

# At first sight

ABSOLUTE real weddings

After meeting in 2003, Kerry and Jamie tied the knot in May 2010 and celebrated at Newland Hall

The bride is slightly sheepish about her first meeting with Jamie Dormer. Kerry Smith first locked eyes with Jamie across a crowded dance floor, at famous Essex nightclub Faces. After spotting him over a number of weeks, they finally swapped numbers and he asked her out, though it wasn't as smooth as they hoped. "I was ill with tonsillitis, and Jamie thought I was blowing him out!" laughs Kerry of their first date. "We went out eventually to the cinema, and it went from there." Jamie proposed to Kerry on the fifth anniversary of their date, on top of a mountain in the Lake District. "All my work friends were hinting that he might, as it was our anniversary and we were going away, but I brushed it off," remembers the new Mrs Dormer. "It was a total shock when he got down on one knee in a puddle and pulled out a ring!" Crying with shock and happiness, she tearfully accepted and the couple spent the weekend celebrating.

## Simple Planning

"We wanted to enjoy being engaged for a while before planning the wedding and saving money," Kerry explains, "so we didn't end up booking a venue for about eight months." Jamie and Kerry had found



Newland Hall via the internet, and viewed a few before choosing the Roxwell venue for their reception. "We had a look at the ceremony location, but really we were set on a church wedding," Kerry adds. "So the wedding planner at Newland Hall recommended a church just five minutes away and we absolutely fell in love with it!" The nuptials took place at St. Michael & All Angels Church in the Essex village of Roxwell, overseen by vicar Karen Best, and the wedding party then moved to Grade II listed Newland Hall for the reception.

"I had a total nightmare when it came to finding a dress," admits Kerry. "I think every girl dreams of their





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wedding dress since they were a child, and I never did. So when it came to choosing a dress I was clueless!" Kerry tried on "hundreds of dresses" in her search in over 10 bridal shops, before visiting The Wedding Shop in Colchester. "The time scale was getting a bit tight as it was the end of January, and the snow was really coming down so I was under a lot of pressure to find 'the dress' that day!" says Kerry. With the timescale and weather against her, it was by chance that Kerry found the right dress. "I saw another bride trying it on in the shop, and

mum and I looked at each other and had 'a moment'," she remembers. "I asked to try it on and this lady had bought that very dress, but I persuaded them to let me try it on, and I ordered it that day!" Kerry also chose her tiara and veil from The Wedding Shop, though her shoes came from Bourne.

## Personal Touches

With the venue and dress sorted, the time came to personalise Kerry and Jamie's wedding day. Jamie and Kerry travelled to London to Hugo Boss for Jamie's navy suit- as he wanted a suit he could wear again and again after the wedding. The best man and groomsmen's suits came from Couture Pour Homme in Gants Hill, and the ties were bespoke to match the Bridesmaid. Jamie grew up with his best man, they even work together now," Kerry says, "and I chose Jamie's sister Jo and my best friend Natalie as bridesmaids." A friend of the bride's mother made the bridesmaids' bespoke champagne-coloured dresses, and the matching gent's ties, as well as the ivory rose-covered cake.

"I found my florist Lindsay Kirkland at LK Lily at a wedding show at Olympia, and her work really stood out," explains Kerry. "We got chatting and she was really open to my ideas, so the flowers really were a collaborative effort." The bride and her maids carried hand-tied poses of cream roses, with different varieties







and shades creating a vintage, English country garden effect. "The centrepieces were so stunning, everyone was talking about them," Kerry remembers. The cream theme continued with the cars, which Jamie chose. The bride and groom travelled in a 1930 Pierce-Arrow, while the bridesmaids arrived in a Rolls Royce. "When we left the church the car got lost on the short journey to Newland Hall, and couldn't find anywhere to turn around in these tiny country lanes!" laughs Kerry. "The whole wedding party was following us and it was ridiculous trying to turn around and find the venue!" the couple enjoyed their champagne and car ride

nonetheless, before celebrating at Newland Hall with plenty of fizz including the meal of Chicken and Champagne sauce.

## Lasting Memories

The couple and their guests danced all night to 70s cover band Love Train, before heading off early to their rooms at Channels in Chelmsford. "One of my favourite memories is the band, everyone loved it and had a good old boogie," says Kerry. The couple left the wedding before the other guests, one of the best pieces of wedding advice she was given by Abby at Newland Hall. "We left on a high, rather than worrying about mess and flowers and seeing the lights come on at the end," she adds. "We were so excited, we didn't want it to end."

The couple jetted off for four days in Dubai and seven nights in the Maldives for their idyllic honeymoon, having just missed days of tropical storms when they reached the Maldives. "Married life is wonderful, though nothing much has changed," Kerry smiles. "Marriage has made us feel more secure." And with precious memories of their English summer wedding, the couple are still on a high, two years later.

### Kerry and Jamie's Little Black Book

**Photography:** The Photographers, Essex Tel. 01277 239797  
Web. [www.thephotographers.uk.com](http://www.thephotographers.uk.com)

**Venue:** Newland Hall, Roxwell, Essex Tel. 01245 231010  
Web. [www.newlandhall.co.uk](http://www.newlandhall.co.uk)

**Bride's Outfit:** Essence at The Wedding Shop, Colchester, Essex Tel. 01206 767359 Web. [www.theweddingshop.co.uk](http://www.theweddingshop.co.uk)

**Groom's Suit:** Hugo Boss, Carnaby Street, London Tel. 020 7851 9370 Web. [store-uk.hugoboss.com](http://store-uk.hugoboss.com)

**Groomsmen and Ushers:** Couture Pour Homme, Gants Hill, Essex Tel. 020 8551 1437 Web. [www.couturepourhomme.co.uk](http://www.couturepourhomme.co.uk)

**Flowers:** LK Lily, Gants Hill, Essex Tel. 020 8554 3342  
Web. [www.lklily.co.uk](http://www.lklily.co.uk)

**Cars:** Arrow Vintage Cars, Essex Tel. 01268 552562  
Web. [www.arrowvintagecars.co.uk](http://www.arrowvintagecars.co.uk)

**Videography:** Crystal Clear Visual, