



Town & COUNTRY

One fabulous party? Try three! Rory and
Lisa planned a weekend packed with
relaxed, rustic-chic events



The couple
Lisa & Rory

Lisa Ferneyhough, 30, design director, and Rory Breen, 29, business development director

6 August 2011

Ceremony at The Olde Bell,
Hurley, Berkshire

Forget finding a venue – the first task on Abu Dhabi-based couple Lisa and Rory's wedmin list was choosing a *country* for their 'I dos'. "With friends and family spread halfway across the globe, we needed somewhere in the middle that was big enough for all our guests to stay for a weekend of activities," Lisa explains. Enter The Olde Bell, a 12th century coaching inn (recently renovated to luxe effect) perfect for a quintessentially English countryside affair, starting with a riverside picnic and welcome barbecue the night before the main event.

For the big day itself, Lisa and Rory decided on a Town & Country theme fusing elegant and rustic details (think gilded frames and paper lanterns mingling with hay bales and sprigs of garden herbs), with a corresponding dress code. "It was fun and flexible, allowing people to dress up or down," Lisa says. "We had a variety of looks, from summer dresses with wellies to tailored suits with hats."

The groom represented Country in a bespoke green tweed suit, while the bride flew the flag for Town in a glam Britta Kjerkegaard stunner. Fresh florals enhanced the country mood with a sunny mix of craspedia, roses, freesias, chrysanthemums and hydrangeas.

To help pull together three days of events (including a farewell brunch), Lisa and Rory called in top London wedding planner Mary Lee Herrington of Forever & Ever Events. "With countless venue and room changes, and more props than you could shake a bouquet at, Mary was an absolute legend," Lisa says.

And guests adored all the personal touches designed to spoil them rotten – from the vintage handkerchiefs and playful balloon invitations, to the orders of service printed on fans and ice-breaking Q&A booklets at dinner. "It was a fantastic knees-up, with dancing lasting well into the night," Lisa recalls. "When the open bar ended, we carried on with a lock-in at the venue's pub until 7am!" >



SAY CHEESE

A tower of organic cheeses – Dorstone, Cornish Yarn, Stilton and Cheddar – stood in for a traditional wedding cake. It was topped with romantic Victorian-style silhouettes of the couple by stationer Hello!Lucky. Meanwhile, Lisa's best girls posed for the camera in bold saffron dresses, custom-made from fabric sourced at a souk in Dubai.



BOTTOMS UP!

Before the reception, guests were treated to summer cocktails poured from large retro glass drinks dispensers, purchased on eBay. On the menu were Marital Bliss (fresh lemon, water, sugar and vodka), Pimm's O'Clock (Pimm's, lemonade, orange, apple, lemon, cucumber and mint), plus fruit drinks and Coca-Cola in vintage-style bottles. ♥



PHOTO FINISH

"I wanted really soft, warm photographs with natural light, and Chloé Browne went above and beyond all weekend long," says Lisa. "She seamlessly blended in with our guests – everyone thought she was just a really good friend who happened to like taking a lot of pictures! That, to me, is what makes a fantastic wedding photographer."



The dream team

Photography Chloé Browne at Caught the Light (caughtthelight.com)

Bride's dress Britta Kjerkegaard (thecouturegallery.com)

Venue The Olde Bell (theoldebell.co.uk)

Wedding planner Forever & Ever Events (foreverandeverevents.com)

Flowers Chantal Flores Design (chantalfloresdesign.co.uk)

Stationery Hello!Lucky (hellolucky.com)

Cheese cake Tastes Delicatessen (tastesdeli.co.uk)

Bride's hair and make-up Kaz Fernando (kazfernandomakeup.co.uk)

Groom's shirt and tie Liberty (liberty.co.uk) and Spencer Hart (spencerhart.com)

