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## Wedding Photography Information

The following information covers choosing your photographer, the styles of photographs that can be taken, how the pictures may be presented, my "standard" packages and a suggested check list for required photographs. It has been produced in a style that allows ease of printing and should help you plan your big day.

### **Photographer & Style – decisions.**

The first two decisions to be made are who will the photographer be and what type or style of images do you want? These notes are designed to answer many of the questions that arise when making your selection.


### ***Choosing your photographer.***

On your wedding day photographs cease to be mere photographs and become memories of the occasion. For that reason, the last thing you will want to think about is the quality of the photograph(s) taken and the best way to avoid the worry is to ensure that these are planned in advance.

It is for this reason that the person capturing your memories should be competent, not only to take the required images, but to do so unobtrusively, tactfully and deliver the final package to a high and professional standard.

The bride & groom should meet the photographer at least once before the event and this meeting should take place at the wedding location (church, registry office) and at the reception venue. It is important that you get on with the photographer and this gives you an early chance to find this out. By meeting at the venue(s), you can discuss where you would like the photographs taken and consider an alternative setting should it be raining!

So what can you do if a friend or relative says they now have a digital camera and will take your pictures for free? This can put you in a very difficult / embarrassing situation, especially if the resultant images do not live up to your expectations.

 A professional should be a member of a recognised body – such as the Society of Wedding and Portrait Professionals – and carry full public liability and professional indemnity insurances. They should offer to show you these certificates and not be offended when you ask to see them. It is unlikely that friends or relatives will have this cover so this may be a polite way out of such a dilemma as mentioned above.

The photographer should only commit to one wedding per day to guarantee the time to capture your memories.

What type of camera equipment will be used on the day? There is no need to become an expert in this field but it is worthwhile to ensure that the photographer will be able to bring at least two professional camera bodies and duplicate lenses, memory cards, etc to guard against equipment failure. These days, most photographers are using digital cameras but can they provide film if you want this?

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When you book your photographer are you getting the person you booked or a company that will send out a photographer you may not have met before?

Another issue to consider is the format the images will be taken in. The better digital cameras use what is called a "RAW" format which captures most detail / information and allows the photographer to bring out the best from each image as required during subsequent processing. The downside is that these image files are large and require more disk space and computing power and time to process – well worth it to get a superior print in your album or canvas on your wall.

A frequent question is "How many photographs will be taken"? In many ways the question should be "How many useable or good photographs will be taken"? Modern digital cameras can take images at up to 8+ frames each second so you could have your 500 images in less than 5 minutes! It is unlikely that such "rapid fire" would give you the memories that you want. The answer here is quality, not quantity.

Having said that, I will always have enough memory with me to be able to take at least 1,500 maximum quality RAW files – more than enough to cover the day.

These days nearly every guest will have a camera with them and want to take photographs during the event. Normally this is not a problem, but it may be that the photographer will have to ask an enthusiastic person to step back so that you do not have them in every photograph as well! Again, if you are also having a video made, consideration needs to be given as to where the various parties will stand as they "compete" for the best image!

### ***Style of Photographs.***

There are two main styles of wedding photographs – formal or reportage. In the formal section are the usual posed images of bride & groom with various family members, bridesmaids, groomsmen etc. In the extreme, reportage is a series of candid images taken throughout the day.

Often a mixture of styles is required with formal shots up to the speeches and then reportage covering of the evening festivities. If not already decided, then this is one of the first topics to talk over with the photographer. Each style has its merits and will bring its own questions and require planning.

For formal pictures, how many family members will there be on each "side"? As the photographer will only know the bride and groom, will the groomsmen be available to help "round up" all the relations and friends for the photographs? If you want pictures during the ceremony, will these be permitted? Are you allowed to throw confetti at the venue?

Is there another wedding scheduled after yours (if there is, this can limit the time available to take pictures – especially if the bride is late!)? Taking the photographs – especially a series of formal shots – does take time and must be allowed for.

How much coverage do you require? From the bridal preparations, or with the bride arriving at the wedding venue? If bridal preparation images are required, is there enough time for the

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photographer to get to the wedding venue (and park) to photograph the groom and groomsmen before the bride arrives? (Is car parking a problem at the venue?)

Do you want reportage images of the after dinner speeches and the dance? How late do you want the photographer to stay?

It is worth considering if you want to print the images yourself, have a book / album and do you want large prints on paper or canvas to hang on a wall? Are parent books required?

### ***Image Manipulation***

Do you like black & white or toned images? If you do, can your photographer do these and is this a once off cost?

A labour charge may be incurred for digital manipulation such as having coloured flowers on a black & white image. The complexity of the work required will determine any such charge. Check if removal of minor blemishes is included in a package price.

### ***Choosing your images***

When the day is over and your images have been initially processed they can be uploaded to a password protected area of my web site and the log in details emailed to the bride & groom who may then forward the details to family & friends. These images will normally be on the web site within 10 days (usually much less) of the wedding.

Additionally the bride & groom are welcome to my studio to view the projected images and discuss photo pages, wall prints, parent's albums etc. Viewing them in this manner can make it easier to decide which image(s) should be enlarged.

