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This page, clockwise from top Cut-outs in jars evoked the Cottingley fairies photographs of 1917; At 6ft tall, Vicky chose a reproduction dress over genuine vintage; guests get into the mood

Facing page, clockwise from top left Vicky and her bridesmaids do the Charleston; Vicky's extensive collection of deco-style vintage tableware and crockery was put to good use; the bride and groom at Treowen in Cornwall, where they held their celebrations; flowers came from a friend's garden

THE 1920s WEDDING *Vicky & Adam Rowe*

We had two key thoughts for our wedding: we wanted to do it on a budget and we wanted to remember my grandmother, who had been a huge influence on me. It was she who ignited my interest in the 1920s by showing me photos of herself in her flapper dresses when I was little.

'She left me her precious silver tea set, so we thought we'd have a tea dance for the reception with her set on the top table. I scoured charity shops, auctions and the internet for the other 60 cups and saucers we needed. At first, I went for any vintage crockery but soon I was looking for pieces with a definite deco style – and before long

I'd ended up with 500 and filled three rooms in our house. I'm surprised Adam didn't leave me!

'I'm a huge fan of the movie stars of the Twenties – Louise Brooks and Clara Bow – I love the haircuts and their style. I think it was an era when women were liberated from Victorian values – they had these 'stiff upper lip' parents and all of a sudden they were out dancing all night in loose clothes! I'm 6ft tall and far from a size eight, so I knew there was no way I would find a period dress, but I was determined to have a really early 1920s look. I eventually found an American firm, Leluxe Clothing, which makes the most amazing reproduction dresses. The prices were so good I



‘Everyone made a real effort. Adam’s dad turned up in a 1920s bathing suit!’

even bought the bridesmaids’ outfits there too.

‘My husband Adam loved it all – he wore a top hat, white tie and tails, also the title of our first dance, accompanied by a 1920s-style jazz band, the Gershwin Gang. We were worried the wedding might start to feel a bit too fancy dress but then we thought, “Who cares?” We just wanted everyone to have a great time – and they did. Because I am so into the period, friends knew the wedding would have a 1920s feel but nobody, us included, really knew how strong it would be. In the end it was a full on, roaring Twenties affair. Everyone made a real effort with their outfits. Adam’s dad turned up to the party in a one-piece 1920s bathing suit!’



VINTAGE WEDDINGS DIRECTORY

From period dresses to delicate china, here's our pick of suppliers for a day to remember

Dresses

A Vintage Wedding

Stunning, original gowns from many periods plus a small selection of designer dresses by Ian Stuart, Charlotte Balbier and Ellie Saab.
01376 334627;
avintagewedding.co.uk

Circa Vintage Brides

As an offshoot of her well-known London fashion boutique, designer Astral Sundholm-Hayes makes bridal gowns influenced by the past, from natural silk satins to taffetas, crepes, and lace. Choose from the Edwardian 'Fleur' dress or the 1950s 'Grace' to emulate the style icon princess.
020 7736 5038;
circabrides.com

The Vintage Wedding Dress Company

Stylist Charlie Brear sources exquisite gowns and accessories from London, Paris and around the world, from the Victorian era to the early 1970s. The company also has a 'Decades Collection' of six elegant vintage-inspired dresses from the 1920s-70s that can have extra details added.
020 7242 4792;
thevintageweddingdresscompany.com

Honey Pie Boutique

This business in Merseyside makes affordable 1950s-style gowns and bridesmaid dresses.
0151 200 3175;
honeypieboutique.co.uk

Candy Anthony

For brides with a bigger budget, these 1950s-style dresses are just the ticket.
020 7803 0898;
candyanthony.com

Heirloom Couture

From 1930s Schiaparelli to Ossie Clark, decades-old

dresses are lovingly restored and reinvented by couture embroidery designer Rachel Spencer. She also has a collection of vintage-inspired, custom fitted gowns.
020 8969 4013;
heirloomcouture.com

Charlotte Casadéjus

Antique French embroidered linen dealer Charlotte creates beautiful dresses incorporating period buckles, beading and lace.
020 7064 1699;
charlottecasadéjus.com

Fur Coat No Knickers

Former West End costume supervisors Laura Thomas and Emma Casarina will give you the star treatment, helping you pick a vintage wedding dress that they can customise and fit to your taste and shape. They also make dresses using vintage patterns to order or from a picture, plus stunning jewellery, headpieces, wraps and boleros.
07814 002295;
furcoatnknickers.co.uk

Shoes

Harriet Wilde

Designer Harriet and her team make stylish wedding shoes with a vintage feel, particularly complementing gowns from the 20s and 50s, and not just in ivory – any colour will do.
020 7682 2316;
harrietwilde.com

Mary Cooper Antique Costume and Textiles

This Harrogate-based dealer sells vintage shoes along with antique lace, wedding dresses, veils, gloves and fans.
01423 508857

Rachel Simpson

Rachel draws inspiration from the elegance



vintage feathers, lace, gems and antique adornments.
07949 050708;
janetaylormillinery.com

Flo and Percy

Based in Essex, this company is named after Florence and Percy, who held the record for the longest marriage – an amazing 80 years. Kirstie Taylor makes vintage-inspired tiaras and hair accessories featuring antique components for a modern vintage chic look, while also selling original pieces.
01277 637143; vintagetiaras.co.uk

Heirs and Graces Jewellery

Bracelets, earrings and necklaces made by Caroline Oliver feature vintage beads and pearls, finished with ribbons.
01243 827270;
heirsandgracesjewellery.co.uk

