

Maria & Simon

REAL WEDDING – BURNHAM MARKET



Maria Wren tells us about her vintage-inspired north Norfolk midsummer wedding.

Maria and Simon met in 2003 through mutual friends – and Simon proposed on Easter Sunday 2011.

"We were at home and the ring was inside an Easter egg," laughs Maria. "I nearly didn't open it as we were in rush to meet up with family to walk the dogs."

They set the date for June 23, 2012. The couple knew that they wanted to marry in north Norfolk and to have a church ceremony.

"We wanted it to be to be a place we love and feel relaxed and create that holiday type feel at our wedding, and were keen to spend the weekend with as many family and friends as possible," says Maria.

"We knew from the outset that wanted to hold the reception at the Hoste in Burnham Market.

"After that it was a matter of finding a church and vicar that would be happy to marry us.

"We chose St Mary's at Burnham Deepdale for a couple of reasons - it was pretty and fairly small. I didn't want anything too intimidating and we wanted it to be fairly intimate but relaxed.

"But the biggest reason was the vicar – the Rev Christopher Wood was brilliant. He was great with advising and helping us and fantastic with the guests before the wedding.

"Everyone commented on how funny and nice he was - he certainly made the church service," says Maria.

When it came to choosing a theme for the day, Maria knew she wanted a romantic vintage-type feel.

"I knew from the outset that I wanted vintage pinks and creams for the flowers, but I didn't want the bridesmaids or grooms men to wear pink. So the bridesmaids had a neutral taupe and the boys wore navy suits and cream waistcoats. All the stationery was cream with either navy or vintage pink ribbon," she says.

When it came to her outfit, Maria was keen to follow tradition.

"I borrowed my veil from one of my bridesmaids, I had blue ribbon inside my dress and I had lots of new things - my dress, shoes, necklace etc.

"I cheated with the old as I didn't actually wear it, but we had my great grandparents' cake knife to cut the cake with," she says.

Maria is grateful to all the people who helped make the day so special.



Relaxed: Maria and Simon wanted to create a holiday type feel to their wedding.

"Make sure the people you use understand what you want and are happy to work with you. You need to trust whoever you use. Don't be afraid to ask questions!"

"The cake was by Katie at Couture Cakes – she was brilliant and the cake tasted divine," says

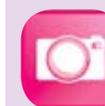
Maria. "Our flowers were designed by Victoria Arrowsmith. She completely understood what I wanted and exceeded all expectations.

"There were a few tears when the flowers arrived – in a good way!

"Scott and the team at the Hoste were so helpful in the days leading up to the wedding and on the day just brilliant.

Nothing was too much trouble and all our guests commented on the team – as well as the food, of course!

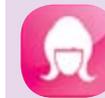
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Victoria Arrowsmith
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"And we asked Tim Kinnaird of Macarons and More to make 220 macarons for favours which the bridesmaids and I put in clear boxes and tied ribbons and cards around the night before."

Looking back on her wedding, what were Maria's highlights?

"All of it," she laughs. "I loved the church service, greeting our guests afterwards and the drinks reception.

"I didn't stop smiling all day!"