

AUTUMN 2023

# Winters Barns

LET'S CATCH UP!

Hello and welcome to the fourth edition of our Winters Barns seasonal newsletter!

We have had such a lovely autumn season with so many beautiful weddings that we can't wait to share with you! We're shining a light on some more of our fabulous recommended suppliers and our wonderful team share some of their favourite Christmas traditions which you can incorporate into your upcoming Winter weddings!

So grab a nice warm drink and enjoy the Autumn edition of the Winters Barns Newsletter!



Ellen and Rufus - Matt Trott

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

Collectively as a team we absolutely adore Fall here at Winters Barns.

Perhaps it is the warm orange colour schemes, or possibly the darker evenings showing off our fairy lights. Who knows... we just love it!

Throughout the last month there has been continuous leaf blowing from our superhero groundsman Jamie. He has been keeping the gardens looking their best even in the worst conditions for the wonderful weddings we have had.

We have also attended wedding award ceremonies where we have come home with three wins and highly commended in one other! We will tell you more as you read on.

Lets get stuck in!

# WEATHER AND DÉCOR

## AUTUMN SHOWERS!

We have had a wet and windy month but this hasn't stopped our brides having the days of their lives. The storm had us putting our recently installed backup generator to use! We are happy to say the day continued with no stutter.

As the darker evenings kick in the barn comes into its own. Our central heating is on and toasty, the fairy lights are twinkling and the barn feels like a magical, cosy, home from home.

The nighttime photos spots get used to their full potential, our fairy light obsession definitely comes in handy this time of year.



Issi & Dan- Daniel Luke

## FALL COLOURS

A collection of the beautiful autumn décor we have seen.



Caroline & Chris- Nicola Dawson



Aleisha & James- Peter Reynolds



Ashleigh & Joe- James Davies



Renee & Tom- Kensington Photographer



Sam & Josh- Matt Ebbage

# WEDDING AWARDS



## Kent Wedding Awards

Thursday 16th November

A few weeks ago we made our way to the Mercure Hotel in Maidstone where the award ceremony for The Kent Wedding Awards 2023 was hosted. We weren't in our usual numbers with Lizzie caring for baby Remy at home and Sally coordinating one of our beautiful Autumn weddings back at base. It was just myself Sophie, with David and Jo the venue owners who attended.

But guess what...WE DID IT!

We won 'Wedding Venue of the Year' at the Kent Wedding Awards!

Getting this award meant the world to our whole team. We are so grateful to our couples who showered us with love when finding out the news on our socials.

We need to mention we also came 'Highly Commended' in the Event Team of the year. Again, all testament to the teams hard work.



## The South East Wedding Industry Awards

Tuesday 21st November

We then headed to The South East Wedding Industry Awards which was hosted at the Ravenswood in West Sussex. Sally was able to make this evening so we had a slightly fuller house.

What a night!

We came home with not one, but two awards!!!

Regional winners of 'Barn Venue of the Year' as well as 'Event Team of the Year'

TWIA awards are judged 50% on couple reviews which is why these meant so much to us. A huge thank you for all your love and support. Without you we couldn't do the job we all LOVE!

These wins qualified us to enter the National awards hosted in London in January.

Cross your fingers for us!



THE 2024  
WEDDING  
INDUSTRY AWARDS

NATIONAL  
FINALIST



THE 2024  
WEDDING  
INDUSTRY AWARDS

REGIONAL  
WINNER

# WEDDING SPOTLIGHT - Renée and Tom 12/10/23

Photography by Kensington Photographer

## We asked them a few questions about them and their big day...

### How did you meet?

Tom and I actually met in school when we were 15 and then he 'slid into the DM's' when we were around 22, and to this day (even after marrying him) I don't remember him in school!

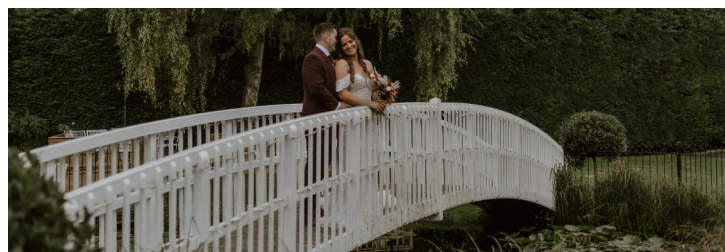
### Tell us about the engagement

Far from grand as it was during lockdown!

