

No place I'd rather be

Choosing a venue that is very close to your heart can make your wedding day even more special, as four couples divulge

Words by Charlotte Buxton



VENUES *inspiration*

"It was so much fun to come back to a place that holds so many brilliant memories for us"

Hannah and Cameron

[Clockwise from top] Hannah and Cameron met as students at St Andrews University, so it made perfect sense to return to the place they'd had so much fun, the ancient chapel is wonderfully romantic, lots of guests were their fellow students, so everyone enjoyed catching up, the same view as graduation day - but a lot more fun than exams!

Hannah & Cameron

Hannah Sim married Cameron Goldie-Scot at St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews on 11th June 2016

When Cameron popped the question last summer, he and Hannah returned to their old stomping ground of St Andrews and decided they would tie the knot there, back where it all began. With so many happy years spent there together at university more than a decade ago, it was the ideal place for them to get married.

"When we decided on St Andrews, we wanted to create a day that was really special and meaningful to both of us," says Hannah. "We visited St Salvator's Chapel and were reminded of how beautiful it is - that was when we knew it was here that we had to get married, in the heart of so many fun times." From foam parties right outside the church and carol concerts held inside by candlelight at Christmas, to photos taken in the grounds on graduation day, St Salvator's had long been a special place to them.

After exchanging vows in the chapel, the newlyweds went to the pier at West Sands for a breezy photoshoot before joining their guests for a reception at Strathtryrum Walled Garden. The pier was another special place for the couple - Hannah used to come by to watch Cameron windsurf there, and they've also enjoyed kayaking, walks and picnics by the sea over the years. They made sure to incorporate the pier into their celebrations the next day too, blowing away the hangovers on a blustery walk with friends.

"It was so much fun to come back to a place that holds so many brilliant memories for us," says Hannah. "Many of our guests also went to university at St Andrews so we had lots of shared memories too. The town feels just the same as it did 12 years ago when we first arrived, but now we have even more reason to come back and visit."

Photography by Hamish Robb
www.hamishrobb.co.uk



Caroline & David

Caroline Henderson married David Blair at St Mary's Parish Church, East Lothian on 19th September 2015

It's not usually the groom who has a dream wedding venue in mind before nuptials are even on the horizon. But after many happy childhood summers spent at Lochhouses Farm with his best friend (whose family own it), Dave was determined that one day he'd have his wedding on the farm. And although he told his partner Caroline that he had a plan, he wouldn't let her in on it until he proposed. "I spent four years guessing!" Caroline says.

In the meantime, during visits to the area, Caroline had fallen in love with the church at nearby Whitekirk. "I'd decided that the beautiful, historic church just round the corner was where I wanted us to get married. I loved it so much that I'd travel to the village most weeks to take Dave's granny there." St Mary's was special to his family as one of their ancestors was a senior clergyman.

When Dave proposed, they each revealed their chosen venues and discovered they were just minutes apart. So the date was set for a service at St Mary's with the reception at Lochhouses Farm (now part of Harvest Moon Holidays).

The East Lothian coastline made a beautiful setting for a personality-filled wedding day. "We didn't have to worry about a thing, as the team at Harvest Moon worked so well with our on-the-day wedding co-ordinator, Roni Hyslop at All Wrapped Up Events, and our caterers, Buffalo Farm. Having planned every detail of the wedding ourselves, I can't tell you what a difference that made!" says Caroline.

"We wanted a personal wedding in a place that matters so very much to both of us and I'm so grateful to everyone at Harvest Moon for making our dream come true. It really was the perfect start to married life."

Photography by Tiana Lucking Photography
facebook.com/tianaluckingphotography



[From top] East Lothian's amazing white sands were just made for photographs. Dave and Caroline got a gloriously sunny day for their reception, there was no shortage of glamour despite the rustic setting; the church was just minutes from the reception - proof that these two people were definitely on the same wavelength





Catriona & John

Catriona Howson married John Harper at Glenalmond College, Perth, on 22nd July 2016

Cat and John didn't just want to get married, they wanted to make a difference. Cat volunteers with the Newman Holiday Trust (NHT) at its annual summer camp for disabled children, held at Glenalmond College in Perth, and this year's activities ended with her wedding to John. Cat had heard that children with special needs were rarely invited to weddings because of concerns about how they would cope. "I wanted to give the kids the opportunity to attend a wedding and to meet a real-life bride and groom," she says. "Working with NHT inspired me to find my dream career as a teacher, so the idea of having a small wedding in a venue so close to my heart felt perfect."

Cat and John put the children in charge: they decided where the wedding would happen, they made decorations, and they took part in the ceremony. The service took place outside in the sunshine surrounded by yellow and white ribbons and bunting.

The children were given ribbons to wave during the hand-fastening, bubbles to blow at the kiss and bells to ring at the end. "It was majestic getting married surrounded by people clapping, cheering and blowing bubbles!" Cat laughs.

The team at Glenalmond prepared the wedding breakfast and made a cake, which was decorated to match the wedding theme. One of the children performed magic tricks while guests ate, before everyone hit the dancefloor. At the end of the night, everybody took part in 'candle time' - a camp tradition where a child who has done something brilliant is invited to blow out the candle, but Cat and John were surprised to be told it was their turn. "We were almost moved to tears. It was such a lovely way to end the day," says Cat.

Donations from Cat, John and their guests raised £1,500 for the charity. Photography by Kris Worsley www.krisworsleyphotography.com →

"We were almost moved to tears. It was such a lovely way to end the day"

Catriona and John

[Clockwise from top left] The couple exchanged their vows in an open-air ceremony in the grounds of Glenalmond College; the newlyweds were delighted with the success of their day; special guests included children with special needs, who were at Glenalmond for a summer camp; the bridal party and their many supporters



Susan & Adam

Susan Millar married Adam Spence at The Lynnhurst Hotel, Renfrewshire on 22nd August 2015

When two new members of staff began working at Renfrewshire's Lynnhurst Hotel in 2009, neither had any idea they would fall in love. But, after working side by side for two years, Susan and Adam's friendship turned to more on a staff holiday to Tenerife. Three years later, Adam proposed on the banks of Loch Lomond and they both knew there was only one place to say 'I do'.

"The Lynnhurst bears such a special place in our hearts, as it's where we met and where we've spent so much time together," says Susan. "Having organised other people's weddings for years, I had all the contacts to create the perfect day for us. We had a humanist ceremony, the chef made the food we love, and we had our favourite music playing throughout. Guests commented on how 'us' the day was, which was exactly what we wanted."

The hotel team went out of their way to make the day extra special. Susan walked down the aisle as her dear friend and colleague Allison McPate sang Ellie Goulding's 'How Long Will I Love You', and out again with Adam as the hotel's resident piper played. "They also organised a surprise photobooth for us in the evening, which is a great way to make you smile over breakfast the next morning! We still laugh when we look back at pictures of our family dressed up as Vikings and characters from *Little Britain!*"

"We have so many special memories of the hotel, and to have had our wedding there makes it even more precious to us. The Lynnhurst has just been renovated and I'm looking forward to organising lots more events for other people who will love it just as much as we do." ♥

Photography by Karl Double Photography karldoublephotography.com

"The hotel is so special to us - it's where we met and where we've spent so much time together"

Susan and Adam



[Clockwise from top left] The new Mr and Mrs, the beautifully co-ordinated bridesmaids and groomsmen make this a memorable picture; the groom's team show off their outfits in the hotel grounds; a quick kiss before the guests sit down to the wedding breakfast; not many people are as happy at work as this pair

