
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EDINBURGH, LOTHIANS & THE BORDERS

RYAN MIMIEC PHOTOGRAPHY



Right There All Along

ADAM HEWITSON & STEVEN WHITE

Two men from the same town who'd never met – until SOMEONE decided to do something about it.

Adam and Steven grew up in Cambuslang but their paths never crossed, despite moving in overlapping circles. The connection came through a mutual friend who Steven had recently come out to, telling her he wanted to meet someone and settle down. "Oh my god, I've got the perfect guy for you," she'd declared. They ended up outside salon owner Adam's work, peering in to get a look at him. He clocked them but had no idea what was happening.

"Later that night he messaged on Instagram and asked if I was single, so that started the chat," explains Adam. A few months on, he was out with friends and they ended up at Steven's pub. Steven took the rest of the night off, they went out together and that was that. "A couple of months later he





WEDDING DATE: SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2024
VENUE: CARLOWRIE CASTLE, EDINBURGH
PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN MIMIEC PHOTOGRAPHY





started coming out to his family and telling them about me, and we moved in together."

Steven proposed at Christmastime, in their Covid bubble at a friend's house. Big plans for getting down on one knee in New York had been shelved due to the pandemic and, following Adam's one proposal request (not on Christmas Day), Steven waited until the evening of 25th December. The room was covered in rose petals and balloons, there was Champagne and their dog was there. Everyone else already knew so they phoned around then celebrated.

THE DECISIONS

Both Adam and Steven are Cambuslang institutions; Adam with his salon, Steven with 22 years in the pub trade. Between them, their network is extensive so they knew the guest list was going to be big – and that trying to manage it would be the biggest challenge of all.

"We decided to keep the ceremony to really close friends and family, and have them staying all weekend so we could really treat them. Having a venue that could accommodate that, plus a massive party on Saturday night





for about 400 people, was the most important thing."

Carlowrie Castle ticked all the boxes. Adam had first seen it while doing a bride's hair and fell in love immediately. They went back the following week to view it properly. "Jen and the whole team were unreal," Adam says.

The vibe they wanted was clear from the start: relaxed but high energy, loads of entertainment and the kind of fun that keeps people talking.

THE DAY

It started to feel real when they arrived at Carlowrie, meeting the team and seeing everything come to life. In the morning, everyone had time to settle before the 2pm ceremony. "Through the day the entertainment built up, getting everyone hyped for the evening – and it worked. The atmosphere was great the whole day, everyone was just up for it."

The moment Adam will never forget came just before walking down the aisle; a quiet minute with his aunty and sister. "It's always been the three of us our whole life." Then he saw Steven waiting, holding their wee dog Harris, crying. "That'll always stick with me."



The emotion ran deeper than either of them had anticipated. Steven's mum passed away just two weeks before the wedding. Adam had already lost both his parents, and now Steven had too. Adam's sister gave her speech privately so it wasn't a shock for him at dinner. "But I put everything to the side and focused on Steven to make sure he was OK as everything was so raw for him and his whole family. Everyone pulled together so well and were just there for us two."

The décor was white and green; bright and considered. Florist Jordana understood the vision immediately. Personal touches appeared throughout – handmade tissues with their late parents' faces printed on them, tucked into their suit pockets. And without being asked, Jordana created a beautiful bouquet for where Steven's mum would have sat. "We'd never thought of doing that ourselves. She went over and above."

The GeO Gospel Choir made an impression that lasted well beyond the day. "Everyone still talks about them and we've been to see them." But the person who shaped the whole weekend was Jen at Carlowrie. "We still keep in touch with her."

THE REFLECTIONS

Looking back, the day was everything they wanted and nothing went wrong. "Getting married was the right decision and the best decision," confirms Adam.

Their advice? "Set a budget! We didn't and just did everything we wanted, and worked to pay for it. It ended up costing a fortune."

What's next: life in Cambuslang, holidays, their wee dog Harris and Steven's new business keeping them both busy. Adam's salon is also going well. "We'll see what life brings... Probably a vow renewal in a couple of years' time!"



