



It's all in the planning...

HOW TO NAVIGATE
THE WONDERFUL
WORLD OF WEDDINGS.
BY ISABELLE HOLDEN.

Wedding season is upon us. The big day is an occasion in which the loved-up pair can share their bond with loved ones and make a life-long commitment to one another. It's the ultimate expression of everlasting love.

Now and again, the odd pair may elope (each to their own, of course). But typically, the bride and groom invite many people to their weddings. Whichever way they choose to celebrate - whether it's in a big lavish setting or something of a more modest fashion -

the special day is undoubtedly a monumental moment for any couple.

But, of course, behind every great wedding is a wealth of planning. And, usually, a lot of this preparation is down to the wedding party to arrange.

The select few chosen to be in the party tend to be those nearest and dearest to the couple.

We're delving deep into the world of love and considering what being a part of the wedding party really entails. So, if you're looking for bridal party advice, we've got you covered.

Consider the commitment

So, you've just been asked to be a part of the bridal party - now what? Well, first things first, before saying yes to the bride or groom, consider whether you can commit. Each couple will have their preferences as to how much involvement the wedding party have. But either way, the wedding prep is likely to become a big part of your life.

If you feel your schedule is already very hectic, politely declining the offer may be the best option. If saying no seems too awkward, consider playing a small part in the planning and make the bride or groom aware of this from the offset. Setting boundaries from the beginning is essential to avoid becoming too overwhelmed with the commitments the big day will bring.

Some might say that being a bridesmaid is more stressful than being a bride!

Hosting the best hen party

The hen party is always highly-anticipated and is arguably the most important event for any bride and her bridal party - other than the wedding itself. So, take time to organise the best hen do and ensure the bride's last night of freedom is truly unforgettable - what are friends for, right?

First and foremost, consider the budget. Every bridal party will likely



have an idea of the amount they're willing to spend. So consider who's going to be coming. If some of those on the guest list have children, they may be more money-conscious. So be sure to recognise everyone's needs when planning, and ensure all those in the bridal party can afford the plans. No hen can be left behind!

So, whether you're looking to keep things on the cheaper side or if the expense spared is going to be something slightly more pricey, either way you can make it spectacular. After all, what could be better than friends and family joining together to celebrate with the bride?

Each bride-to-be will have their preferences as to what they want to do - maybe a boozy night out is their thing, or even something more refined, such as a group theatre trip or an afternoon tea

with the girls. Or perhaps you're looking to organise something grander? If money isn't a problem consider a weekend away for the bride and her hens. A girl's trip could be just what the bridal party need to unwind before the big day.

Keeping the peace

We all know that getting ready for a big event can be hectic. So, if the planning does become overwhelming, and tensions arise, it's best to be prepared.

Money can be a big factor. Wedding planning does bring some form of financial commitment - there's certainly a lot of gift-giving involved! But, it's vital to remember that not everyone wants to spend the same. So, communication is absolutely key.

Usually, bridal party disagreements will take place away from the bride and groom, and it's best to keep it that way - don't cause the couple any more stress!

Resolve disagreements quickly to ensure issues don't escalate.

Enjoying the big day

The months of planning are finally over, and the big day is here. Today your friends are tying the knot.

It's sure to be extra special, so get ready to celebrate. And be prepared to offer a helping hand if the bride or groom needs it, of course!

