WEDDING PLANNING 2024/25 TER PHOTOGRAPHY 's Education...

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WELCOME

Whether your at the beginning of planning your very own wedding adventure or your almost ready but need a few final pointers...

My WEDDING PLANNING GUIDE will hopefully extinguish some of the worry & smooth out a few of the kinks.

Now of course I'm NOT a wedding planner, I'm a photographer BUT having photographed over 500 weddings around the globe & across the span of the last 13 years, I've picked up a tip or two that I'd love to share with you ahead of your big day. Feel free to get back to me with an abundance of questions - I'm always happy to answer anything...



FINDING YOUR PERFECT VENUE

Its a really good idea before you get started down the road of supplier searches & venue recce's to give yourself a theme. It will help you in your endless Google searches if you nail the theme & colour styles first off, before you go ahead & narrow down the details.

A FEW OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER UP FRONT ARE:

- Do you want to incorporate a church ceremony or do you want everything in one place to save on travel arrangements?
- Do you want the venue to have accommodation on site, so elderly relatives can get some rest easily?
- Is it important that your venue has its own caterers?
- Does the venue have a large 'corkage' charge?
- What if it rains? Does the venue have equally as nice indoor spaces?
- How do you & your friends like to party? Are you happiest at a festival or will there be a lot of people in stiletto heels?
- Do you have many elderly people coming? Will they be warm enough, able to sit down or climb all the steps?

When you've narrowed down a few themes & idea's you'll find your to-do list a lot easier to cope with. Think about what suits both your personalities & most importantly what makes you happy. Once you've chosen & refined your vision you'll have something solid & tangible to show your planner, florist or stylist. Start collating idea's on a Pinterest board. Buy a beautiful planning journal or box to store magazine cut outs & notes in. Anything that you can to help either in your choice of suppliers or to pass your vision on to others to help your dream come true.

FROM HERE YOU CAN SECURE THE PERFECT DATE.

Try not to start off with an exact date in mind as your favourite venue may not be available. You'll be setting yourself up for disappointment. Instead have a general month/year in mind & leave your options open.

There's a lot of words floating around that we in the industry use a lot without considering those first timers. So do read my helpful glossary on the following pages...





GLOSSARY - WEDDING VOCABULARY

LUXURY / HIGH END

This would lend itself to a higher class venue, possibly an incredible hotel or expensive castle. Luxury suppliers will be at the top end of your budget.

EDITORIAL

A magazine, documentary style to your photography. An edgy fashion led feel & very modern.

DOCUMENTARY

Very much in the moment. Capturing real life, un-posed CANDID events that tell the true story of your day.

FESTIVAL / BOHEMIAN

A marquee or tipi style wedding in a field or large garden. Suited to free spirits, festival lovers & fans of camping.

ROMANTIC

A castle or historic building with an enchanting ambience.

URBAN

Streets, towns & cityscapes. Add shop front reflections, modern architecture, concrete, graffiti & even traffic.

DIY / HOME-SPUN

A blank canvas for you to add your own stamp & creative talents to. Possibly a barn or home garden venue.

DESTINATION

A wedding or elopement overseas. There are many wedding planners that can connect you to the best venue's & English speaking suppliers if need be.

ALTERNATIVE / QUIRKY

Unusual, unique venue's not often considered. More creative decor with lots of trendy colours & clothing.

TRADITIONAL / CLASSIC

Simple & traditional. Lots of group shots & a very safe style.

TIME LINE

You may have booked your wedding date well in advance but there are still a couple of things to do up front before leaving the rest to your 'final countdown' year. Use this chart just as a rough guide, your wedding planner & venue will advise you in more detail about the exact timings of when they need you for things.

One thing that is certain though is when to book your photographer. We can get booked up 2 or even 3 years in advance so best get your favourite secured straight after you confirm your date & venue.

Be sure to ask your venue for a list of their recommended suppliers. Its a great idea to use florists & venue stylists that know the space they need to dress & the delivery points etc.

You should definitely ask your chosen photographer for recommendations of videographer's. These suppliers will literally be in each others pockets all day so its always a good idea to get teams that have worked well together before.





TIME LINE

From a photographers point of view...

On booking we would have our final chat about timings & details around 4 weeks before your wedding day. By this point in your planning schedule not a lot is going to move & most of your meetings with planners & venue's have already taken place.