BEHIND THE DAY

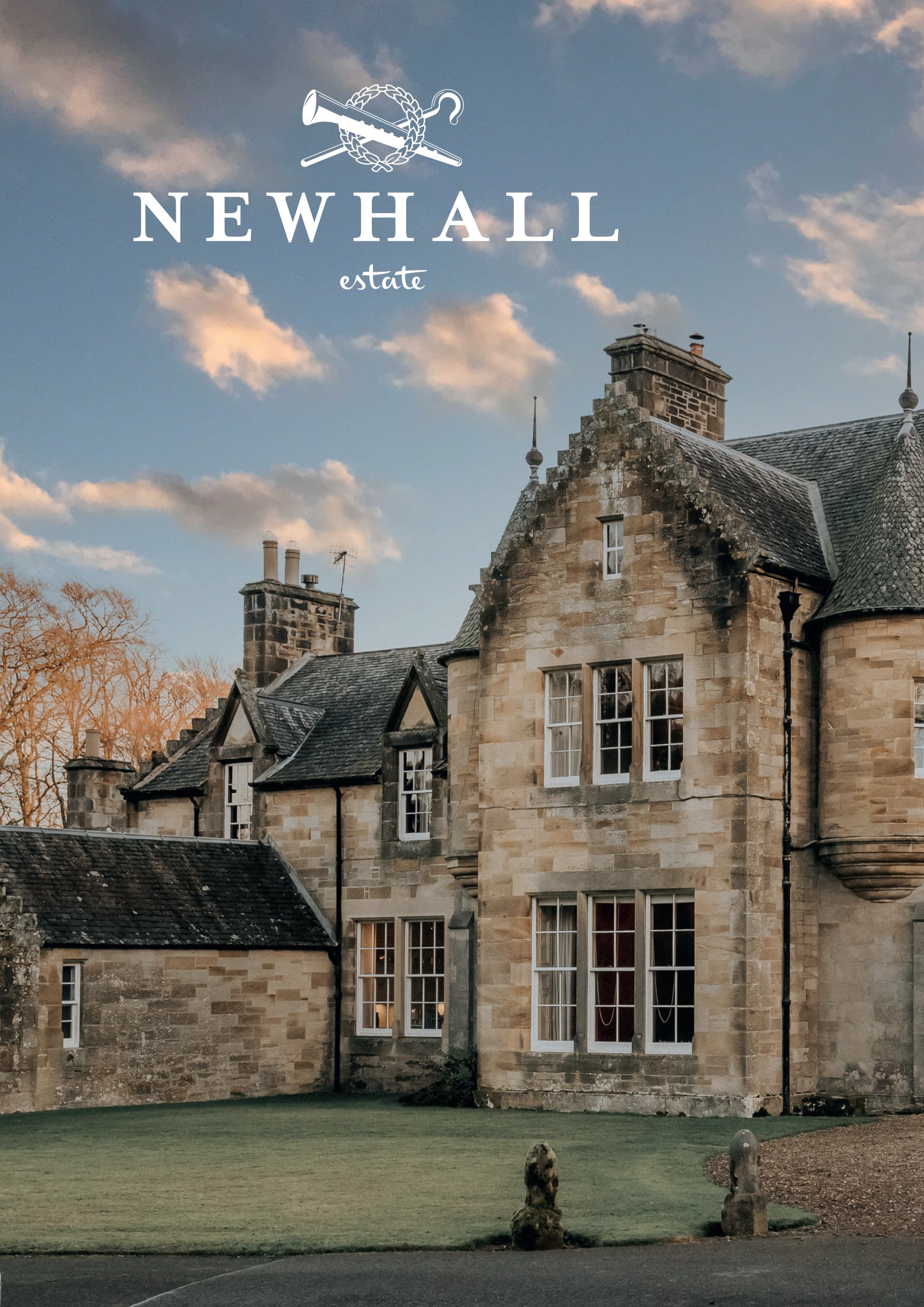
BAND
THE SOUL ESTABLISHMENT
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES
THE DESSY GROUP
CAKE
KAYLEIGH'S CRUMBS
CELEBRANT
NIKI SMITH
CONTENT CREATOR
YOUR DAY UNPLUGGED
DJ
JONNY RUIZ FROM TARTAN ENTERTAINMENT
DOG CHAPERONE
CHLOE KAVANAGH
ENTERTAINMENT
GEO GOSPEL CHOIR, GLASGOW PIANO MAN, CROOKYSAX
FLOWERS AND DÉCOR
JORDANA EVENTS
GROOMS' OUTFITS
SLATER MENSWEAR, DIOR
HAIR
ADAM (AJW HAIRDRESSING)
MAKEUP
LOUISE DYET MAKE-UP ARTIST
RINGS
I DO STUDIO, CHISHOLM HUNTER
STATIONERY AND FAVOURS
WEDDING ARTWORK BY DARIA
TRANSPORT
PARK'S OF HAMILTON COACHES
VENUE
CARLOWRIE CASTLE
VIDEOGRAPHER
RIZZO FILMS

