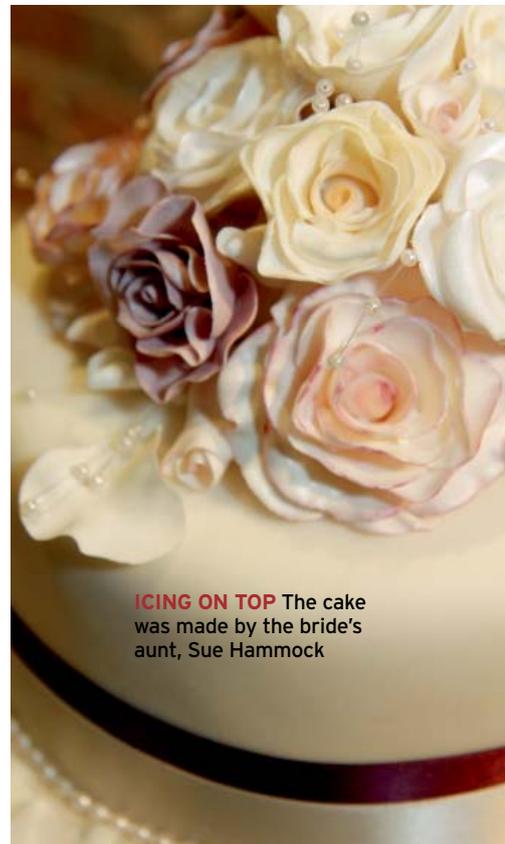


REAL-LIFE *weddings*

BRIDAL SLIPPER
The bride's shoes were from Next



ICING ON TOP The cake was made by the bride's aunt, Sue Hammock

THE PERFECT DAY...

After a last-minute panic with the weather, a simple wedding day with family and friends worked out perfectly for Laura Eades and Marc Snoswell.

When snow fell a few days before the February event, the Gravesend couple had feared some guests wouldn't make it to the ceremony and reception at Cooling Castle Barn, set in walled gardens next to Cooling Castle, near Rochester.

But the skies cleared to a bright blue for a perfect day which ran like clockwork.

Civil servant Laura, 29, had hair and make up done at her parents' home before travelling to the venue to put on her dress by Ronald Joyce purchased from Abigail's in Headcorn and tiara from Kiss the Bride in Rochester.

The bride's shoes were from Next, with a bracelet and necklace both from Kent company, Magpie Accessories. Her 'something borrowed' was her diamond earrings, on loan for the day from mum.

Area sales manager Marc, 32, says: "We met at work and had known each other for six years before we started dating in 2004. I proposed in May 2010 while we were on holiday in San Diego, California.

"Cooling Castle Barn was the first possible wedding venue that we visited and we absolutely fell in love with it. We loved that it had character with a simple charm about it, some of the other venues we visited had been in grand houses and although they were lovely, we didn't feel that they reflected >

The simple charm of 17th-century Cooling Castle Barn was the venue for a snowy wedding amid the rugged beauty of North Kent



HE NEVER LEAVES

THE SEAT UP

She's thoughtful when he looks at her
A smile upon his face

Will he look that good in 50 years

When his dentures aren't in place?!

PAM AYRES

He says he loves her figure

And her mental prowess too

But when gravity takes her over

Will she charm with her IQ?



Visit kentonline.co.uk/weddingday



*... We chose a string quartet version of
Can't Help Falling In Love With You by
Elvis Presley and we picked a string
quartet version of Just The Way
You Are by Bruno Mars for
when we walked back down the
aisle as husband and wife*

PENSIVE Laura has a thoughtful moment

IN NAME Left, the couple made their place cards

ALL PHOTOGRAPHY BY WWW.NPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK 0208 302 8777

ON THE MENU

Starter: Prawn cocktail or chicken liver pate
 Main Course: Roast rib of beef, baked turnover of Billingsgate seafood, or goats cheese tart
 Dessert: Crème brulee with sable biscuits or pineapple tarte tatin with coconut and Malibu ice cream



> our personalities. We really struggled to choose the entrance music as well as the music for when we left the ceremony room. "We didn't really like the feel of the classical music that is sometimes recommended for civil ceremonies and liked the idea of having something a little more contemporary. We trailed through our CD collections and finally for the wedding march we chose a string quartet version of Can't Help Falling In Love With You by Elvis Presley and we picked a string quartet version of Just The Way You Are by Bruno Mars for when we walked back down the aisle as husband and wife.

"We liked these as the string quartet versions of the more contemporary songs gave a traditional feel but with a modern twist." Readings at the ceremony were the poems On Your Wedding Day, the author of which is unknown and He Never Leaves The Seat Up by Pam Ayres. Mellow-toned singer Adam Chandler sang Rat Pack and swing tunes during the wedding breakfast and some more contemporary songs before the disco.

Marc says: "We don't think we would have done anything differently. The day surpassed our expectations.

"It also appealed to us that at Cooling the evening reception was held in one area as in some other venues the layout has multiple adjoining rooms. We wanted to keep all of our family and friends together to enjoy the celebrations.

"We felt that Cooling Castle Barn gave good value for money as our package also included both the toastmaster and disco. There were no hidden extras.

"Everything ran smoothly and it was great to spend the day with all of our closest family and friends. Although on the day it was very cold, we had bright blue sky and there was still a little bit of snow on the ground which we felt made a lovely setting for our winter wedding."

The couple went on honeymoon a few days after the wedding, spending four nights in Dubai followed by 10 nights in the Maldives.

