

Q&A

Let our experts take care of your wedding worries

Our panel of experts



Nic Cleave
Nationally award-winning photographer based in South Wales. Contact: 01792 429 201 or visit www.niccleave.com



Sarah Holland
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Certified wedding planner and managing director of Finesse Planning in Cardiff. Contact: 029 2065 0702 or visit www.finesseplanning.co.uk

Wet weather woes

Q It rained at my friend's wedding and because the photos took a long time to complete everyone got cold in their summer clothes. What can I do if this happens at my wedding?

A *Nic says:* Even when it rains, most couples still expect a few group shots of family and friends. Explain your worries to your photographer during your pre-wedding chat and he or she should have a few suggestions for such a scenario.



www.niccleave.com



The perfect posy

Q I'm looking for a fragrant, stylish flower for my bouquet that will make me feel beautiful. I'd like something other than the traditional freesia or rose. Any ideas?

A *Sarah says:* Look no further than the luxurious hyacinth. Its starry shaped blooms will make a glorious tied bunch, and its fragrance is used in the top or base notes of some famous perfumes, including Anais Anais, Safari and Chloé. Carrying the real-life version will make you feel elegant all day, and the scent will fill the room without fading like spray perfume does. Hyacinth fragrance is also used in aromatherapy to ease stress, tiredness, and tension, so it's perfect for calming those last-minute nerves.

So, hyacinths will give you a three-in-one bouquet: a gorgeous look, an expensive scent and calming treatment – exactly what a bride deserves on her big day.

Snap happy



Q We're planning our wedding in April next year, but I'm worried about spring showers ruining the photos. How can we ensure the photos still look amazing, even if it does rain?

A *Nic says:* The weather is the one element of your big day that is beyond the control of anyone (especially in Wales!). If there is a good chance it will rain on the day, choose a venue that has plenty of room and light for indoor photographs, should the worst happen. If you're determined to have your photos taken outside whatever the weather, then discuss with your photographer what the 'wet weather plan' is and he or she should have some ideas. Most photographers will carry large white umbrellas with them, which can be used to keep the rain off you both. But whatever happens, don't feel downhearted. There are lots of props and accessories you can bring along to create fun and quirky photos.

SOPHISTICATED STYLE

Q My wedding gown is reminiscent of the high glamour of the '40s and '50s, so I want to choose a flower that matches its simplicity and elegance perfectly. Can you suggest a suitable flower?

A *Sarah says:* The amaryllis is perfect for you. Its velveteen petals and elaborate blooms make it a high-impact choice that doesn't need enhancing with foliage. The amaryllis is at its peak in spring, and the soft pastel-coloured varieties are perfect for sophisticated wedding bouquets. If you want something a bit more decorative, you can add extra interest with striped varieties.

The key is to keep the look simple, just like your dress. Ask for a few stems tied together with a satin bow, and let your elegant style speak for itself.

ADULTS ONLY

Q My fiancé and I have decided that we don't want children at our wedding, other than his niece and nephew. However, I don't want my friends who have children to be annoyed when they see them there. How can I let everyone know without upsetting them?

A *Ruth says:* The first thing to remember is that this is your wedding and if you don't want to have children there, you don't have to have them. Unfortunately it's not enough to address the invitation only to the parents as this can often cause confusion. The best way is to mention it from the start. The easiest way I have found is to add a note on to the invite saying something like: "Due to the restriction on numbers at the venue, we are only able to invite children from our close family. We hope you will be able to make the necessary arrangements and help us celebrate this special day."



A HAPPY ENDING

Q I've always wanted fireworks at my wedding reception but I didn't think to check this with the venue when I booked it. It turns out fireworks are not allowed. Are there any alternatives for a great finale?

A *Ruth says:* This is a common thing to forget when booking a venue, but don't worry, all is not lost. You could ask the venue if they would allow a silent firework display – check www.nlfireworks.com for more ideas. Alternatively, if they won't allow fireworks at all, another option is to have sky lanterns. These are large paper lanterns that you light and release. Get the whole wedding party involved by asking them to write messages on them. For more information, visit www.wishesinthesky.com



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