Ryan Mimiec PHOTOGRAPHY

PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"I've known Adam since the early days of his hairdressing career and have always admired his incredible talent and eye for style. The wedding was beautifully curated from start to finish with stunning details, amazing fashion and the most wonderful atmosphere, created by their fun and lovely guests." ■

RYAN, RYAN MIMIEC PHOTOGRAPHY


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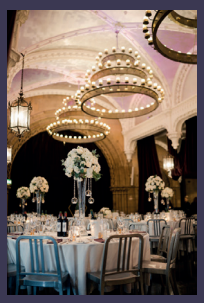






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Credit: Prestonfield House

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Credit: Prestonfield House



Credit: Prestonfield House



Credit: Prestonfield House



Credit: Prestonfield House

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FIFE & TAYSIDE



JOY STORY

Fun *Over* Formal

LAURA THOMSON & STEPHEN LAWLOR

A joyful day, a FIRST LOOK to calm the nerves and an MUA who got there just in time.

Laura and Stephen met on a night out in Edinburgh through mutual friends. Stephen bet he'd get her number by the end of the night and Laura bet he wouldn't. He claims he won because he got it – but he cheated and pinched it from a friend. It worked though.

On Christmas Day 2023, Stephen proposed on Gullane beach, where they go every year for a Christmas dip and breakfast with Laura's brother and his wife. He almost gave up because every time he went to propose, Laura got distracted by something she found on the beach. Then it started pouring down. Laura was trying to get a selfie and thought Stephen was just ducking down behind her. Eventually, he pulled the ring up into the picture. Completely unexpected, she had no idea that for the previous six months Stephen had been getting the ring designed and made, or that he'd spoken to her dad.



“It was the perfect VIBE in the sun.”



WEDDING DATE:
SATURDAY 2ND AUGUST 2025
VENUE: FALSIDE MILL, ST ANDREWS
PHOTOGRAPHY: BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY



THE DECISIONS

They debated going away just the two of them but quickly decided they wanted family and friends there to celebrate. Still, they wanted to keep it fun and not too formal.

They had a list of venues to look at but ended up only viewing Falside Mill. "We loved the look and the feel, the staff were lovely and they conveniently had a Saturday in the summer for 2025," Laura says. They reserved it then and there and didn't go anywhere else.

The priority was simple – having their favourite people there and enjoying themselves. They wanted the day to feel fun and relaxed, present rather than performing.

Laura wore the La Donna by Maggie Sottero from Emma Roy. "It was the only dress shop I went to. I tried on five dresses and this one was nothing like what I thought I would get. But one of my bridesmaids picked it for me to try on and I just loved it." Stephen wore a kilt from Kinloch Anderson.

They used Raasay whisky for their quaich and as favours. Raasay was Laura's little sister Kate's favourite place, and where her ashes are. She passed away in 2013. "It felt like a nice way to acknowledge her without making it sad."

Planning went smoothly. Laura loves organising and had a lovely time making spreadsheets, plans and binders. They booked most suppliers quickly after realising people were already taken for their date.

THE DAY

On the way to the venue, Laura started feeling nervous and emotional. "I felt like I was about to burst into tears and ruin my face." Sean, their on-the-day events manager, poured her a whisky and took her to see Stephen for their first look.

Even though they'd stayed together the night before and had only been apart a few hours to get ready, once they were both dressed and at the venue it hit them – they were actually getting married.

The first look is the moment they'll never forget. "We both just felt so calm and happy once we saw each other."

What surprised them most was how joyous it was from start to finish. "We knew we wanted the full day to feel like a celebration but it was beyond what we expected. It was just so happy and full of love."

The first look meant they had plenty photos done early, allowing them to spend more time with guests, and enjoy the cocktails and sax party. Gavin on Sax played them out of their ceremony, during drinks reception and into dinner. "It was the perfect vibe in the sun in the courtyard drinking cocktails."

VH5 kept the dancefloor full all night. And the cake was so popular they almost didn't get any. Thankfully Laura's dad saved them a few slices for the next morning.

