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JUL/AUG 2014



HOT TOPIC: Venues

From the perfect marquee wedding to where to display your flowers, our experts answer your questions

Meet the experts



Don Gill
Events company managing director



Kate O'Hara
Wedding planner



Lynsey Brown
Co-owner, marquee company



Sally Johnson
Florist

Blooming bonus

Q I've got a really limited budget and I was wondering if it would be possible to use the flowers from the church at our reception venue? How would this work if I did want to do it?

A *Sally says:* On a limited budget I would definitely advise you to use your church floral designs in your reception venue too. Opt for one large focal arrangement at the front of the church, to create the most visual impact during the ceremony and then again afterwards at the reception.

Ask one of the ushers or a trusted guest to transfer the arrangement across to the venue for you after the ceremony. It would then be best placed in a key area where guests will see and enjoy it most, such as in the bar or near the top table. Ask your florist to create a design that reflects your overall theme or colour scheme and that also matches the style of the reception venue for when it's moved. For example, a more traditional pedestal arrangement on an iron stand will be more suited to somewhere more historic in appearance.



UNDER CANVAS

Q We'd like to have our reception in a marquee in my parents' large garden. What time of year would be best and what do we need to consider?

A *Lynsey says:* There's nothing lovelier than springtime in Yorkshire, but the weather can still be very unpredictable and cold, especially in the evenings. That's why most people opt for the more temperate months of June, July and August with longer days and warmer evenings to make the most of drinks on the lawn, outdoor games and watching the sun go down, which are all big attractions of a marquee wedding.

In order to establish if the garden is suitable, you'll

need to consider if there's sufficient space – don't forget to allow room for guy ropes if you're having a traditional canvas and pole marquee – how flat the ground is, whether there are any overhead obstructions, such as cables, and if there's a suitable access point to allow the delivery of the marquee and furniture.

If space is not an issue, then you'll need a rough idea of the number of guests and the other elements you might like, such as a dancefloor, top table, band, bar, and also the type of dining tables and chairs, before speaking to a marquee company.

Any good supplier will help you establish what size will be best for your reception, or help you work backwards if the space is limited, to find out the number of guests you may be able to accommodate. They'll also be happy to visit the site to assess its suitability and put your mind at rest.



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