



**WEDDING
DRESSES**
through the
DECADES

*The dresses and memories
of their wedding day*

Alice (nee Clatworthy) married
Michael White

on 31 October 1951 at St Andrew's Church, Old Cleeve

Alice wore an ivory wedding veil which belonged to her mother-in-law and the dress you see today was chosen to match it. Since then, the veil has been worn by her sister-in-law, her daughter and two granddaughters. In July this year, it will be worn once more by her great-niece.



Anne (nee Pendry) married *John Roynon*

on 8 June 1991 at St Augustine's Church, West Monkton

Anne remembers her mother going up to the church very early on the day to help with the flowers whilst she had a lovely chat with her dad over a relaxing breakfast. She recalls standing outside the church waiting for the guests to settle in their seats – eager to get on with married life. A very happy day – not only a family wedding but a community occasion too.



Dianne (nee Small) married
Henry Besley

on 21 May 1966 at Holy Cross Church, Thornfalcon

Replying to the Toast to the Bride and Groom, Henry thanked Dianne's parents for her hand in marriage ... after which he thanked them for the rest of Dianne! They were married by John Roynon's father who was Rector of West Monkton and the Rev Reddish, Vicar of Thornfalcon. There was a gentle rivalry between them as to who had the most splendid cope.





Hilary (nee Lee) married
Mike Shaw

on 28 October 1978 at St Swithun's Church,
Headbourne Worthy, nr Winchester

Hilary recalls the Irish priest liaised with the local bobby to ensure that no one was troubled by the local council's zealous traffic enforcement as there was not even waiting allowed by the church. They couldn't have Widor's Toccata as it would "bring the bell tower down" which, roughly translated, meant the organist couldn't play it!

Jane (nee Beckett) married
Tim Faxon

on 16 May 1981 at St John the Baptist Church,
Penshurst, Tonbridge

An elderly friend came out of retirement to take the service. Unfortunately, Clarkie was not used to both bride and groom having a ring, resulting in a slight delay as he was trying to put Tim's ring on Jane's finger! Ginger, the even more elderly organist, must have nodded off and, thinking he had missed his cue, launched into the next hymn causing the verger to race down the aisle, cassock flying, to silence him.



Jane (nee Sanders) married
Jennifer Robbins

on 19 June 2021 at Upton Barn & Walled Garden,
Cullompton

With the wedding taking place during Covid-19, 2 days before all the restrictions were lifted, they were limited with what they were able to do. There were 30 guests but couldn't have any live music and guests had to wear masks inside the venue. However, Jane describes it being the most incredible, love-filled day and felt so lucky to share it with family and friends that meant the most to them.



Jean (nee Schokman) married
Peter Robinson

on 18 June 1955 at St James' Church, Tunbridge Wells

Jean went to Mayfair in The Pantiles, Tunbridge Wells with a drawing of what she wanted ... they put this into practice, she thought this was accommodating of them. It is made of Valenciennes lace. Jean is the mother of Julia.



Julia (nee Robinson) married
Simon Hill

on 19 August 1989 at St Mary's Church, Aldworth, Berkshire

After the wedding, the happy couple drove to Northumberland (with a supply of food from the wedding). The car, as you would expect, was decorated and when they stopped at a petrol station on the A1, they were given double points! Simon is Archdeacon of Taunton.



Lee (Copley) married
Jon Scott

on 18 September 2004 at Carshalton Beeches Baptist Church, London

On a beautiful morning, which saw a bit of rain for the wedding, the wedding car broke down, causing some anxiety. Lee said she "might share her worldly goods" during the vows! They remember Jon's mum sent the lamb back as it was not cooked – it was though! Everything else was marvellous.



Loretta (nee Williams) married
Brian McHugh

on 30 September 1978 at St Bernadette's Church,
Withington, Gtr Manchester

Football came to the Wedding (Manchester Derby Day) – Man Utd v Man City. Loretta's in-laws were delayed in football traffic, so she had to drive around in the bridal car with her younger brother who was giving her away (Man City fan) until they arrived.

Result: Man Utd 1–Man City 0. Man Utd players stayed at the wedding reception venue leaving Man City fans NOT happy.