THE DRAMA

On the Monday before the wedding, Laura discovered she'd booked Selena, her makeup artist, for the wrong date – the end of August instead of the start. Selena was on holiday and had posted online that she'd fallen down some stairs. Laura messaged to say she hoped she was okay. They were chatting when Laura mentioned the wedding was this week… Selena phoned to ask if she was joking.

"She was so amazing though," Laura says. "Thankfully she didn't have another wedding booked as it was the day she was getting back from holiday." Selena was messaging at 10pm the night before the wedding with flight updates,






“We felt so CALM once
we saw each other.”

assuring Laura she'd be back on time. Her mum drove her up to St Andrews so she could rest in the car. "Even though she'd been back in the country only a couple of hours and had zero sleep, she had the best energy and vibes. We had such a laugh with her and Kiera who did our hair."

THE REFLECTIONS

What's stayed with them is simply how perfect it was. "It really was the best day of our lives." And their advice is all about doing your wedding how you both want it.

They urge other couples to consider the first look too. "It really calmed us both and allowed us to just relax and enjoy ourselves. And we got more time with our guests at the drinks reception."

They honeymooned in St Lucia over New Year and had the most amazing time. What's next? More holidays and time together.

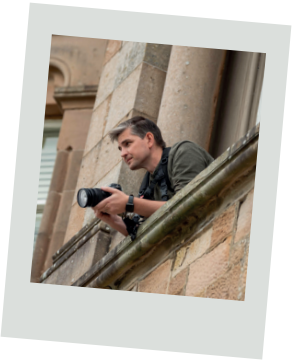






BEHIND THE DAY

BAND
VH5
BRIDE'S DRESS
LA DONNA BY MAGGIE SOTTERO AT EMMA ROY
BRIDE'S ACCESSORIES
LILY & ROO, EMMA ROY, LACE & FAVOUR
BRIDESMAIDS' DRESSES
AZAZIE
CAKE
FALKIRK CAKES BOUTIQUE
CELEBRANT
JIM MACKINTOSH
ENTERTAINMENT
WEDDING ARTWORK BY DARIA, GAV ON SAX
FLOWERS
MUSCARI BLU FLOWER STUDIO
GROOM'S OUTFIT
KINLOCH ANDERSON
HAIR
ALTER EGO HAIR ART
MAKEUP
SELENA JACK MUA
PHOTOGRAPHER
BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY
VENUE
FALSIDE MILL
VIDEOGRAPHER
ERIN ROSE FILMS



PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"The morning set the tone with so much laughter that carried right through the day. I loved capturing the wedding party photos before the ceremony – a little different and frees up so much time later to spend with guests. The sunshine was the icing on the cake. It made the venue absolutely glow." ■

ALLAN, BIGGAR PICTURE PHOTOGRAPHY



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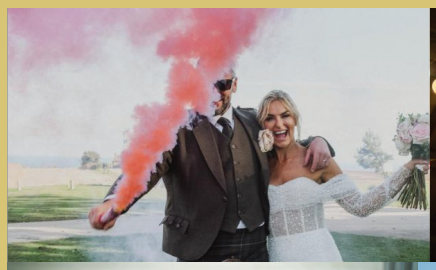


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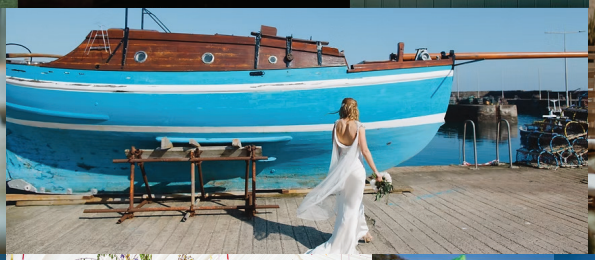