Note that these images will have had initial processing and many people will be viewing them on a monitor that is not tuned to colour (look at all the different colours on a row of televisions in a shop) and so will differ slightly from the final printed version.

Once the images have been selected, they will be skilfully processed, printed and compiled into a book or framed as agreed.

### **Engagement portraits**

Many couples like to have an engagement portrait and this can be done either in a formal setting of a studio / home or in a favourite location, such as a local park or amenity, which holds special memories.

For all packages, I am happy to take an engagement portrait when we have the first meeting and you are under no obligation to purchase any of the pictures. Should you subsequently book your wedding with me, I will then give you a picture of your choice from the session – this will be a 7"x5" print worth at least £30.

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## Wedding Photography Packages – A Guide

The following packages are suggestions on which to base your requirements. Extra pages in the printed books and digital enhancements are available to make a bespoke package for you. Large prints or canvases are also available. Please discuss these to ensure that you get what you want for your memories. Note that I seldom offer the traditional album with inserted photos. Instead, I use the modern equivalent of having a book printed (by the four colour print process as used in magazines) and bound.

In all cases, the images taken on the day will be placed on my password protected website and the link with password emailed to you. This allows you, your family and friends to select the images they want, let me know and I can then produce the format agreed.

### **DVD Memories**

***from £750***

This, increasing popular, option allows you to have professionally taken images that are processed to allow high quality 7" x 5" prints to be made, put on DVD and given to you in a presentation box so that you can select when and which prints you want.

The standard package includes 4 hours coverage from the bride arriving at the wedding venue to a posed cake cutting before the meal.

Typically 40-50 selected images are processed for your unrestricted use.

### **Silver Memories**

***from £1,150***

Capture your day from bridal preparation through to the start of the meal and include a posed cake cutting. Speeches will be included if these take place before the meal.

Both formal and reportage images will be taken to capture the memories of your day to maximum effect.

A selection of up to 100 images will be processed to allow high, quality, 7" x 5" prints to be made, put on DVD and given to you in a presentation box so that you can select when and which prints you want.

These images will be selectively cropped and enhanced to give a professional look and will be available for your unrestricted use.

### **Gold Memories**

***from £1,450***

This covers from bridal preparation through to the end of the meal – including the "real" cake cutting and the speeches.

Both formal and reportage images will be taken to capture the memories of your day to maximum effect.

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This package includes a luxury 40 page book (10" x 8") where each page may have more than one image per side giving a minimum of 40 images.

Images for the album can be selected from the web or during the studio viewing. Once selected, these images will be creatively cropped and enhanced to give a professional look for maximum impact. Where suitable, and agreed, some images will be available in black & white as well as colour.

### **Terms and Conditions**

A non-refundable booking fee of £300 is required when the booking is made and the balance of the fee is due four weeks (28 days) before the date of your wedding. Should you decide to upgrade to another package, this can be done at any time prior to the wedding.

Various size books are available and often the main book can be reproduced in a smaller size for parents / relatives etc. Pages may be added to the books and the extra cost would be advised when discussing the requirements.

Unless a change is agreed as above, prices will not change once the booking has been confirmed with the deposit and VAT is not charged.

Extra wall prints and canvases may be purchased later as all original files are securely stored.

Travel and subsistence is built in to the packages for all weddings & receptions within a 30 mile radius of Barnard Castle. Any travel outside of this radius may be charged at 40p per mile and will be agreed in advance.

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## Wedding day images – which ones?

Here are some suggestions for pictures. Please check off those you desire, plus fill in special requests you may have for images that you want (don't forget to point out any images you may not want!). This list helps guide the photographer in taking the pictures you and your family want.

### At the house:

- .... Mother adjusting veil
- .... Bride putting on garter with bridesmaids looking on
- .... Bride in dressing room with mirror
- .... Bride pinning corsage on mother
- .... Bride pinning flower on father
- .... Flower girl handing bouquet to bride
- .... Mother and bride
- .... Father and bride
- .... Brothers and sisters and bride
- .... Bride leaving house
- .... Father helping bride into car

### At the church:

- .... Groom and groomsmen
- .... Groom with best man
- .... Best man adjusting groom's tie
- .... Groom and best man checking their watches
- .... Groom with best man and minister
- .... Groom and best man looking at wedding rings
- .... Signing marriage certificate
- .... Bride and bridesmaids in vestibule
- .... Bride's mother on usher's arm
- .... Other people being accompanied down aisle

### During the ceremony

- .... Bride being taken down aisle by father
- .... Father giving away bride
- .... Shots during the ceremony itself
- .... Time exposure of overall area during ceremony

### After the ceremony at church

- .... Bride and groom coming down the aisle
- .... Groom kissing bride at the altar (set up)
- .... Groom putting ring on bride's finger (set up)
- .... Receiving the ring after ceremony
- .... Bride and groom on the steps of church
- .... Getting into car or limo
- .... Shot while seated in car or limo
- .... Mood shots in and around the church or wedding area grounds
- .... Bridal party
- .... Bridal party with brides parents
- .... Bridal party with grooms parents
- .... Bridal party grandparents

