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And all that jazz

A country house underwent a Twenties transformation as this couple said 'I do'

TAKE HEART
Vicky's cute cupcakes were made by Angela Smyth (angelascakes.co.uk)



The couple Vicky & Adam

Vicky Osborne, 32, businesswoman, and Adam Rowe, 37, telecoms manager

15 August 2009
Civil ceremony and reception at Treowen in Monmouth in Wales

In the beginning

A brewery tour was the backdrop to the couple's first meeting. "We were both planning trips to Australia so had a lot to talk about," reveals Vicky. They became friends and met up a year later in Wanaka, New Zealand. "On our first date, Adam cooked spaghetti bolognese for us in a hostel!" Five years later, on leap day 2008, Vicky proposed. "I'd always been unsure about getting married full stop, so when I came round to the idea I thought the proposal should come from me. I blurted it out that morning in bed; I was afraid the leap year mentions on the radio would spoil the surprise, plus I was so nervous I had to do it there and then."

The country set

Treowen ("a warren of gorgeous rooms that left us speechless") was the setting for the couple's roaring Twenties wedding. "It was big enough to accommodate our family in the house and the rest of our guests pitched tents outside." Vicky combined her passion for 1920s style with her nan's love of afternoon tea to create a stylish celebration. "I used my nan's silver service on the top table. I just know she'd have loved the day," says Vicky.

The outfits

Silent-film stars Clara Bow and Louise Brooks inspired Vicky's look. Her scallop-hemmed dress, "dripping in glass beading and >





Vicky's dream team

Photographer Graham Morgan (grahammorgan.com)

Additional photography Rosie Parsons (rosieparsons.com)

Venue Treowen (treowen.co.uk)

Bride's dress LeLuxe Clothing (leluxeclothing.com)

Bride's shrug Sasso (sassobridalaccessories.net)

Bride's shoes Rainbow Club (rainbowclub.co.uk)

Bride's necklace Accessorize (accessorize.co.uk)

Bridesmaid dresses LeLuxe Clothing (leluxeclothing.com)

Groom's suit Moss Bros (mossbros.co.uk)

Evening barbecue The Rib Man (theribman.co.uk)

Band The Gershwin Gang (gershwingang.co.uk)

WORDS BY MIRANDA EASON

sequins," was by LeLuxe Clothing. She accessorised with a customised Accessorize necklace ("I added strands of pearls to make it even more flapper-esque") and a hairclip from eBay. The bridesmaids' dresses were also from LeLuxe Clothing and their headbands were made by Vicky. Adam's top hat, white tie and tails were from Moss Bros.

Deco details

Old bottles were filled with beads and paper fairies and borrowed birdcages were decorated with ribbons, old jewellery and fairies. The tables were named after books from the 1920s or with a 1920s link. Cards with the table names were suspended from a birdcage with guests' names on the back.

Tea-party people

Chief bridesmaid Kathryn co-ordinated a lavish afternoon tea using quirky cakestands created by Vicky and period tea sets that Vicky had collected over the years. "We

had dainty finger sandwiches of roast beef and horseradish, egg and cress, ham and tomato, and smoked salmon and cream cheese, followed by fresh scones with strawberry jam and clotted cream, cupcakes and champagne," says Vicky. The evening barbecue was catered by The Rib Man – "It was delicious, he was a really good find."

That's entertainment

The 1920s theme continued with the evening's entertainment. The Gershwin Gang played 1920s hits as guests followed dance instructions one of the bridesmaids had left around the place. "They went down a storm," says Vicky. The following day was the bride's birthday. "A friend set up a big screen and we watched *Slumdog Millionaire* while polishing off the leftover wedding cake and drinking leftover champagne." If you've fallen in love with Vicky's style, you can hire her tea sets and cakestands at vintageteasetsets.co.uk.

GREEN SCENE
Sourcing the food and flowers locally and making their own soy wax candles ensured an eco-chic day





Multi-strand pearl necklace, £20, Accessorize (monsoon.co.uk)



Retro cakestand floral display, from £120, Sweet Pea Floral Design (sweetpeaflowers.co.uk)



The perfect accessory for a 1920s outfit. Hairband, £8, Accessorize (monsoon.co.uk)

“Do your own make-up. I booked a couple of trials beforehand and the beautician gave me stacks of samples”



Vases, £45 for four, The Balcony Gardener (thebalconygardener.com), with Romantic scrapbook images, £2.95 for 50, Mit Hus (mithus.co.uk)

Make a beautiful 'good wishes' postbox. Birdcage, £45, Lovely Favours (lovelyfavours.co.uk)



Nostalgia-themed cupcakes, from £2 each, Comfort & Joy (comfortandjoycakery.co.uk)



Vicky's TOP TIPS

Vicky shares her secrets for W-day style on a shoestring

DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT

Do you want a designer dress, paid bar and elaborate flower displays? All of these things come at a price. Set a realistic budget, work out what you want most, then cut back in other areas to make it happen.

SWAP BARS FOR BYO

Our venue didn't have a bar and we couldn't afford to provide all the alcohol ourselves, so in lieu of gifts we asked guests to bring their favourite tippie. We then took advantage of Waitrose's free glass hire, saving money for a band and a BBQ.

PICK OTHER BRIDES' BRAINS

There are lots of wedding forums out there, such as youandyourwedding.co.uk. If you want to save on something in particular, set up a thread and ask – 200 heads are better than one.

HAVE A TEA PARTY

Compared to a sit-down lunch, afternoon tea has a low cost per head. Get some friends on sandwich duty and ask guests to bring a cake instead of a gift. Collect cakestands from charity shops, make labels explaining what everything is and you're away.

ASK FOR HELP

Maybe your aunt is a cake guru or a friend could make some cracking invitations? I called in favours everywhere and this turned out to be my most effective cost-reduction tactic.

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICKY ROSE PARSONS (ROSEPARSONS.COM). RECEPTION ACCESSORIES STYLED AND SHOT BY KATE HORNBY