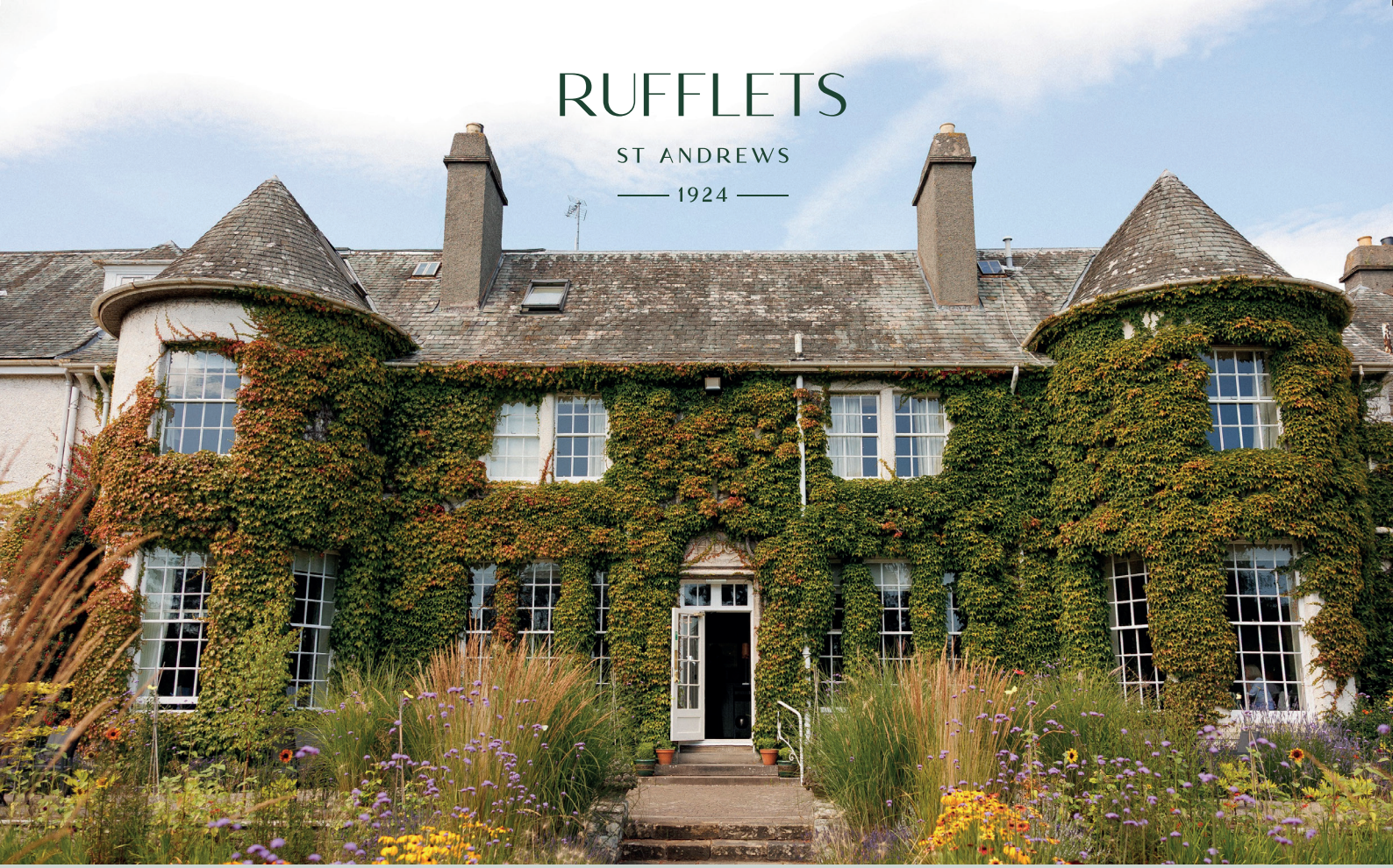








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GLASGOW, TROSSACHS, STIRLING & THE SOUTH WEST





CROMLIX | JENNIFER GLEN PHOTOGRAPHY



A Month of Weddings

MARIA O'NEILL & MICHAEL BELLINGHAM

Maria had a VISION from the start but it took a while to find the version that felt just right.

They met at a Glasgow cocktail bar during university – Maria was working there when she heard a new manager was starting. "I weirdly felt nervous about going into work," she says. "I fancied Michael the minute I saw him." A year of friendship, a relationship ended and eleven years later, with a business built and a life shared, the timing finally felt right.

The proposal came at Pollok House. After a sunset walk, an emotional speech and a yellow diamond ring designed in honour of her Nana, the answer was an immediate yes.

THE DECISIONS

Planning began immediately – then stalled. "Easy then hard, then harder, then impossible," Maria admits. The clarity came when she acknowledged that a big traditional wedding wasn't what she wanted. Family dynamics on both sides meant a large celebration would have felt more like work than joy. "I wanted to be present, not managing."



