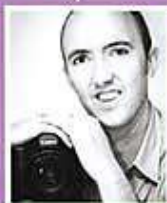


# Q&A

Let our experts take care of your wedding worries

## Our panel of experts



**Nic Cleave**  
National award-winning photographer based in South Wales. Contact: 01792 429 201 or visit [www.niccleave.com](http://www.niccleave.com)

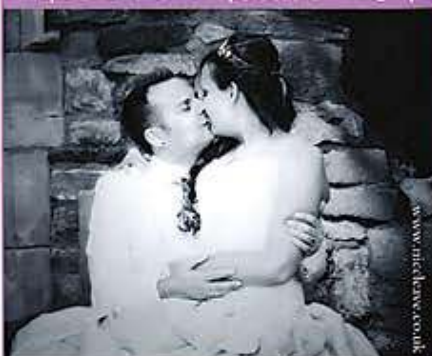


**Sarah Holland**  
Advisor on all aspects of flowers for the Flowers and Plants Association. Visit [www.flowers.org.uk](http://www.flowers.org.uk)



**Ruth Hunter**  
Certified wedding planner and managing director of Finesse Planning in Cardiff. Contact: 029 2065 0702 or visit [www.finesseplanning.co.uk](http://www.finesseplanning.co.uk)

## PHOTOGRAPHER SEARCH



**Q** I want to use pretty, traditional flowers for my bouquet, but I'd like to give it an unusual twist. What can you suggest?

**A** *Sarah says:* This season's hot flower fashion trend 'botanical energy' is perfect for you. It combines traditional cottage garden flowers like pink peonies and scented freesias with the striking shapes of starry dahlia, regal calla lilies and cheeky anemiums. A garden-like, almost tropical feel is created, giving a modern twist to traditional styles. Tropical foliage finishes off the look perfectly, without straying too far from a classic look.

## SET THE TREND



**Q** We are getting married next year, and no one that we know has been able to recommend a photographer to us. I'm worried that time is running out. How can we go about finding the perfect photographer for us?

**A** *Nic says:* Wedding photography is a visual product, so rather than trying to source a photographer from a list in the Yellow Pages, take advantage of Google and research local photographers on the internet. Photographers' websites should allow you to view some of their work, so you can choose a style of photography that you both like. They should also provide you with details on their packages and services. And if you need more information, don't hesitate to give them a call for more information.

**We say:** Don't forget to purchase the latest issue of *Your South Wales Wedding* for a comprehensive list of photographers around the region, or visit our online suppliers list at [www.yoursouthwaleswedding.com](http://www.yoursouthwaleswedding.com)

## SMILES ALL ROUND

**Q** What flower can I choose for my wedding that has a great contemporary look, and will also please my parents, who prefer a traditional style and are the ones footing the bill?

**A** *Sarah says:* Hydrangeas are the perfect choice for you and are hugely popular in the UK. They have a soft, country garden look but if that's not your style, the flower suits modern minimalist designs just as well.

With its large head of little petals, just three stems will form the shape and size of a bouquet. Then you can ask your florist to weave a few stems of other seasonal flowers in between, using the hydrangea as a frame.

If your style is modern, choose one strong colour of hydrangea to make an impact; you could combine this with a contrasting colour for the added wow factor. If your style is country classic, look out for hydrangeas with a two-tone shade, or that have deeper green or russet shading – these look great with vintage-style roses and carnations.



## Keeping it local

**Q** My fiancé and I live out in the sticks, and as far as we know, there aren't any wedding photographers close by. How should we start searching for a photographer in our region for our wedding next autumn?

**A** *Nic says:* Try asking your wedding venue if they can recommend any photographers in the local area who have worked there previously. Most venues will keep a list of suppliers that they like to use (not only limited to photographers) and this is a good place to start your search. Don't feel like you have to use a photographer that is based close to where you live or near your chosen venue though. Many photographers are prepared to travel out of their local area to cover weddings all over the region.

[www.niccleave.co.uk](http://www.niccleave.co.uk)



## Feeling safe and secure

**Q** We're getting married next June and have recently paid large deposits for our wedding venue and photographer. However, I'm so worried that one or both of the companies will close down before our wedding day. Is there anything I can do to secure our money should the worst happen?

**A** *Ruth says:* There are many companies out there that now offer wedding insurance – and it really is a saviour. Pay a one-off fee from as little as £26, and wedding insurance can give you peace of mind in case anything goes wrong – from suppliers going bust, to your wedding venue flooding. Another thing to remember is that if you make a payment between £100 and £30,000 with a credit card, you may be able to claim your money back from the card provider should anything go wrong, through section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. When looking for wedding insurance, ring around to get the best quote. Try Marks & Spencer ([www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com)) and E&L Insurance ([www.camd.org.uk](http://www.camd.org.uk)) for more ideas about policies.

## A helping hand

**Q** My fiancé and I have just got engaged, and we're on a fairly tight budget for our wedding. We'd like to be able to pay for our bridesmaids' dresses, but we're not sure we can afford it. Is it acceptable to ask our bridesmaids to pay for their own outfits?

**A** *Ruth says:* This can be a difficult situation if you haven't outlined it from the beginning. Try to make it clear when you ask your bridesmaids to join your wedding party that they will be required to purchase their own dresses because you are on a tight budget. Discuss how much they can afford to pay, and base it on the lowest figure. If the figure is too low, you could contribute a little towards them, or buy their shoes for example. You could also give them jewellery to wear as a thank you gift.



Got a question? Write to us at 'Q&A', Your South Wales Wedding, Broseley House, Newlands Drive, Witham, Essex, CM8 2UL. Alternatively email your question to [editor@countyweddingmagazines.com](mailto:editor@countyweddingmagazines.com)