

Your **SURREY** WEDDING

www.yoursurreywedding.com

Down by
the river
Waterside venues
to say 'I do' in

**ONLY
£3.45**

Ready to party
An A-Z of entertainment

WEDDING OF
THE YEAR
Who's in
round two?

WIN
a honeymoon
in the Azores,
worth £4,000

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Tantalising catering inspiration

HONEYMOONS, BEAUTY, GROOMS, FREEBIES, EXPERT ADVICE AND MORE...

£3.45

AUG/SEPT 2015



9 771751 709016

Congratulations

Sonya & Ed

Sonya and Ed were crowned winners of the first round of the Wedding of the Year competition. Here, Sonya tells us more about their day

How did you feel winning this heat?
 I was so excited, I never usually have much luck with competitions – I couldn't believe it! I immediately popped open a bottle of fizz in celebration.

Tell us about the look of your big day.
 Our theme was Victorian elegance to tie in with the 19th-century venue. Our main colour scheme was ivory or white with the bridesmaids in purple and silver. I only wanted a few accent colours to complement the tones in the gallery.

I arrived in a horse-drawn carriage and our floral arrangements were in old-fashioned birdcages. A classical harpist played during the ceremony and drinks reception, and we had a slide-show in the evening, featuring old family photographs.

As I studied literature at this university and my husband and I both like reading, we named the tables after our favourite authors and gave our guests chocolate favours in book-style keepsake boxes.

What did you enjoy most about organising your wedding?

I really enjoyed working closely with all of our brilliant suppliers, both on a professional and personal level. By the time the big day arrived I felt like I had a second family around me.

What did you find difficult to sort out?
 It's easy to get carried away with thinking that everything needs to be perfect, and that level of expectation can make planning a wedding quite overwhelming. I just kept reminding myself that as long as Ed and I were married by the end of it, everything else was just a lovely bonus – it kept things in perspective.

Were any of your suppliers extra helpful?
 I don't know where to start! The wedding co-ordinator at Royal Holloway, our photographer, florist and my hairdresser deserve a particular mention as they were so reassuring and very accommodating.

What was the best bit of advice you received when planning your day?
 A friend said to me, 'choose suppliers who you trust; if you put together a good team, you can forget about everything on the day and it will all go like clockwork.' She was right!♥



Sonya and Ed's contacts

Photographer

www.kitmyersphotography.co.uk

Venue

www.venue.royalholloway.ac.uk

Bride's dress and accessories

www.thefarnhamboutique.com

Make-up artist

www.gailspooner.co.uk

Hairdresser

www.jkshair.webs.com

Groom's and groomsmen's suits

www.mossbroshire.co.uk

Bridesmaids' dresses

www.dressdirect.net

Flowers

www.wrapandtiefloral.co.uk

Horse and carriage

www.johncartercarriages.yellsites.co.uk

Stationery

www.paperthemes.co.uk

Disco/DJ

www.spectrumdisco-dj.co.uk

Favours

www.chocolates-for-chocoholics.co.uk

Videographer

www.vimeo.com/aliceu

Harpist

www.harpmusic.co.uk

Styling/chair sashes

www.hostwithstyle.co.uk

Wedding website

www.appycouple.com

National winners

The winners of our Wedding of the Year competition will also get the chance to win our National Wedding of the Year title and a fabulous grand prize of a three-night mini-moon at the award-winning Palais Namaskar in Marrakech, on a half board basis in a PoolVilla complete with return airport transfers – worth £3,000!

Nestled between the Atlas Mountains and the Djebilet Hills, the luxury hotel, which opened in April, 2012, as part of the Oetker Collection, is an idyllic resort of 41 suites, villas and palaces. Situated amidst Balinese-inspired gardens, with cascading water features and lakes, the spot boasts three restaurants, a stylish rooftop bar and an indulgent spa – just perfect for



newlyweds. Visit www.palaisnamaskar.com

There will be 17 winning couples from all over the country, and they'll all be eligible for the national title. Each wedding will be considered by a panel of editors, who'll look at all the gorgeous little details, read about the most memorable moments of the day, sigh over the stunning photos and, in the end, select the couple they think deserve to be crowned as National Wedding of the Year winners.