WEDDING DATE:
FRIDAY 20TH MARCH &
SATURDAY 4TH APRIL 2026
VENUE: TORRE DI BELLOSGUARDO, FLORENCE & THE MARLBOROUGH, GLASGOW
PHOTOGRAPHY: BELLE LUMIERE PHOTOGRAPHY & JILL CHERRY PORTER PHOTOGRAPHY



The solution was both practical and deeply personal. A quiet legal ceremony in Scotland then an elopement in Florence, just the two of them, at Torre Di Bellosguardo, a family-owned venue near the city centre with beautiful gardens, artful interiors and views across the city. Spring was deliberate. "It feels like rebirth. Everything comes back to life. I wanted our marriage to carry that meaning."

A larger Glasgow celebration followed at The Marlborough in Shawlands. Most guests believed it was the actual wedding. They had no idea what was coming.

Maria's dress, a pink gown by London-based Cynthia Grafton Holt, would be worn twice. Michael wore a bespoke Hackett suit. Every detail, from the soft pastel palette in Florence to the bold red florals at The Marlborough, was considered, intentional and entirely theirs.

THE DAY IN FLORENCE

Torre Di Bellosguardo is a venue where time seems to have stood still. Family-owned, with hand-painted wallpaper, extraordinary ceilings and rooms that share a thread while remaining entirely individual. The room Maria and Michael stayed in was actress Emma Thompson's favourite. "I felt like I was living my dream wedding," she admits.

The night before the ceremony, they gathered for dinner with their supplier team at a local restaurant. "I instantly felt like I was at my mum's dinner table eating with my family. I was with a small group of people I trusted, people who didn't know each other, and they just instantly clicked. I couldn't be more grateful."

On the morning of the wedding, Maria was calm and felt more confident than ever before. "I looked in the mirror before I walked out and I just couldn't believe that was what I looked like."

Personal details wove through the day subtly and meaningfully. A yellow ribbon – her Nana's colour – was tied around her bouquet, the names of all their grandparents acknowledged, a watch gifted to Michael to open on the morning of the wedding and scents chosen from Jo Malone that'll always transport them back.

After the ceremony, they walked the streets of Florence. Locals shouted their






“I couldn’t be more
GRATEFUL.”

congratulations and they had cocktails with their suppliers as the sun went down. "That sense of familiarity and family; that feeling will be long-lasting for me."

THE DAY IN GLASGOW

Their parents found out the day before. Maria had wanted them to have the honour of knowing first, and wanted her dads to walk her into the room at The Marlborough, as if it were an aisle. "They were absolutely delighted and got straight on board."

The reveal was electric. Guests arrived to a screen where the video from Reel Bliss Films – shot, edited and delivered within a week – played. Behind the curtain, Maria could hear gasping and crying. When the screen came down, she walked in with her dads to a room of cheering guests, each with a small engraved bell to ring. "It was very fun. Everybody was just ringing and cheering."

One moment stuck out. A woman, sitting in the main hall as Maria waited to walk through, told her that her own parents had married there – and Maria was the first bride she'd seen there in almost 50 years. She pressed a 20 pence piece into her hand as a good luck token. "That was really special," Maria smiles.

The evening was a full sensory experience, deliberately designed. The film for the eyes. Engraved bells. Maria's dad playing music. Pizza, focaccia sandwiches and doughnuts for taste. Each guest was hand-drawn – something to touch, take away and keep.

THE REFLECTIONS

One thing did go wrong. A ring supplier found on Instagram failed to deliver at the last minute, leaving the couple frustrated and out of pocket. "Don't go with people who offer you huge discounts because you think it'll save you money," she advises. "It probably won't. I should have gone back to the person who designed my engagement ring from the start." She did, eventually, and her wedding band is now exactly right.

For couples considering the elopement-plus-celebration format, her advice is straightforward. "Three weddings for almost the price of one; a month of weddings. You get to be exceptionally present, just the two of you, then you get to relive it all over again with everyone you love. Why wouldn't you want that?"

What's next: a honeymoon to New York, a coffee table photo book, careers being built and, when the time is right, a family.