Poor Tom had lots of 'fancier' plans to propose - holidays/ days away but they kept being cancelled due to the pandemic. So, in 2021 in our little flat we got together as our first home, Tom had rose petals down the hallway and candles leading into the living room. I (Renée) went out for a walk with my sister (as that's all you could do during those times!) and came back to the lovely hallway which followed into the living room where Tom was on one knee. I wasn't surprised as Tom is rubbish at keeping surprises! But I was of course overjoyed and we both shared a tear!

### What was your vision for your day?

We originally had no idea what we wanted as our venue. I (Renée) knew I wanted something fairly modern and quirky as we both are. After seeing one barn-style wedding we loved it but it wasn't the venue for us so we then booked a viewing for Winters and it was like walking into my dream! All the rustic and unfinished elements whilst still having that beautiful wedding feel was exactly what we wanted. Then the vision and theme for the rest of the decor came once knowing our venue.



### Was there an extra special moment that happened?

We had our own vows - we almost didn't do them but we decided to have some personalisation for the ceremony and I'm so glad we did. It really brought out the stories and an insight into who we are and it was so lovely to share that with our guests.

We also had the funny 'flower boy' moment just before the Bride came out which got so many laughs! It eased some nerves and made for some great photos! Thanks to Seb, our neighbour for doing that

### What would be your top tip to other couples be?

Let the little things slide. You have so many things to organise and think about, smaller issues really aren't important, especially if they're out of your control! Also DELEGATE! I needed to tell myself this but you try to do it all on your own (the bride of course, the groom just turns up let's be honest!) and you just can't. Alongside running a home, having a pet, work and social life, it was just really hard to stay on top of it, so delegate anything you can!! People will be willing to help you.



### Wedding Coordinator Comment – Sally

Wow! What a lovely couple Renée and Tom are.

They started their ceremony with Seb, the flower boy, who stole the show throwing his petals down the aisle until Renée made her entrance.

Later in the day the couple managed to get smoke bomb pictures before the rain arrived.



# THE DRESS!

Is it that time in your wedding journey to find THE dress? Don't know where to start?

We are sharing a few of the beautiful dresses we have seen in 2023 in the hope it gives you the inspiration to know where to start on your dress quest.

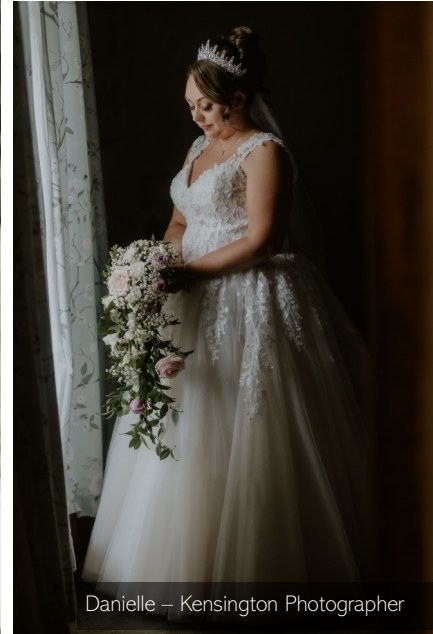
Be patient...you will find your dream dress!



Renee – Kensington Photographer



Darcy - Ovis Photography



Danielle – Kensington Photographer



Frances- Kensington Photographer



Danielle – Gavin Hardy



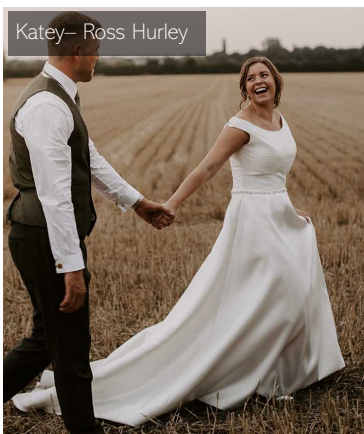
Jodie– Steve Barber



Megan– Gavin Hardy



Ellen– Matt Trott



Katey– Ross Hurley



Rebecca– Lemonade Pictures

**Beautiful Bridal Boutiques that we suggest you check out!**

Amore Brides– Canterbury

Chilham Bridal Boutique– Canterbury

# THE SUPPLIER STAGE

Nicola Dawson  
PHOTOGRAPHY

Mobile: 07905 447112

Instagram: @nicoladawsonphotography

Website: info@nicoladawsonphotography.co.uk

Hi, I'm Nicola, a documentary style photographer for laid back couples who want an authentic, warm and love-filled wedding day marrying their best friend, surrounded by the people they love the most.

