

A twist on tradition

It was a day full of magical moments as Ellie and Jez celebrated their dream fairytale wedding



The groom: Jez Thomas, 35, team manager for British Gas The bride: Ellie Burns, 26, customer service advisor for British Gas
Date of wedding: 9th May, 2008 Ceremony venue: St Isan Church, Llanishen Reception venue: Midkin Manor Country Hotel, Nr Cardiff

How it all began

Although they grew up just a few streets away from each other and their brothers were good friends, Ellie and Jez didn't meet until 2005. Despite them both working at the same company and Jez working part time at a local greengrocer's, the pair had never even crossed paths. "One day a friend decided that we would be a great match and convinced me to go to Cardiff to meet Jez," says Ellie. "We've been together ever since."

Almost a year later, when Ellie and Jez went away to New York to visit family, Jez proposed on a shopping trip near the diamond district. "He got down on one knee in the street in front of everybody outside Radio City," says Ellie. "Then, when I said 'yes', we walked to the diamond district to choose the band and stone for my ring before watching it being made."

The wedding party

Ellie's sister-in-law Melissa was her maid of honour and she was joined by two more bridesmaids, Ellie's niece Kayla and her best friend Janet. The women wore cream evening dresses that Ellie bought from a high street store and bespoke sashes that were created from the same material as Ellie's dress. They accessorised with cream beaded shoes and diamanté bracelets with pink gerberas attached to them. Young bridesmaid Kayla wore a handmade pale pink dress with butterfly detailing on the skirt, ballet pumps and held a cute gerbera wand. Jez's groomsmen were his best friend Barry as his best man, and three ushers: Dafydd, who is a best pal of Ellie's, and Sean and Liam, Jez's sons. All three wore grey morning suits and waistcoats with pink embroidery from Dyfed Menswear, Cardiff.

The setting

"We wanted to keep things as classic and traditional as possible," says Ellie. "But as the dresses were one of the first things to be chosen, the



theme soon turned to pink butterflies!" The pair also wanted to keep a loose Welsh theme, so they hired the Cardiff Arms Male Voice Choir to sing at the ceremony, which was held at St Isan Church, Cardiff. "We chose to have the service there because it was my grandmother's local church when she was in Cardiff, having moved from the valleys in the 1920s," says Ellie.

Midkin Manor Hotel was chosen as the venue for their reception



because both Ellie and Jez felt that it kept in with their traditional theme and also because it was local to their families.

The dress

"I went for a 'Hollywood Dreams' style," says Ellie. "A real princess dress." Her gown was pink with matching bolero jacket and it was handmade by a dressmaker. She finished the look with a pretty tiara with a cubic zirconium butterfly, her grandmother's silver locket and a sapphire in her shoe.

It's all in the details

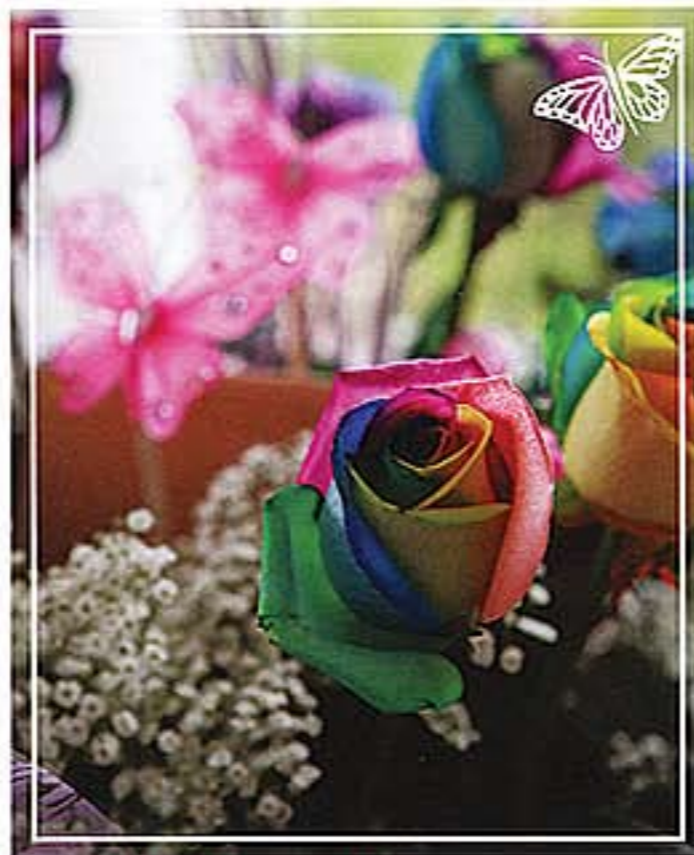
On the day, the couple stayed true to their roots and enjoyed a delicious wedding breakfast of mainly locally sourced food: Welsh goat's cheese tart, rack of Welsh roast lamb, and strawberry and Champagne brûlée, while their favours were mini Welshcakes from Fabulous Welshcakes, Sully.