BEHIND THE DAY

ACCESSORIES
LAUREL LIME
BRIDE'S OUTFIT
CYNTHIA GRAFTON HOLT COUTURE, INSHACOUTURE
BRIDE'S SHOES
BELLA BELLE
BRIDE'S VEIL
SASH + VEIL
CATERING
PAESANO PIZZA, SINGL-END, TANTRUM DOUGHNUTS
FLORIST
FEATHER GRASS FLORALS (GLASGOW), FIORILE FIRENZE (FLORENCE)
GROOM'S SUIT
HACKETT LONDON
HAIR AND MAKEUP
ABI TAYLOR
ILLUSTRATOR
ILLUSTRATED BY NATALIE
MUSIC
SORCHA MAY MUSIC, DAVE BRADLEY MUSIC
PLANNER
CONIFER EVENTS
RINGS
TANKEL DIAMONDS
SILKS
THE SILK STUDIO
STATIONERY AND STYLING
MARIA ELIZABETH DESIGNS
VENUE
TORRE DI BELLOSGUARDO, FLORENCE, THE MARLBOROUGH, GLASGOW
VIDEOGRAPHER
REEL BLISS FILMS



PHOTOGRAPHER'S NOTE

"Maria and Michael have become cherished friends in recent times so being trusted to capture this meant a lot to me. Their day felt deeply personal with the joyful reveal of their elopement and Maria's eye for design reflected in every detail." ■

JILL, JILL CHERRY PORTER PHOTOGRAPHY



















THE COLLECTOR'S HALL

With moments of magic and grandeur woven throughout, expertly curated interiors that captivate and inspire, and a team of experts on hand at every turn, The Collector's Hall has set a new benchmark in elegance in the heart of Glasgow's city centre.

The Collector's Hall

YSW DISCOVERS A GLASGOW VENUE WHERE GEORGIAN GRANDEUR MEETS MODERN FLEXIBILITY – AND EVERY WEDDING FEELS ENTIRELY ITS OWN.

There's a moment, stepping into The Collector's Hall, when the city outside seems to fall away entirely. The restored stained glass windows catch the light, the original staircase draws your eye upward and cherub carvings adorn the walls. Each one represents a different trade of Glasgow, from law to commerce, and gives the space a sense of story before a single guest has arrived.

This is a venue with history. The building's Georgian bones are intact and celebrated rather than hidden. Original architectural details sit alongside contemporary touches in a way that feels considered rather than contrived.

What makes The Collector's Hall really exciting for couples, though, is what sits alongside that history: flexibility. Here, the package is the starting point and your vision does the rest. The team work closely with each couple to tailor and personalise the experience around what they actually want from their day.

THE SPACES

The flagship Collector's Hall itself is the heart of the venue. It's a striking, high-ceilinged space that hosts everything from the ceremony through to the last dance, running from 1pm until 1am. With a separate entrance from the main hotel, it carries an exclusivity that larger city-centre venues often struggle to achieve. A courtyard extends the space further, and the hall accommodates up to 110 guests for the wedding breakfast and 150 for the evening reception.

For couples who want something more intimate, the options scale beautifully downwards. The Signature Collection suits 15 to 60 guests across various spaces. And the Liberty Suite, perhaps the most distinctive space in the building, accommodates up to 20 guests and carries a history as remarkable as its appearance.

The Liberty Suite was originally the old boardroom of the Parish Hall, where donations from local parishes were counted and the board met to decide how funds were distributed. It takes its name from the exact replica of the Statue of Liberty that adorns the City Chambers nearby. Look up into the dome and you'll spot the original 'GPC' markings – Glasgow Parish Council. The fireplaces feature the Glasgow crest, and those cherub carvings represent the historic trades of the city. Every detail has a story.

The most popular choice is The Collector's Package and couples can add use of The Liberty Suite the night prior, turning the wedding into a proper weekend. Guests gather the evening before for a rehearsal dinner in the suite then wake on the morning of the wedding to Champagne trolleys, cocktails, mimosas and a breakfast delivery. The suite includes two adjoining heritage bedrooms and a separate living and dining space. This is one of the most special getting-ready setups we've seen in a while.





The Liberty Suite takes its name from the Statue of Liberty replica that adorns the nearby City Chambers.

THE CITY ADVANTAGE

The Collector's Hall sits in the heart of Glasgow with a train station on the doorstep. The hotel has 245 rooms, 15 luxury bedrooms and 7 luxury suites. This includes Heritage Suites with separate dining and lounge areas perfect for bridal prep, and Heritage King rooms with freestanding bathtubs. Wedding couples get a 15% discount link to pass to guests booking rooms.

