

# Celebrations

WITH *Alan Marshall*

Bringing Your Special Events To Life



A few fun ideas to engage with your  
guests during your Wedding Day



### **Guest Advice for the Newlyweds Cards**

During the wedding breakfast, family and friends complete a card with their thoughts on what makes a great marriage, the best of which can be read out and then collected in a folder or frame as a keepsake. You will usually receive a combination of humorous, cheeky and touching comments.

### **Wedding Breakfast Trivia Quiz ...**

Get everyone talking with a 20-question trivia quiz sheet about you both for guests to complete on each table during the wedding breakfast. I suggest you offer a prize for the table that scores the most, such as a bottle of champagne or a box of chocolates. A mix of seven questions about each of you and six about both of you is ideal and can be as simple as 'what was your first car?' or 'what is your favourite drink?'.

### **The Speech Sweepstake**

This is a fun way to keep everyone's attention during the speeches. Before they start, everyone puts one pound into the sweepstake and makes a guess as to how long the speeches will last. The winner takes the pot, and they also have to wear a fez so that every guest will know who won.

### **The Anniversary Dance**

The anniversary dance is a special dance for all the married couples at the wedding, where the focus is on longest-married couple on the dancefloor.

Throughout the song I will announce the number of years married, starting with less than five hours! That is when the newlyweds leave the dance floor. It continues with less than two years, five years, ten years, and so on, until the couple who has been married the longest is left dancing. This is a lovely option to consider if you have grandparents or parents who are the longest-married guests at your wedding and a great opportunity to celebrate their love.

Other events that you may want to be included on your big day are on the following pages...





### Throwing The Bouquet

Back in the mists of time, the tradition was for the Bride to carry a bouquet of flowers because it was said to ward off evil spirits. Once she was married, she had her bridegroom to protect her so she passed on her flowers to a friend. In more modern times, this has become the 'bouquet toss' where the bride has traditionally thrown her flowers to a single lady to help her find a spouse.

Today, there are many alternatives to this tradition. You may want to present your bouquet to someone special who is getting married soon, or to your mother or grandparents. You may want to give it to someone who has helped you through a difficult time. You may want to keep your bouquet as your own personal memory.

All we need to know is what your plans are in advance, when and where you are going to toss your bouquet, or present it, and if it is going to be a private and personal moment, or whether we are going to gather your guests for you to share this part of the occasion. There are numerous options that we can discuss.

### Throwing The Garter

This is quite a rare option in the UK. It is a similar ceremony to that of the bouquet toss, where the bridegroom claims the garter from his bride and then throws it for all the single gentlemen to compete for.

### The Whisky Toss

An alternative to throwing the garter is the whisky toss. This, again, is a similar ceremony to the bouquet toss but instead of a garter, a bottle of whisky or alternative is thrown. The key here is the bottle must come in a cardboard round sleeve because this is what is going to be thrown, the winning gentlemen collects the actual bottle at the end of the night.

### It's Party Time!

How would you like your party? If you want a packed dance-floor you need to plan to be on it yourselves because your guests will take their lead from you. Make sure you brief your wedding party and all your friends that you want to see them dancing and sharing your celebration, and they will.

### The Shoe Game

Also known as Mr & Mrs or the newlywed's game, this can be a fun way of connecting everyone during the wedding breakfast or the evening celebration. Questions are picked typically by a bridesmaid or the maid of honour from a selection of cards, as they know you best.





### **A Dance Off!**

A dance-off at a wedding can be a fun activity for the guests. It can be a great way to engage everyone and create a lively atmosphere. Here are a couple of suggestions on how you can organise a dance-off at your wedding:

Your groomsmen vs your bridesmaids or maybe even the Bride vs the Bridegroom.

### **Your DJ set ~ if Paris Hilton can DJ so can you!**

How would you like to be the secret, special guest DJ at your wedding party? The plan would be for you to do a 10-to-15-minute set (premixed and prerecorded by me) and you put on the headphones and rock the party. I will show you a few tricks so that you can add your own special effects and drops. It is great fun and is an amazing photo opportunity.

How about taking it to the next level with The Bride vs the Bridegroom DJ battle?

### **Guess the First Dance Cards**

"Guess the first dance cards" at a wedding are a fun and interactive way to engage your guests during dinner and involve them in the celebration.

Of course, if you like this idea, keep your first dance a secret.

**To add any of the ideas from this list, or any of your own**

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### **The After Party**

How cool would it be to have your own After Party?

Many weddings are held fairly early so it can be quite a long day. You may have older guests (even your parents) who are not used to late nights or you might have a favourite genre of music which will only appeal to you and your peers. These are all good reasons to consider an After Party.

Again, there are many ways to set up an After Party and I can tell you all about how we can make it happen.

### **Anything else we can do?**

Let me know if you have any other ideas that you would like to explore - I have been involved in many personalised and fun wedding activities from Great British Bake Off's, Mr & Mrs games, Lego Building table shoot outs, and much, much more. Maybe you would like to consider something you have seen at another wedding or on one of the many TV wedding programmes. I can advise you if it is something that would work at your own wedding.