Firstly we will go thorough the timings of your day & adjust them to make an accurate schedule from my point of view as your photographer.

We will then chat about group shots & how to make the perfect 'understandable' list (*see next page*).

Here's an example of the time line on a typical wedding day with a 2pm ceremony. A barn venue where the prep, ceremony & reception are all in one place.

12midday:	Photographer to arrive for prep. photography
	• 12.30 GROOM PREP - x15 minutes
	DRESS @ 1pm
	Dads 1st look at 1.30pm
2pm:	Ceremony
	• confetti outside
	MAIN large group shot
3-4pm:	Drinks Reception
	• Candid shots of guests / B&G
	• Smaller FAMILY formal Groups (list to be supplied)
	Detail shots of dining tables
4pm:	COUPLES SESSION
	• If weathers good then a walk up the hill
4.30pm:	Wedding Breakfast
	• Speeches first
	 Food served at 5.15pm
6pm:	Cocktails
6.30:	FUN groups with Bridal Party & B&G
7pm:	Evening Guests (sparklers?)
7.30:	Cut Cake & 1st Dance then PARTY
8/9pm:	EVENING COUPLES SESSION - photographer to leave





GROUP SHOTS

The trick with a group shot list is not to get carried away. You will most definitely get more than you've asked for anyway so don't worry about listing every single guest. (Unless of course you want to be there for 2+ hours - which is of course do-able is that's your hearts desire). Its a great idea to list out all the parent groups especially if there are step-parents & 2nd families to consider. That way nobody gets forgotten.

Consider your list in two or three parts. The 1st being during or straight after the 'prep' photography. For the 2nd list (what I call the smaller FORMALS) imagine you've just come out of a church (& maybe you have). These are the TRADITIONAL photos that keep all the family members happy. We'd always start with a massive group shot of EVERYONE.

Your 3rd list could be in the early evening for groups like 'all the stags' & 'all the hens', maybe work colleagues & uni friends etc. Just keep the lists short & easy to understand.

Sophia & Tom 8.9.23 @ Hever Castle

Before wedding

Bridesmaid solo and group + getting ready Bride Bride + bridesmaids first look Groom Groomsmen getting ready Groomsmen "cool" group shot

After ceremony

Bride, mum and dad (again with other halves) Groom mum and dad Bride and groom bride, groom both mums and dads Bride and mum dad brother and sister Groom mum dad and brother Bride whole family Groom while family All Mrs Fuller's



BEAUTIFULLY CAPTURED, Melegg PHOTOGRAPHY WITH EFFORTLESS, CREATIVITY...



PRE-WEDDING **PHOTOSHOOT**

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT...

It really does! Its basically practicing before your big day so you have complete confidence in front of the camera when the time comes. Its a great way for you to not only feel comfortable having your photo taken but we'll also get to know each other really well too. We'll walk around for a bit, I'll get you to try out a few poses & you'll learn to be natural & comfortable with each other whilst having a camera on you. Its easy really. Let's choose somewhere special, like where you got engaged or a favourite beauty spot in contrast to the scenery at your wedding venue. You'll also have a set of fab images in your normal clothes.

1 hour shoot with online gallery & 50+ digital downloads $\pounds650 + VAT$





PHOTOGRAPHY FAQ'S

Some of the most popular questions to ask your wedding photographer at the time of booking...

1. ARE YOU AVAILABLE ON MY DATE?

Of course this should be the first question & the most obvious. Personally I get booked up to 1-2 years in advance but for some photographers that maybe longer. You'll need to have secured your date & dream venue first.

If however your right at the beginning of your planning journey then ask for help, especially from your favourite photographer. We know all the best venue's inside & out & can give an un-biased opinion on wedding flow & staff etc.

2. HAVE YOU SHOT AT MY VENUE BEFORE?

It definitely puts your mind at rest if your photographer knows the location well but this is not set in stone. Any experienced photographer could literally turn up on the day to a new venue & still find all the good bits. But saying that, most venue's have a recommended supplier list that's worth looking in to first.



3. WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF IT RAINS?

You'll want to be assured that your photographer has back up plans & idea's for every eventuality. You'll also want to know they are confident, capable & experienced enough to have dealt with rain, hail & snow & thrived from the new opportunities & creative idea's it brings.