The Vintage Sparkle Co

This company provides fascinators, original jewellery, vintage bags, tiaras, headbands and combs, plus a make-up service.
07990 588143;
thevintagesparklecompany.co.uk

Pip Hackett

Inspired by 1940s film noir, Victorian romanticism and the roaring Twenties, couture milliner Pip uses antique lace and vintage silk veiling with intricate beadwork and silk feathers to create bespoke bridal hats.
020 7266 4667; piphackett.co.uk

Photography

Rosie Parsons

If peach balloons and sugared almonds make you cringe, Rosie Parsons might be the photographer for you – rock 'n' roll couples are her forte.
07710 827 045;
rosieparsons.com



Devlin Photos

Photographer Lisa Devlin adds a vintage finish to album images to give a faded sepia look.
01273 231047;
devlinphotos.co.uk

Music & entertainment

Shellac Sisters

Four glamorous retrochicks, Jane, Jenny, Theo and Virginia, dress in all things vintage and play 78rpm records on 1920s wind-up gramophones. From big band swing and music hall to flapper favourites and jumping jives, they're sure to fill the dance floor.
shellacsisters.co.uk

Greg's Greats Records

Greg Butler runs his business from Foxton near Cambridge dealing in records and has over 140,000 in stock, original old-style shellac for gramophones as well as vinyl.
01223 872937;
myspace.com/gregsgreats

Jitterbug Jukebox Hire

Supplier of full-sized 1940s Rock-Ola Bubbler jukeboxes that play your chosen range of music, including your own CDs.
01707 646473; jitterbox.co.uk

McVouty Family DJs

These gramophone DJs have thousands of tunes from old swing and blues through to the crooners and rock 'n' roll.
07971 805134;
myspace.com/mcvoutyfamilydjs

London Swing Dance Society

Learn to dance the Lindy Hop, Charleston or Balboa in a class run by the London Swing Dance Society.
01895 613703;
swingdanceuk.com

JiveConnection Dance School

Lessons in East Coast Swing Jive and Jitterbug dance at various venues around Surrey. It can also offer help with planning an event and DJ services.
01342 712145;
jiveconnection.co.uk

Marquees & styling

LPM Bohemia

This Kent-based company supplies traditional canvas pole marquees, faded vintage military and tiffin tents for a village fete look, Indian and exotic styles, teepees and yurts, plus themed interior styling.

0870 770 7185;
lpbohemia.com

Grace and Tailor

Lampshades hanging from the ceiling by ribbon, flowers in jars on an old stepladder, a seating plan in an old suitcase and Champagne cooling in enamel bowls – Grace and Tailor approach interior styling with their inimitable quirky style.
0844 847 0230;
graceandtailor.co.uk

Labelle Maison

From its headquarters in Abergavenny, this company hires out bespoke, hand-crafted Bedouin tents in all sizes that create magical spaces for events.
01873 850100; labelle-maison.co.uk

Crescent Moon

For vintage sparkle, great chandeliers hanging from the marquee and candelabra, Justine Corrie and Simon Gerrard will style your reception, decorating any space with canopies, lighting, furniture and accessories.
0800 083 8480;
crescent-moon.co.uk

China & props

A Most Curious Party

Rebecca Hoh-Hale began collecting vintage ware for her own wedding and, when she couldn't stop, started hiring items for other events, catering for Victoriana, English country fetes, 1940s and Mad Hatter parties. Her collection of tableware, props and decorations include a Marie Antoinette-style dressing table mirror, paper and fabric hanging lanterns, vintage posters and prints, and even a stuffed beaver!
07852 150285;
amostcuriousparty.co.uk

Vintage Tea Sets

Vicky Rowe from Bristol, whose marriage had a 1920s twist (see p56), can theme a wedding for any era. She calls upon photographers, florists, dress-makers, caterers and venues to offer the whole caboodle, along with crockery hire, table dressing, period stationery and favours.
0117 953 2973;
vintageteasetts.co.uk

Utterly Sexy Café

Utterly Sexy Café hires out 30s, 40s and 50s china along with edible art, flowers, foliage, butterflies, birds and lights. It also offers canapés and kitsch and vintage rose wedding cakes, plus original 1950s white canvas marquees, musicians and photographers.

01747 870812;
utterlysexycafe.co.uk

National Theatre

Whether you want a gramophone, lanterns or period chairs, the National Theatre has an extensive collection of costumes, furniture and props that are available for hire.
020 7735 4774; nationaltheatre.org.uk

Wedding lists

The Vintage Wedding List

An online wedding list service set up by Camilla Cobham and Henry Alban Davies, who handpick some of the best and most unusual antique presents on the market, from ceramics, glass and kitchenalia to textiles, paintings and silver.
020 8563 7870;
thevintageweddinglist.co.uk



Fairs

London Vintage Wedding Fair 11th April

This new fair at the 20th Century Theatre, Westbourne Grove, London has vintage fashion dealers from across the UK selling dresses, veils, tiaras and accessories. A make-up artist, hairdresser and fashion stylist will advise brides and family on how to achieve the complete look.
07774 134901;
londonvintageweddingfair.co.uk

The Vintage Wedding Fair 19th September and 14th November

The organisers of the UK's first dedicated vintage wedding fair are holding a second fair in September at The St George Hotel in the northern spa town of Harrogate. A London fair follows in November.
0113 287 6378;
vintageweddingfair.co.uk