CHECKLIST

- Bride's dress was by Ronald Joyce purchased from Abigail's, Headcorn.
- Bride's tiara: From Kiss the Bride, Rochester
- Bride's shoes: From Next
- Bride's bracelet and necklace from Barming, Maidstone company, Magpie Accessories, see www.magpieaccessories.uk.com
- Flowers by Danny Watchorn at Freelance Designer Florist, see www.freelancedesignerflorist.com
- Singer Adam Chandler www.adamchandler.co.uk ring 07894 950021.

ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

Today is a day you will always remember

*The greatest in anyone's life
 You'll start off the day just two people in love*

And end it as husband and wife

It's a brand new beginning the start of a journey

With moments to cherish and treasure

And although there'll be times when you both disagree

These will surely be outweighed by pleasure

AUTHOR UNKNOWN



There'll be tears, dancing and plenty of pictures, but today's bride will want to look fresh-faced and stunning, whatever the day throws at her. After 12 years in the trade, professionally trained make-up artist Nicola Peen knows all the tricks.

The key to successful wedding makeup is about finding the balance between normal and too made up. Consider your normal makeup look and aim for something in-between. Don't go OTT, at the end of the day you want people to recognise you and see you looking as a better version of your normal self.

For a natural look I choose browns, corals, creams and golds. Brides want to look as fresh faced as possible so I choose light foundations that aren't too matt. I don't add too much shimmer to the face as this can give a

sweaty appearance in photographs and I stick to highlighting the brow bone and the tops of the cheek bone for a subtle yet fresh look.

For brides that prefer a more dramatic look, I use greys rather than harsh black eye shadow. Opt for a light grey shadow on the lid and work a darker grey eye shadow into the socket line.

If you are doing this sort of look on a more mature bride then it is always best to work with matte eye shadows rather than frosty eye shadows as these can be very unflattering and add more attention to fine lines and wrinkles. The English rose look is a make-up look which never dates, neutral tones on the eyes such as browns/creams with soft pinks/corals on the cheeks and lips gives a young, fresh faced look.

The classic look keeps the eyes neutral but with more definition using either a liquid or kohl pencil eyeliner along the top lashes line and darker lips in reds and browns. I am getting asked more and more for false lashes – they make the eyes look stunning. After applying mascara I apply about six individual lashes dotted along the lash line or sometimes just three to the outer corner of the eye for a natural but very effective look. Strip lashes can appear too heavy.

My final piece of advice would be not to colour match your make-up to your bridesmaid dresses, stick to neutral tones.

● Maidstone-based Nicola Peen trained at the London College of Fashion where she did a HND in design fashion styling for hair and make-up. She has 12 years experience of bridal make-up. For more information see www.weddingmakeupbynicola.co.uk or ring 01622 725346.



FRESH-FACED & BEAUTIFUL

'To ensure your eye makeup doesn't crease or fade, use an eye shadow primer under your eye make-up'

Nicola says: "To ensure your eye makeup doesn't crease or fade, use an eye shadow primer under your eye make-up. My favourites are Urban Decay eye shadow primer Potion and MAC paint pot in painterly. "My favourite eye shadow brands are MAC and Christian Dior for their highly pigmented colours in a wide range of textures and shades. I have a number of frosts, matte, cream and satin finishes in my kit. Eyeliner defines the eyes and can give a number of different effects depending on what sort of look the bride wants. "Gel eyeliner in black on the top lid will give a more dramatic and defined look making the eyes appear bigger, while kohl pencil in black, grey or brown on the top lid will give a softer look. I always line underneath the eye with eye shadow and an angled brush for a less harsh look than eyeliner. To finish the eyes I always apply waterproof mascara in black to intensify the eyes and guard against tears and smudging. My favourite is MAC Splashproof.

EYES AND LIPS



'I always apply waterproof mascara in black to intensify the eyes and guard against tears and smudging'

Left MAC Lipstick in 'Please me', £13.50
Right MAC Zoom Fast Waterfast Lash, £14
For stockist details see www.maccosmetics.co.uk



PERFECT *make-up*



MAC Pro longwear foundation, £22.50

'...warm up the complexion with a bronzing powder to contour cheekbones and temples'

THE RIGHT BASE...

Nicola says: "I always start by applying a hydrating moisturiser. I love MAC Strobe Cream for the ultimate quick fix for the skin. It boosts the look of dull, flat or tired-looking skin and brightens and clarifies with iridescent particles and antioxidants.

"I always use a clear skin primer to even out skin tone and to prevent complexion make-up from fading. My favourites are MAC prep and prime skin brightening serum and Yves Saint Laurent top secrets flash radiance primer which brighten the skin leaving it feeling soft and primed for make-up.

"Foundation should be light and not too matt, my favourite is MAC face and body foundation as this stays in place all day and night without the bride feeling like she is 'plastered' in make-up.

"I use a concealer over the foundation to cover any dark circles and blemishes and set the foundation with a loose powder. I always use MAC prep and prime transparent finishing powder as it comes in one universal colour that suits all shades.

"I warm up the complexion with a bronzing powder to contour your cheekbones and temples, I use MAC bronzing powder in golden and then add a bit of blush to the apples of your cheeks.

"It is important to wear slightly more blusher than normal on your wedding day as you'll be wearing a pale colour from head to toe which can be draining and flash photography can bleach the look of any colour on the skin.

"I finish with a sweep of highlighter to the tops of the cheekbones to give skin a lustre that catches the eye."



MAC mineralize blush in Dainty £20.50