The Twilight Package has a different rhythm entirely. Your ceremony is at 4:30pm, followed by canapes, drinks and an evening buffet by Executive Chef Jean Paul Giraud. For couples who want the feeling of a celebration rather than a traditional full-day structure, it's a compelling alternative. And for those returning from abroad or celebrating an elopement, the Evening Edit brings everyone together from 7pm for a party without the full-day format.

THE DETAIL

How couples structure their celebration is their choice and the team are there to support whatever that looks like. That openness, combined with the building's inherent drama and history, makes The Collector's Hall one of those venues that suits a wide range of couples.

The dome is worth seeking out during your visit. The original GPC markings, the craftsmanship of the space and the way light moves through it make it one of the most distinctive architectural features in any Scottish wedding venue.

ESSENTIAL NUMBERS

Capacity ... Up to 110 ceremony; 150 reception (The Collector's) | 120 ceremony, 150 reception (The Twilight) | 15 to 60 (Signature Collection)
Accommodation ... 245 rooms, 15 luxury bedrooms, seven luxury suites. A 15% discount for guests.
Price ... Various packages, including £125pp for The Collector's, Sunday to Thursday in 2026.
Exclusive use ... Heritage Block (all 22 bedrooms) available from £12,000.

THE PRACTICALITIES

Location ... Glasgow city centre
Accessibility ... Fully accessible with lift within the venue
Ceremony ... On-site or marry elsewhere and return for the reception
Parking ... NCP car park discounted rate available for wedding guests

THE QUICK-FIRES

Most popular package ... The Collector's (optional Liberty Suite add-on the night before)
Most distinctive feature ... Original dome with GPC markings and cherub carvings
Good to know ... Each package is completely personalised

thecollectorshall.co.uk

MAR HALL
SCOTLAND



Some places are simply made for *love stories*

Set within 240 acres of Scottish countryside, with sweeping views across the River Clyde and the Kilpatrick Hills beyond, JA Mar Hall is a remarkable setting for a wedding day. A historic mansion, beautiful gardens and elegant spaces set the scene for a celebration that feels entirely your own, whether wonderfully grand or beautifully intimate. From the first arrival to the final dance, every detail is considered, every moment personal, and everything centred around one unforgettable day.

To enquire, contact **0141 812 9999** or **weddings.jamarh@jaresorts.com**





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A historic mansion. Sweeping views of the River Clyde. Lush gardens and 240 acres of countryside. There is a sense of grandeur and romance to Mar Hall that makes the setting every bit as memorable as the celebration itself.

ENTIRELY YOURS

With only one wedding hosted each day, the focus is on you. Our dedicated wedding team works closely with you and some of Scotland's finest suppliers to bring your vision to life, personally, thoughtfully and down to the finest detail.

BEAUTIFUL SUITES

From the Bridal Suite with its four-poster bed and panoramic views to elegant rooms for family and friends, JA Mar Hall allows those closest to you to share in every part of the occasion, with preferential rates available for wedding guests.

FIVE-STAR SERVICE

From wedding planners and chefs to the team looking after you throughout the celebration, exceptional service is at the heart of the Mar Hall experience. Thoughtful, intuitive and quietly attentive, everything is taken care of so you can simply enjoy your day.

Eden Leisure Village

RUSTIC, COUNTRY WEDDINGS

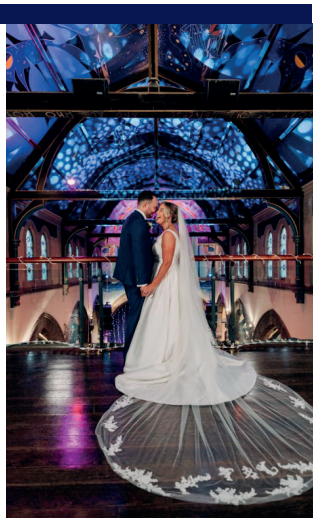


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Our Wedding Coordinator, Barry will guide you through all the planning and we will create the perfect package for you.
We are here for you every step of the way.

We recognise that each wedding is unique with different requirements and therefore, we offer complete flexibility including bespoke menus and an accommodating approach to any request.

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There is also a games room with table tennis and a pool table and there is parking for over forty cars.

Strone House combines natural beauty with flexible event options. The house can host up to eighteen guests with en-suite facilities and includes two magnificent four poster beds, ideal for the Bridal party. We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful house.

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Wedding image: John Clark Photos



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Picture Credit: Rhona Wilson Photography

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