



A family AFFAIR

The April showers stayed away for **Emma and Stephen Pick's** wedding last spring. **Helen Dorritt** finds out more.



BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL: Emma and Stephen enjoyed beautiful sunshine on their wedding day.



One of Stephen's main wishes for his wedding to Emma in April was for good weather – and that was certainly the case. Emma puts it down to some lucky umbrellas. "My friend bought some pretty wedding umbrellas for her wedding in April 2009, when I was her bridesmaid and she had beautiful weather. The umbrellas have since been used at several friends' weddings and the rain has stayed away, so we now regard these as lucky."

After getting engaged on Christmas Day 2009, the couple knew immediately where they wanted their wedding to be held. "Steve and I loved The Grange, in Winterbourne, after we went to a close friend's wedding there in April 2009, when I was her bridesmaid," said Emma. "The wedding co-ordinators are great, and the venue has beautiful grounds. The Grange also provided the toastmaster Peter York to help co-ordinate the day." At first, Emma was worried about what her grandparents thought about not getting married in a church, but her nan put it perfectly when she said, "It's not where you're getting married that's important, but the commitment that you are making to each other."

Photographer John Holbrook was responsible for capturing the events of the day. The couple picked him after seeing him in action at Stephen's brother's wedding in 2009, liking his relaxed yet authoritative style – necessary with over 100 guests. The all-female car company England's Finest Cars, run by Jayne Hobbs, provided transport for the day, first taking the bridesmaid and Emma's mum to the Grange and then returning to take Emma and her father. Emma and Stephen also went for a ten minute drive in the wedding car after the ceremony so the couple could spend quality time with each other before re-joining their guests. "Jayne made us all feel relaxed and was a great help arranging my dress for photos by John," said Emma. "John and Jayne worked as a team on the day, and this really showed from the fantastic photos."

"The couple had 100 guests at the ceremony and day time celebrations with a further 40 joining in the evening. Harpist Claire Dibble played during the ceremony as well as entertaining guests while they enjoyed canapés and Pimms afterwards. DJ Daryl Hanson got the party started for the evening part of the



reception, which is one of Emma's favourite memories of the day. "For our second dance, Daryl played (as we had requested) 'Waiting for a Star to Fall' by Boy meets Girl and the rest of the bridal party, friends and little cousins all came up to join Steve and I dancing."

"Emma wore an Amanda Wyatt 'Charlize' dress and accessorised it with a tiara and a 72" veil. She also wore a ring that had belonged to her great grandmother, and pearl earrings which had been a gift from a friend from when Emma had been her bridesmaid. A cheeky touch was added with a garter handmade by Emma's mum."

The personal approach was important for Emma and Stephen so they added additional vows to their civil ceremony as well as some special readings. "My sister Rachel read the poem 'Once in a Lifetime' and Steve's mum read a poem she had written herself about us as a couple, which was beautiful."

The wedding was a family affair with guests pitching in to help with various elements of the day. "My friend Claire made our beautiful wedding cake, my cousin Jim filmed the day for us, my sister Rachel made the jewellery for the two bridesmaids, my sister Joanna wrote the place names and my mum made the beautiful bridesmaid dresses and my garter – very clever indeed!" said Emma. Friend of the family Denise Cannon was responsible for the beautiful wedding flowers which featured cream freesias, roses, lisianthus, demi-orchids and eucalyptus leaf. Emma made all the stationery herself, using turquoise fair-trade skeleton leaves, mulberry paper and turquoise ribbon.

After the wedding, Emma and Stephen unwound with two weeks at the Riviera Maya in Mexico and managed to watch the Royal Wedding on TV by waking up at 5am! On their return the couple visited Stephen's grandparents, who had not been able to make the wedding, taking with them the top tier of the wedding cake, Emma's wedding dress and lots of photos. ■

DETAILS

Venue Mercure Bristol North, The Grange Hotel, Old Gloucester Road, Northwoods, Winterbourne, Bristol BS36 1RP. **T:** 01454 777333 **W:** www.mercure.com
NB The Grange has been acquired by the Mercure hotel group since Emma and Stephen's wedding.

Dress 'Charlize' by Amanda Wyatt from Anne Harding, 90-92 Shirehampton Road, Stoke Bishop, Bristol. **T:** 0117 968 3074 **W:** www.anneharding.com

Groom's outfit Anne Harding (see above)

Cars England's Finest Cars **W:** www.englishfinestcars.co.uk

Photography John Holbrook Photography **W:** www.johnholbrookphotography.co.uk

Harpist Claire Dibble **W:** www.clairedibble.co.uk

DJ Daryl Hanson, Hansonite Entertainment **W:** www.hansonite.com