My style is unobtrusive and laid back and I photograph most of the day as it happens. But I understand that we aren't all naturals in front of the camera and I know exactly how to give subtle and gentle direction to you for those all important couple shots to take your mind off being photographed and to capture those beautiful, heart warming portraits that you can see in my portfolio. If you feel relaxed you will look relaxed too, it really is that simple.

Nicola is bound to become your best friend by the end of your wedding day. Her warm and love filled images truly do mirror her personality. Nicola has been an addition to our suppliers list over the last couple of years and we are so glad to now see her regularly at Winters. Have a look at the sneak peaks from her most recent album of Chantel and David's special day at Winters Barns.



## A comment from Nicola Dawson

My goal as a wedding photographer is to help my couples to have the best and most relaxed wedding day possible. I know that when my couples are marrying at Winters Barns that my job will be a much easier one. It's beyond stunning and the team couldn't be more friendly, attentive or professional. It has been an amazing wedding season working together again.

# THE SUPPLIER STAGE



Amanda truly knows how to make you go WOW! We are in awe of her creativity and talent when it comes to creating the wedding flowers of your dreams.

At Distinctly Floral, we LOVE weddings. We love flowers (obviously) but we also love getting to know you and understanding what will wow you as well as your guests on your big day. We love sourcing new, innovative and quirky containers and accessories and in general designing flowers and venue decoration to make your wedding day truly unique. We put our heart and soul into every wedding whether you just want bouquets, or want jaw dropping arrangements and table centres. If you'd like award winning flowers and service to match your fabulous venue, we'd love to hear from you.

## A comment from Amanda

I am always so excited to start talking to couples who have booked the fabulous Winters Barns for their special day. I've been working on weddings here since 2015 and it is one of our favourite places to work at. The venue itself is perfect to dress with flowers and add special touches, but for us it is the team and the attention to detail from everyone that makes it such a lovely place to work. I always feel like I'm part of a big family and am always made to feel so welcome.

info@distinctlyfloral.co.uk

01622 853520

@distinctlyfloral



Bookings@abigailcardwell.com

07551978400

@abigailcardwellmusic

## ABIGAIL CARDWELL

Abigail provides ceremony and drinks reception music to create the perfect atmosphere for your wedding. With smooth vocals accompanied by piano or guitar, Abigail is able to learn your ceremony requests and work with you to create the perfect cover of your favourite songs. She is also able to professionally record a song of your choosing to send to your videographer should you wish.

Abigail has a truly beautiful voice. We absolutely love when she performs at Winters, she brings a whole new level of emotion to the weddings. A perfect choice for your ceremony and reception drinks.

## A comment from Abigail

Working with Winters Barns is a privilege! The venue's captivating charm and picturesque surroundings make every wedding feel just magical. The team is simply amazing, ensuring every wedding runs like clockwork, their warmth and efficiency make collaborations an absolute delight. I highly recommend this exceptional venue!"

# WINTERS BARNNS TEAM

After recapping our fabulous Autumn season we thought it may be time to look forward to the Christmas season ahead.

There's something so special about a Christmas wedding!

We have shared our favourite Christmas touches to weddings in previous years.



Sarah— Kerry Ann Duffy

Lizzie's Favourite Christmas Touch...

## FUR SHAWLS

A wedding wardrobe item that screams luxury!

Adding a fur shawl for yourself and bridesmaids elevates that winter wedding style as well as making group shots a little more cosy.

Sally's Favourite Christmas Touch...

How gorgeous does this cake look!

Adding gingerbread details immediately gives that homely Christmas feel to your wedding day. Why not even personalise the ginger bread to mirror your home or a significant place in your relationship?



Kerry Ann Duffy

Sophie's Favourite Christmas Touch...

## MULLED WINE STATION

The PERFECT post ceremony drink in the chillier months. A glass of festivity per guest!

Why not make a station of it with stollen and mince pies, all the festive goodies.

