

Relaxed *elegance*

Kerry and Andy's big day was the perfect mix of modern details in a traditional setting

Images courtesy of Pengelly Photography

Kerry and Andy held their wedding at Spains Hall on Saturday 12th March, 2011.



Office lovebirds Kerry and Andy first met in the workplace over a decade ago. "I remember being introduced to Andy on my first day at work and I thought he was lovely," Kerry tells us. "In fact, whenever I was working for him, I made an extra effort to make sure my files were spot on." The timing was off though as Andy soon left to travel around Australia. "He must have spent hundreds of dollars on phone calls so we could keep in touch while he was away," Kerry recalls. When he returned to England, the couple finally got together and have never looked back.

On Valentine's weekend last year, Andy popped the question. "It was a complete surprise. I thought we were just out for a walk and a pub lunch but then we reached a fallen tree where we had previously had a romantic photo taken and Andy sat me down and proposed. As we sat there taking it all in, snow began to fall around us."

Kerry shares all the details from their big day...



We loved the feel of Spains Hall and the combination of the old Elizabethan Hall for the ceremony and the contemporary Stables for the reception really appealed to us. We knew we wouldn't find anywhere nearly as perfect.

I tried on about 10 dresses before finding the one. It was perfect for my shape with a structured bodice, sweetheart neckline, full skirt and a train. The pleating and beadwork were just the right level of detail for me.

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Andy's niece, Jenny, was our flowergirl. She's just 18 months old but we really wanted her to be involved in the wedding and she was the right age to toddle round in her lovely dress looking cute.

Andy's best man was John Oakes who was his travelling companion when he went to Australia. They've known each other for 17 years.

Every part of my outfit, hair and make-up was exactly how I wanted it to be. Looking back at the photos, I think you can tell how happy and relaxed I was by my huge smile!

We had been to about 15 weddings together and often joked that we'd never have one of our own.

I chose calla lilies in honour of my late granddad who used to grow them.

I had tulips, calla lilies and ranunculus in shades of cream and white with a hint of pink in my bouquet. My bridesmaids had smaller versions of my flowers with a slightly deeper shade of pink.

I got my hair and make-up done by Zena McQuiston of The Boutique. I wanted someone who could style both hair and make-up and could also travel to Spains Hall on the day. I had my hair in an up-do and wore natural make-up.

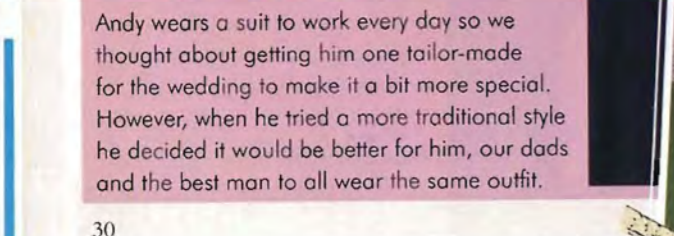
I wore a tiara with a Swarovski crystal finish. It perfectly matched the jewellery I wore, which Andy bought me a couple of years earlier.

Hardly any styling was necessary in the Stables as it was already tastefully decorated and finished to a very high standard.

One of the hardest decisions to make was whether to have a very small wedding, which we initially wanted, or to have a bigger event so that all our friends and family could be there with us. Looking back, I'm glad we made the decision to opt for a larger celebration.

The night before the nuptials I stayed in North Lodge, one of the two cottages on site at Spains Hall, with my bridesmaids and my sister. From here we were able to walk up the gravel drive to the ceremony. Andy and I returned to the cottage on our wedding night.

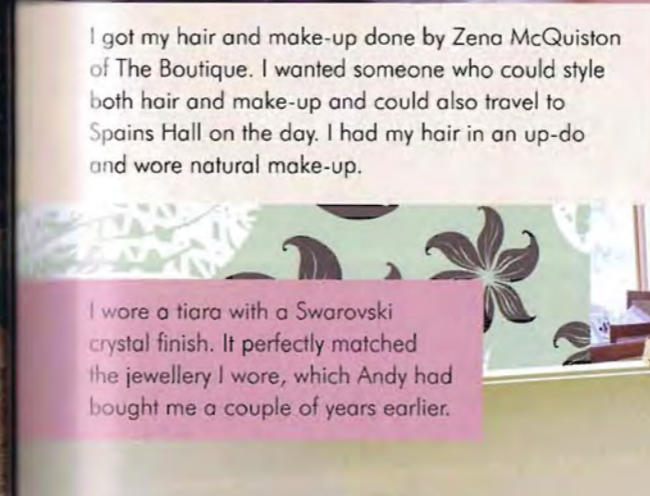
Andy wears a suit to work every day so we thought about getting him one tailor-made for the wedding to make it a bit more special. However, when he tried a more traditional style he decided it would be better for him, our dads and the best man to all wear the same outfit.



My maid-of-honour was my cousin Alison and I had my nieces Lucie and Katie as my other bridesmaids. Because the girls were all varying in age, it meant planning their outfits was easy as they didn't have to be exactly the same.



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Our table arrangements were big bunches of tulips in fishbowls. Tulips have always been my favourite flower so they were perfect for our spring wedding. The simplicity of the design also kept the costs down.



We chose our photographers, Pengelly Photography, from the venue's recommendations list and from our first meeting with Kevin and Sabrina we knew we could be ourselves with them.



We bought a Marks and Spencer fruit cake which I decorated with ribbons and crystals. We both love fruit cake and this one was really lovely and moist. On the top of the cake we had Mr and Mrs Mole because one of Andy's many nicknames is Moley.

I prepared a basket of essentials for all the ladies to use which included hairsprays, deodorants and plasters. It went down a storm and also meant I didn't need to worry about carrying those things round with me.

Kerry and Andy's contact book

- Photographer** Pengelly Photography
www.pengelly-photography.co.uk
- Venue** Spains Hall
www.spainshall.co.uk
- Bride's dress** Bride & Groom Ltd
www.brideandgroomltd.co.uk
- Rings** Hyde & Park Design
www.hydeparkdesign.co.uk
- Florist** Special Petals
www.specialpetals.com
- Favours** Fabulous Favours
www.fabulousfavours.co.uk
- Invitations** Ivy Ellen
www.ivyellen.co.uk
- Hair and make-up** Zena McQuiston
www.theboutiquehairandmakeupartist.co.uk



Andy organised the honeymoon and took me back to all the places in Australia and New Zealand that he loved and knew I would appreciate too. They were the most amazing three weeks of my life. My favourite part was taking a private helicopter ride over the lakes and mountains of New Zealand's South Island.




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