

# English *elegance*

Jonathan Ashman and Sarah Ellicott  
married on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2011,  
at the Bingham Hotel, Richmond, with  
accents of fuchsia running throughout  
the day

*Images courtesy of Will Dolphin Photography*





## In the beginning...

It's certainly not uncommon to meet your future partner through mutual friends as Sarah and Jon found out after meeting at a party soon after Sarah had moved to London from Australia. Jon says, "For some reason I was outside the front of the house when Sarah arrived, I can still remember her getting out of the cab and giving her a peck on the cheek to welcome her to the party. Within a couple of weeks I could tell we were falling in love – we made each other laugh, we liked a lot of the same things and we felt comfortable being ourselves with each other."

The special moment when Jon proposed came on a romantic holiday. "Our first trip together had been to the Amalfi coast so I decided to take Sarah back there as a surprise," says Jon. "After an evening out, we walked to the top of the steps outside the Duomo, in the main piazza of Amalfi, and I got down on one knee and popped the question."

## Choosing the setting

Finding the ultimate venue to set the scene for such an important day can be daunting, but luckily Jon and Sarah had a brilliant recommendation from a friend: the Bingham in Richmond. Jon says, "We wanted to get

married in London because it is where we met but we also wanted something with character and a classic English feel to it and the Bingham was stunning. The beautiful garden, the view over the Thames and the period building were all perfect. Plus the food and drink were pretty exceptional too!"

## Bridal style

After trying on several gowns, Sarah chose a Maggie Sottero gown called Nicolette. She says, "As soon as I tried it on I knew my search was over. I bought the dress from All That Glitters Bridal, in Wimbledon, and the team was really helpful in finding the right style for me. I wore a mid-length veil and accessorised with diamond earrings and a matching bracelet."

## Groomed to perfection

Jon wore a grey morning suit with silver waistcoat and tie, with complementing pink calla lily boutonhole. The best man was Jon's brother and he wore the same attire. "It was a great honour to be his best man 10 years ago," says Jon. "So he was the only choice for me. The speech was great, he even managed to incorporate a poem summarising the stag do and some of my misadventures, which went

down well. He organised the stag do without giving me too much of a hard time and all my mates were suitably impressed. He was also good at keeping me calm on the day itself."

## Merry maids

Sarah's younger sisters Laura and Susan were bridesmaids and both wore black satin, one-shoulder dresses, from Cue Australia. "The dresses were their choice," adds Sarah. "I just said I wanted something in a dark colour – I knew they would look amazing in whatever they chose."

## Floral fancy

"We wanted a modern design when it came to the flower arranging," explains Sarah. "We wanted bright colours like magenta, purple and red, to complement the fuchsia colour scheme and the bridal party's attire. Katja at Roseberg Flowers suggested arrangements with peonies, hydrangeas, roses, calla lilies, gerberas, dahlias, celosias, gladiolas and contemporary foliage – the flowers looked fantastic, we were really pleased with them."

## Dining delights...

The Bingham is renowned for its cuisine and Sarah and Jon's wedding breakfast was no



exception. For the starter guests were treated to sea bream fillet, young summer vegetables, brown shrimp, and sauce vierge, followed by the main which was Casterbridge lamb, braised baby gem lettuce, garlic mash and black olive and tomato dressing. Finally, the dessert was hazelnut and chocolate marquis, natural yoghurt sorbet, glazed banana and butterscotch sauce. The couple also provided guests with a vegetarian option and a variety of canapés during the cocktail reception.

### ...and the cake?

Very on trend, the couple opted for a cupcake wedding tower by The Vanilla Rainbow Bakery, with rose, daisy and calla lily sugarcraft decorations to match the flower arrangements.

### Memorable music

As Sarah walked down the aisle, *Willie* by Cat Power played in the background, while during the signing of the register, Sarah's sister Susan played saxophone, with a recorded piano accompaniment by their mother, Margaret. The newlyweds left the ceremony to *Heroes* by David Bowie and after dinner a live music duo entertained guests followed by a DJ set.

### Picture perfect

With photography being a key part of the day, Sarah and Jon chose carefully, "We saw some of Will Dolphin's previous work taken at the Bingham and really liked his relaxed and unobtrusive style. We met him over drinks and got along famously. We are absolutely thrilled with how our photos turned out."

### The big day

It's normal to have a few pre-wedding nerves, and Sarah tells us about the final moments before the wedding. "I was a nervous wreck the day before the wedding but I began to relax once I arrived at the hotel with my sisters," explains Sarah. "We went for a walk along the river and had a nice meal at a local pub, which really helped to calm me down. The morning of the wedding was an absolute blast; my mum and friend Liz joined us to get ready at the hotel, and we had a lot of fun. A little too much fun actually – I completely forgot about having to meet the registrar before the ceremony, so ended up being 15 minutes late. Walking down the aisle with my dad was incredibly emotional and I found myself fighting back the tears."

"I wasn't nervous the day before," says



Jon. "I finished my speech and hung out with my family. On the day I felt uneasy, particularly when I got there and saw the amount of people that would be watching. It wasn't until the evening that I finally calmed down and relaxed."

### Saying the vows

"The ceremony was very emotional and happy," explains Jon. "It was incredible to see Sarah walking down the aisle and to tell her how much I loved her in front of all our friends and family. We had readings from Sarah's sister and from one of our best friends who wrote a brilliant poem for us."

### Let's celebrate

"The evening reception went perfectly," remembers Sarah. "Even the rain co-operated around our schedule, clearing up for the cocktail reception, raining during the wedding breakfast and then brightening up in the evening. Our first dance was Jimi Hendrix's *Bold as Love* – it's an amazing song."

Jon's favourite moment of the day was after the ceremony, "We were given five minutes alone straight after getting married. It was nice just to pinch ourselves about what we had just

done. In general I loved the whole atmosphere of the day; there was a lot of love in the room."

### Top tips

- Once you have your venue/s sorted, a lot of the other details seem to fall into place.
- Don't put off going wedding dress shopping, it is less daunting than it sounds.
- If you leave ordering your placecards/ namecards to the last minute, make sure you have a friend with nice handwriting. ♥

## Sarah and Jon's contact book

### Photography

Will Dolphin Photography  
[www.willdolphinphotography.co.uk](http://www.willdolphinphotography.co.uk)

### Venue

Bingham  
[www.thebingham.co.uk](http://www.thebingham.co.uk)

### Bride's dress and accessories

All That Glitters  
[www.allthatglittersbridal.co.uk](http://www.allthatglittersbridal.co.uk)

### Bride's jewellery

Diamond Thrills  
[www.diamondthrills.co.uk](http://www.diamondthrills.co.uk)

### Hair

Lovehair  
[www.lovehair.co.uk](http://www.lovehair.co.uk)

### Groom's suit

Moss Bros Hire  
[www.mossbros.co.uk](http://www.mossbros.co.uk)

### Wedding rings

John Lawrence Jewellery  
[www.johnlawrencejewellery.com](http://www.johnlawrencejewellery.com)

### Wedding cake

The Vanilla Rainbow Bakery  
[www.vanillarainbow.co.uk](http://www.vanillarainbow.co.uk)

### Flowers

Roseberg Flowers of Copenhagen  
[www.roseberg.co.uk](http://www.roseberg.co.uk)

### Entertainment

The Hares  
[www.thehares.co.uk](http://www.thehares.co.uk)

### Invitations

Wedding Invitations  
[www.weddinginvitations.co.uk](http://www.weddinginvitations.co.uk)

### Wedding list

John Lewis Gift List  
[www.johnlewis.com](http://www.johnlewis.com)