

# 12 Months

• Now you have booked your venue, it is just as important to book your church or the registrar for your civil ceremony. To book your registrar, please contact Derbyshire Ripley Registrars on 01629 532605.

If you have opted for a Civil Ceremony, it will be the registrar that will dictate the timings of your day as your wedding will be based on their availability. They too will be able to answer any questions and support you with your timings and readings.

• Guest List : The big challenge - who do you invite and to which part of the day? It is always good to have an evening reception guest list so you can invite work colleagues or friends of the family to come.

• Save the Date Cards: A lot of couples do not do save the date cards however, we do recommend doing so if you are having a summer wedding. You want to make sure that your guests don't book their family holiday and then miss your special day.

• Wedding Insurance: Our biggest recommendation! Its not costly and could save you money if a supplier lets you down. There's a lot to be said for peace of mind! John Lewis and Debenhams have a variety of policies that do not break the bank.

• Budget: When people talk of wedding budgets, there's a roll of the eyes and a heavy sigh. Make your budget realistic and add in a contingency just in case.

• Plan your wedding or use a professional: As a venue, we can certainly help you as little or as much as you would like. If you ever need any help with anything please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always happy to help.

• Toastmaster: Whilst we do offer our services and act as Master of Ceremonies on your special day, it is always nice for someone close to you to perform this instead. We will not be offended if you do choose a loved one over ourselves. We will coordinate with your chosen toast master to ensure that the right announcements are made in the right place at the right time.

• The Dress: If you are considering a couture gown made to order you'll need to start this process as soon as possible. If you are ordering a designer gown from a bridal boutique you should allow 6-8 months for any alterations.

• Flowers: Whats in season, do they work with your ideal theme, do you like scented, bold etc? There are many areas where you can introduce flowers: bouquets, buttonholes and table decorations. We can use your decorations more than once as we can move these from the ceremony to the wedding breakfast and so on.

• Honeymoon: Find your dream holiday, adventure or relaxation. Think about your passport, when does it run out? Book it in your maiden name and use your existing passport as you may not have the time to change it before you go on honeymoon. Change all of your documents to your married name when you're back.

## Tips

Attend as many wedding open days and/or fayres at the Kedleston Country House to get as much inspiration as possible.

Always go with what feels right - who you feel understands you and what you are looking for. Many suppliers let you start a monthly payment plan to help with your budgeting.

Be patient and wait for the sales, you could get the bridal party outfits for half the price.

# 6 Months

• Food tasting: Between three and six months before your big day, you will be invited to Kedleston Country House for a tasting of your chosen menu. We advise that you pick one menu for all of your guests. Of course, dietary requirements and allergies will be catered for...

It is at this point that a coordinator will be allocated to you therefore, this is also a fantastic opportunity to discuss other elements of your day with the coordinator who will be with you on your wedding day.

• Wedding Invitations: Whether you want to make your own or commission a professional designer, there's no time like the present. As well as your invitations there is 'on the day' stationery to consider, such as name places, menus, tables plan etc. We would recommend sending these no later than 12 weeks before.

• Bedrooms: Start sharing some thought of who you would like to stay with you at Kedleston Country House on the night of the wedding. We have five bedrooms (sleeping 10 adults + 2 children) allowing your celebrations to continue.

Things to consider - Where would you like to get ready? Would you like to stay at Kedleston Country House the night before? Would you like to invite additional guests to stay? May be a last dinner with your friends and family the night before? What about the morning after the wedding, would you like to invite additional guests to breakfast? Now is the time to start thinking.

• Wedding Cake: This might conflict with your healthy eating plan but make sure you try samples from the cake supplier you contact. Your cake could be cupcakes, cheesecake or even actual cheese - who said your wedding cake had to be sweet?

Wedding Party Outfits: Have a day with your wedding party, try on dresses to help understand what shape fits them. When you know what dresses to get, research online to find the best price. Don't forget you'll need outfits for the groom, best man, ushers and any flower girl or page boys.

• Wedding Shoes & Accessories: You'll need your shoes for when you begin your dress fittings, the height of the heel will affect the length of the dress (that is if you've gone for a full length dress). Start to think about your hair, are you having it up or down, veil, tiara? This goes for all of your jewellery, make sure it all works together.

• Make Up Artist & Hairdresser: Book a hair and make up trial and take any hair accessories that you'd like to try. Research the kind of look you're wanting to achieve; you may also want to take a picture of your dress with you, so they know what your complete outfit is.

