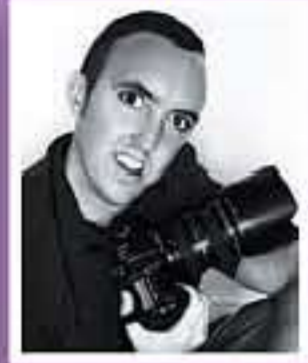


# Q&A

## Our panel of experts



**Bernadette Chapman** co-founded the UK Alliance of Wedding Planners to help brides to find an experienced, reputable wedding planner. Contact: [www.ukawp.com](http://www.ukawp.com)

**Nic Cleave** is an award-winning photographer based in South Wales, providing a much sought-after documentary style of photography. Contact: [www.niccleave.com](http://www.niccleave.com)

**Sarah Holland** advises people on all aspects of flowers and plants at the Flowers & Plants Association. Contact: [www.flowers.org.uk](http://www.flowers.org.uk)

## Playful Pictures



[www.niccleave.com](http://www.niccleave.com)

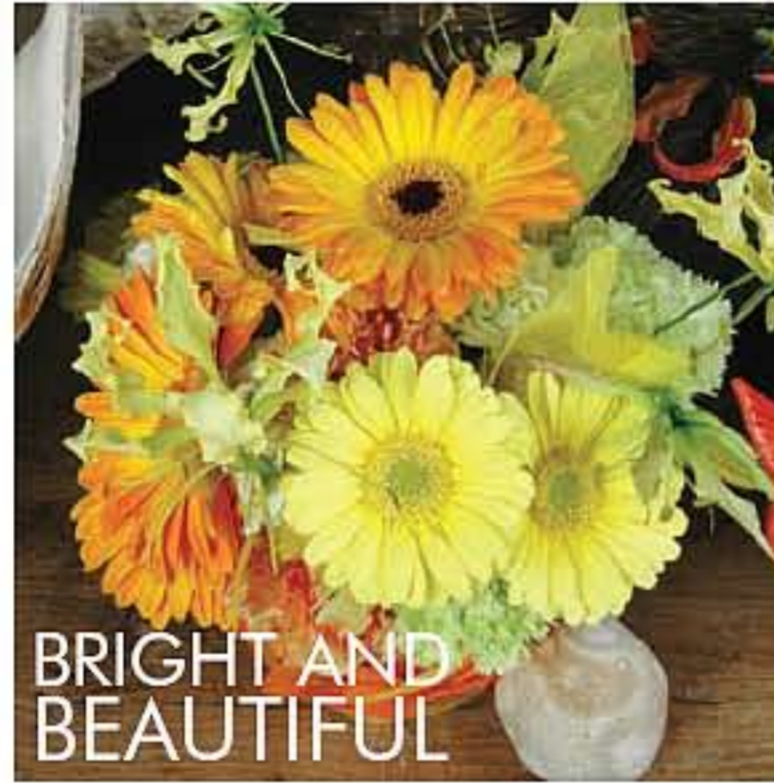
**Q** We already have children (who will be at our wedding) and I want them to be in the photos. However, the chances of them standing still for any length of time are very slim. I know what they say about never working with kids or animals, but can you suggest how to include them?

**A** *Nic says:* Children are an important part of many weddings today and are automatically captured by us when photographing a wedding, as it's a part of our photographic style. If you are concerned that your children might not be great models for any posed group shots, discuss this with your photographer in advance. When we are told this we reassure our couples that we will photograph the children more naturally at other times of the day, and suggest that for some of the group shots we try a "kinetic" posing style, which will involve the group being photographed whilst moving instead of standing still.

If images of your children during the day are particularly important to you both, you may also want to make sure that the wedding photographer you select is experienced at photographing children.

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)

For this first issue, our experts answer some questions that regularly crop up from couples planning their weddings. If you have any queries, drop us a line and let our panel put your mind at rest!



## BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

**Q** My wedding dress is really colourful and I want my flowers to co-ordinate, without one detracting from the other. Can you help?

**A** *Sarah says:* If you echo the colours of the dress in the flowers, the bouquet will get lost. Instead, pick out one tone from the dress and create a fun bouquet using different shades of that colour. Use exotic flowers in a subtle colour, like pale green gloriosa, and mix in some gerbera. Using the same flower in different shades subtly introduces the vibrant aspect of your theme, whilst the gloriosa adds an exotic and luxurious dimension.

## The Perfect Gift

**Q** I want to give our mums a thank-you present but would rather not choose bouquets as they can take wedding flowers home with them that night. Do you have any suggestions?

**A** *Bernadette says:* You could give them both a rose bush to plant in the garden – these would be a lasting reminder of your wedding. You could also book a spa break for the three of you to relax after the stress of planning is over. Alternatively, how about a gift basket with a difference from a company such as [www.berrysunmptions.co.uk](http://www.berrysunmptions.co.uk)?

## FAMILY MATTERS

**Q** I am due to get married next year and have a five-year-old son from a previous relationship. I would really like him to be involved; I don't just want him looking smart, I want him to know that my fiancé is there to love and support him as much as me.

**A** *Bernadette says:* Why don't you have him travel in the car with you so he understands the build up to the ceremony? Then have him walk down the aisle first and stand next to your fiancé. Ask the registrar or priest to include a small section after the vows about becoming a family; the three of you can hold hands, looking at each making a promise to love and protect each other. This will reinforce the fact that your fiancé loves your son as much as he loves you.



[www.pengelly-photography.co.uk](http://www.pengelly-photography.co.uk)

## Club Tropicana

**Q** How can I create a tropical theme for my summer wedding without going over the top?

**A** *Sarah says:* Tropical flowers aren't necessarily typical tropical colours. You can add accents of the exotic by adding one or two stunning stems of strelitzia to traditional flowers like soft green carnations. Your florist will know how to make a stunning, layered display. You can do it more subtly by using gorgeous vanda orchids and bright, funky gerbera and alocasia leaves, which will give a tropical, secluded beach effect rather than full-on Caribbean. If you're truly stuck, choose the flowers that appeal to you most, and add tropical accessories such as seed pods and shells.



## Photo Fear

**Q** I don't enjoy having my photograph taken and would hate to feel self-conscious and camera-shy throughout my wedding day. Do you have any tips you could give me?

**A** *Nic says:* It's not unusual for professional wedding photographers to work with couples who feel self-conscious or camera-shy. Your photographer should take the time to explore and explain different posing methods that can be used with you to ensure you feel comfortable, while also discussing with you the types and style of images you would feel most comfortable making together. You may wish to select a photographer who can provide a very natural or reportage style of photography, resulting in natural expressions and the capturing of real moments and emotions. When it comes to the more posed parts of the day, a skilled photographer will use a variety of posing techniques to ensure that you are both comfortable in front of the camera; for example asking you both to take a romantic walk while not looking anywhere near the camera using a long camera lens and photographing you from some distance away.

Another thing you might consider doing ahead of your big day is asking your photographer for an engagement portrait session. This will provide you with an opportunity to see how your photographer works, and to see how easy it can be to relax with a photographer you trust. The resulting images will give you both an opportunity to fine tune the style and type of images you want him/her to take on the big day itself, and will reassure you that you can trust the photographer you have selected.

Finally, most of our couples tell us after the wedding that on the day itself they were so swept along by the emotion and events of the day, that they forgot they were even being photographed!



[www.niccleave.com](http://www.niccleave.com)