

TAKING THE FUN INDOORS

Q My partner and I are getting married next summer and we've decided that our theme should be full on fun! We love the idea of having garden games, a bouncy castle and even a treasure hunt, but this is all dependent on the weather. If it does turn nasty, can you suggest any good ways to keep everyone entertained inside?

A Helen says: Set up a dedicated activity area for children with games, books and puzzles, as well as non-messy crafts, and award a prize for the best creation.

For the adults, set up a Wii or an Xbox console and provide a selection of interactive games that everyone can join in with – you could even set up challenges, such as bride versus groom or ushers versus bridesmaids, which everyone will enjoy watching!

A traditional pub quiz is an inexpensive option or, if you have some spare cash, hire a photobooth and provide a box full of fun accessories. The shots will make great keepsakes.



www.party-photobooth-hire.co.uk

Filming worries

Q I'm really interested in employing a videographer for my Christmas wedding but I'm concerned that if it rains, he or she won't be able to capture anything outside. As I'm hiring reindeers for the big day, it's really important that the videographer can film outside. Can professionals work in all weather conditions?

A Anthony says: There are two main issues to consider here. The first is ensuring that your videographer is well prepared for all conditions, and has suitable clothing and rain covers for the cameras.

The second issue is the venue itself. If the wind is hailing and the rain is heavy, it's unlikely that any videographer will be willing to film outdoors due to the risk it poses to their electronic equipment.

Therefore, you need to ensure that your venue has vantage points where filming in the dry, or at least with some shelter, will be possible.

If your budget allows, the ideal scenario is to have two videographers, as this will enable one camera to travel with the couple and another to focus on other aspects of the day. Cameras coming in from the cold may become inoperable for a period of time, so it's always best to ensure you have two cameras where possible, especially in less than ideal weather conditions.



www.denisewinterphotography.co.uk



www.peartreepictures.co.uk

Let's go outside

Q I have my heart set on an outdoor ceremony next summer, but I'm conscious that the British weather can be very unreliable. What's the best way to prepare for grisly conditions?

A Clare says: It's lovely that you are planning an outdoor ceremony – it's such a romantic idea. And don't worry; there are quite a few things that you can put into place to ensure that you have a beautiful wedding, whatever the British weather brings.

Firstly, choose a venue that offers an alternative indoor space if the weather takes a turn for the worse. Braxted Park in Witham is a great example of a venues that offers both options. Also, consider having some sort of cover like an open-sided canopy where your guests can sit out of the rain.

If there is drizzle on the day, leave a selection of pretty umbrellas for your guests to huddle under and try to include the fact that they'll be outside on the invitations so that everyone can dress appropriately.

Another factor to consider are your vows. Often, outdoor surroundings make it hard for guests to hear, and if there's wind or rain to contend with, it will be even harder for people to get involved in the ceremony. To solve this, consider hiring a sound system – your DJ or band should be able to help with this.

If all else fails, use the weather as an excuse to acquire more pretty wedding accessories. I love brides who don Wellington boots, and I would definitely recommend Weddington Boots, which can be customised with feathers, ribbons or adornments of your choice. Visit www.weddingtonboots.com

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