• Music: Begin to think about the kind of music you would like for your ceremony. If you have opted for a civil ceremony you will require five songs in total: one for walking down the aisle, two-three for the signing of the register, one for walking back down the aisle.

• Notice: Give notice at your registry office or church if required.

# 3 Months

- **Planning Meeting:** Have a planning meeting with us at Kedleston Country House. Let's confirm all of the details, timings, menu choices, bedroom allocations etc etc. This is also a good time to confirm all of your supplier details so your coordinator begin liaising over delivery/set up/collection.
- **Table Plan:** Begin thinking about your table plan. This is when the fun begins! Set yourselves a cut-off point e.g four weeks before as you'll keep changing it even up to the last hour.
- **Dress Alterations:** Have a fitting with all of your accessories and wedding underwear. Make sure you feel comfortable with the adjustments, then whatever you do don't lose any more weight!
- **Photographs:** Most photographers offer a 'get to know you' shoot. We would advise that you take the photographer up on this offer to ensure that you're all comfortable on the day itself. Please feel free to visit Kedleston Country House to explore the photo opportunities.
- **Skin:** Start to maintain a strict skincare routine, it's a good reason to treat yourself to a few facials.
- **Wedding Rings:** Wedding bands come in a variety of designs to choose from (you can even make your own) - it's a great excuse for you to spend the day together.
- **Hen & Stag Parties:** We hope you have a party to remember.
- **Décor & Table Decorations:** Order any venue decorations that you are buying, don't forget you can rent them as well. This will help with budgeting and saves you having lots of unwanted items at the end. Consider your wedding favours at this point.

# 6 Weeks

- **Handover:** If you require a final planning meeting with your coordinator, now is a good time to do so. Finalise any final arrangements and wedding day plans.
- **Guests:** Confirm your final numbers with us at Kedleston Country House, making any last-minute amendments and confirming menu's.

# 4 Weeks

- **Table Plan:** Confirm your table plan with us at Kedleston Country House. It would be extremely useful to highlight guests with dietary requirements etc. Also confirm music.
- **Reading:** Finalise readings with the Registrar
- **Final Fitting:** This is where you get to try everything on together to make sure you're happy with it all. This is a really good opportunity to give a sneak peak to your close friends and family members.
- **Reconfirm Arrangements with all your suppliers:** By this point your coordinator at Kedleston Country House will have already begun making arrangements with your suppliers in regards to delivery/set up/collection etc however, it is good for you to speak to them personally and make sure your happy with the plans in place.
- **Wedding Speeches:** Make sure the groom, father of the bride or whoever is giving a speech have written it, will they need any props?

# 1 Week

- Photography Handover: Choose someone you trust to help you make the day run even more smoothly. Give them your wedding photography list as this can be a life saver on the day and save so much time.
- Pack For Your Honeymoon: If you're going on Honeymoon straight after the wedding it might be worth getting everything packed and ready so you can enjoy your day without worrying about your travel. Order any foreign currency.
- Wedding Shoes: Now is the time to break in your new shoes. Wear them around the house to make sure they're comfy on the day.
- Wedding Kit: This isn't as scary as it sounds, its all the things that you may need on the day - make up, tissues, mints, spare hair pins, needle and thread.
- Tradition: Look for your 'something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue'. Your seamstress may have put something blue in your underskirt (a gem or a ribbon), but always check.
- Check the Weather: If the forecast has changed, do you need to invest in some umbrellas? Do we need to turn to Plan B?

## Tips

Use your bridal flowers as the decorations on your top table.

Give dual purpose to as much as you can e.g name place cards could also be the menu.

# The Day Before

- Handover: Deliver your decorations etc and over-night bag to Kedleston Country House.
- Have the Day off to Relax: Don't go to work, spend the day with friends or family and don't do anything too exhausting.
- Try & Sleep: Rest will make your skin look fresh in the pictures, it will be hard but please try and get some rest.

## Tips

It will go in the blink of an eye, so at some point make sure you both stand back and watch everyone having a great time...take it all in.

Enjoy the company of your guests and let your coordinator manage your day. Your coordinator will ensure that you need to be in the right place at the right time. You will not need to clock watch; we will do this for you.

Flower press or dry out your wedding bouquet, a gorgeous way of keeping your flowers for years to come.