Ellie and Jez also kept with their pink butterfly theme in their beautiful flower arrangements. "I held pink and multicoloured roses and gerberas in a teardrop bouquet while Jez had a bright rose bouton hole," says Ellie. "At the reception we also placed hibiscus flowers in the bottom of the Champagne flutes for the toast, to ensure everyone had pink Champagne!"

On reflection

Looking back at their big day, both Ellie and Jez have some wonderful memories; "My favourite moment has to be in the church, walking down the aisle with my mum and seeing all my family and friends," says Ellie. "I also enjoyed spending time with my new husband in the grounds of Miskin Manor, having our personal photos taken."

"My favourite moment was listening to my sons perform a reading during the ceremony," says Jez. "Not to mention arriving at Miskin Manor in the horse and carriage - I felt like a celebrity!"



Ellie's top tips for brides-to-be

- 1) Spend as much as you can afford to on photography: "Your photos are going to be the one thing that you can look back on in years to come and so you want them to be fantastic," says Ellie. "It's also important that you have a good relationship with your photographer, our photographer Nic was very professional and put everyone at ease."
- 2) Try and get some 'alone time': "Have your photographer whisk you away for private photos together to have a breather," she says.
- 3) Never stop planning: "Always have a notebook on you to jot down any ideas that you might have while out and about," says Ellie.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Photographer
Nic Cleave Photography
Tel: 01792 429 201
www.niccleave.com

Bride's accessories
Sara's Accessories
www.saras-accessories.co.uk
Moda in Pelle
www.modainpelle.com
0870 410 1001

Groom's suit and accessories
Dyfed Menswear
Tel: 02920 619 040
www.dyfedmenswear.co.uk
Dune
www.dune.co.uk

Flowers
Indigo Flowers & Balloons
Tel: 02920 484 862
www.indigoflowersand
balloons.com

Venue
Miskin Manor Hotel
Tel: 01443 224 204
www.miskin-manor.co.uk

Wedding cake
Allison's Celebration Cakes
Tel: 01446 740 377
www.allisoncelebration
cakes.co.uk

Entertainment
Cardiff Arms Male Voice Choir
Tel: 02920 464 620
www.malevoicechoir.net
Black Panther Disco
Tel: 01443 816 969
www.blackpantherdiscos.co.uk

Transport
Cobs and Carriages
Tel: 01554 770 652
www.cobsandcarriages.com

GET THE LOOK

Be inspired by Ellie and Jez's fairytale style



PRETTY WITH PINK

For an unusual touch, Ellie and Jez added multicoloured roses to their pink flowers but these pretty roses will go perfectly with any colour scheme. Why not add them to a pure white bouquet for a vibrant burst of colour?

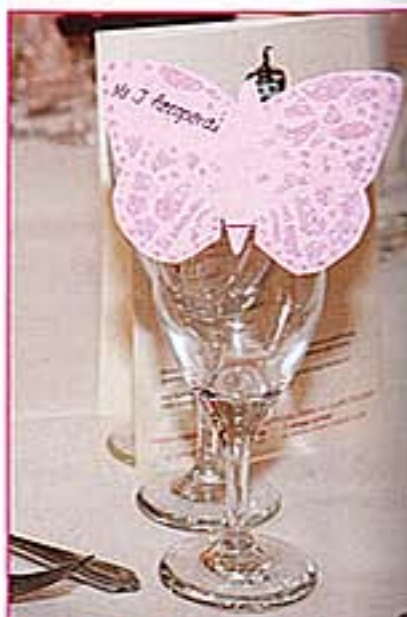
A SLICE OF WALES

The couple kept their cake traditional white and added pink roses to tie in with their colour scheme. They also shared the delights of Wales with their friends and family with these cute Welshcakes favours tied up with ribbon.



YOUR CARRIAGE AWAITS...

Arrive at your reception in style just like Ellie and Jez in a horse-drawn carriage. It's a real head-turner and you'll be made to feel just like a star.



BEAUTIFUL BUTTERFLIES

Ordinary white place cards are fast becoming old hat, so have fun designing some wacky ones. You might decide to go all-out girly like Ellie did with these cute butterfly place cards which matched her theme.