4. HOW MANY WEDDINGS DO YOU SHOOT A YEAR?

An important question to ask up front. I personally shoot around 30+ Weddings every year & from what I understand from my fellow TOGS this is a standard amount. I know a few that shoot A LOT more & of course that's great, but I would worry about how rushed your edit would be if I crammed in more & more. I'm so aware that you will be doing this only once so I would never want you to just fit in on my overcrowded conveyor belt of tasks.

You have to remember that for each wedding shot there is at least a further 3 to 5 days of admin & editing. Sometimes more, sometimes less. If a cheep photographer shoots say 5-10 weddings a year, I would ask them whether this was their main job or whether they were part time? This doesn't mean not to use them but you may not get your edits done within a decent amount of time if they are busy every week day with another job.

PHOTOGRAPHY FAQ'S

5. WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YOU GET ILL?

There is always the possibility that your photographer may be too ill or injured to attend your wedding day. Ask them what their back up plan is. All photographers will have one & make sure you feel comfortable with their answers. It should be in their contract that they will find you a suitable substitute should the worst happen. All photographers, like me, will be members of various networking groups where we all have each others backs & are in constant communication. This stems back to 2020 when we all had to have back up plans.

I would also add though should the VERY worst happen, like your photographer isn't conscious or in a position to contact you – then speak to your venue ASAP. They should be able to find a replacement from their recommended supplier list at late notice.

6. DO YOU HAVE INSURANCE?

Every professional will have professional indemnity insurance & public liability insurance. They will be more than willing to show you up to date copies of this should you ask.



7. DO WE HAVE TO GIVE YOU A SHOOT LIST?

No not for the general run of the day, this will we plan together at our final scheduling meeting. I will however ask you to compile a short list of the formal GROUP shots that will keep your families happy. The formal groups are the ones straight after your ceremony as if you've just come out of a church. Again I will direct you on how many is good & show you an example list nearer the time. Then I would also advise you to make a 2nd more casual GROUP shot list for later in the day. This will include things like 'all the stags' & 'all the hens'. Possibly best friends from Uni & work too.

8. WHAT ARE YOUR PRICES & PACKAGES?

You'll need to know before you fall any more in love with your photographer whether you can afford them. Decide what's important to you & if having an album maybe with 'parent' albums too is on top of your list then get it all sorted & agreed up front. You will most probably save money this way & trust me, nobody has the budget to pay for wedding albums after the event! You maybe able to negotiate adding things like 'pre-wedding' shoots, additional photographers, thank-you cards or extra album pages.



⁶⁶TERI IS UNDENIABLY COOL & *peative* SHE PRODUCES THE MOST STUNNING PHOTOGRAPHS. WE HONESTLY COULDN'T ecommend HER ENOUGH... E&F 2023

AFTER THE EVENT

I'm very aware that after your wedding day you'll be excited to re-live your day ASAP. So normally 2-3 days straight after your wedding I will send you a handful of fully edited sneak peeks via Whatsapp or email. That way you may even get them when your at the airport heading towards your honeymoon. You can easily then show these off & share with whomever you wish. I wouldn't want you to only have photo's taken on your friends phones for company.

My usual practice is to then edit a small story of your day (normally a 3rd of your final image count), & send these to you within 2-3 weeks via an online gallery.

ONLINE GALLERIES

You'll receive a link to your own personal online gallery. This link you can then share with family & friends - even elderly relatives that couldn't make it to the wedding or friends overseas etc. People can not only view the gallery but can also select their favourites & purchase prints too.



DELIVERY DAY

Just 4–6 weeks after receiving your online gallery I'll be in touch again with details of how to download your fully edited FINAL wedding images. This is normally around 600-800 images & separated in to folders stating the different sections of your day. Then you can always easily & quickly find what your looking for. Inside each folder you'll have a set of LARGE resolution print ready images & also a set of SMALL images downsized & ready for sharing on social media.

WEDDING ALBUMS

I will start by designing your album pages for you. No need to choose the images at this point. My wish is to make this process as easy as possible for you with the least amount of work (*for you that is*). I'm very close to your images & will remember who the important people are in your lives. I'll design your page layouts & create your incredible story, flowing smoothly from start to finish. Then I'll send you a proof of the 1st draft via email with detailed notes on how to instruct me with any changes, image swaps & additions you want to add.

Albums can be added at anytime - even a year or so after your wedding as an anniversary treat.







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