Lucy (nee Clarke) married
Edward Paull

on 30 July 2011 at The Old Library, Taunton School

On a beautiful, warm, still and dry day, Lucy got ready with her bridesmaids at home. She and her father John were driven to the venue in a classic car owned by John's best friend – and remembers a moment where his foot really 'hit the throttle'. After a lovely day with family and friends, an evening of dancing culminated in a fabulous firework show.



Nancy (nee Jaques) married
Brian Catchpole

in 1942 at St Mary-le-Tower Church, Ipswich

This wedding dress, precious to her remaining family and stored in its original box, was purchased from Harvey Nichols – silk in wartime was unheard of.



Norna (nee Baird) married
Major Sir Hugh Walker
on 10 August 1971 at Kingston St Mary Church

They met at a point-to-point. He said, "Nobody could ride my stallion!" She proved him wrong there and then. He slapped his knee and stated that "he would be damned if he didn't marry that girl". So, he did ... and she rode the stallion side-saddle from the wedding to Yarford for the Wedding Breakfast.



*Patricia and Peter Wright's
wedding*

was blessed with Eucharist on 4 March 1989 at St Laurence Church, Meriden

Pat designed this dress herself and her daughter was bridesmaid – a princess for the day, with her son a proud little groomsman. Their family and friends, over 200 guests, celebrated the day, including a reception at the Manor Hotel Meriden. They remember the day as truly the happiest and most blessed day of their lives.



Sue (nee Warren)
married *Ray Cleave*

On 20 July 1985 at St John's Church,
Taunton

With both mothers dressing very similarly (albeit in different colours), Sue recollects that the wrong reading was given at the service. The reception took place at the Agricultural Hall, Trull Road on a nice sunny afternoon. Following amusing speeches by the Best Man, Groom and Father of the Bride, difficulties arose when cutting the cake as the icing was very hard!





Sue (nee Franklin) married *Gary Mahoney*

on 19 August 2013 at St Augustine's Church, West Monkton

Gary's 1985 308 Ferrari served as the wedding car (driven by his brother Geoff) and Sue remembers being almost fashionably late due to getting a little lost and stuck in traffic down a single-track road. She had to be stopped from getting out to direct traffic as she knew Gary would be worrying that the car might have broken down. Thankfully 'Red One' did them proud.

Tess (nee Midgley) married *Mike Spurr*

on 24 April 1999 at Allerton Church, Chapel Allerton

Following a week of wind, rain, floods and even snow (in April) a traditional wedding with family and friends took place in gorgeous weather. The newlyweds left the celebrations at midnight on an Indian cycle rickshaw pedalled by their best man – luckily with not too far to go!



Wendy (nee Knight) married *Gary Bryant*

on 24 July 1982 at St John's Church, Staplegrave

On a beautifully sunny July day, surrounded by family and friends, Wendy arrived on time but then became late as, after the photographer had taken several photos of her arriving and standing with her dad, he realised he had no film in his camera and so had to start again!



Stephanie (nee Cavill) married
David Green

on 15 August 2009 at St Augustine's Church, West Monkton

Unable to have a wedding beneath an ancient oak tree on the farm, it not being consecrated ground, the church interior was turned into a flower-scented woodland glade. Margaret Cavill grew over 1000 sweet pea blooms in various gardens in the parish. Grace Haskins and Joyce Keyte arranged the flowers with many local helpers and a mossy tree trunk curled around the base of the font.



Tricia (nee Youde) married
Norman Cavill

on 2 September 1972 at St Michael & All Saints,
Aston Clinton, nr Aylesbury

On a warm, sunny day, Norman's car was suitably decorated by his friends with balloons, foam and 'Just Married'. They re-wired it so that on leaving the reception several smoke bombs discharged, the car wouldn't start until the windscreen wipers switched on and when the brake pedal was used, the horn sounded. A strong smell of fish was later attributed to a mackerel ... removed from the exhaust pipe!



Phyllis (nee Gready) married
Joe Cavill

On 15 July 1941 at St Augustine's Church, West Monkton

It is understood that this dress is made from parachute silk, it being wartime and dress fabric hard to come by. The dress would have been made by the bride or her family. Joe was farming at Yalway and Phyllis's family farmed at Bathpool. At the time of the wedding, her family also farmed the land on which Heathfield School now stands.

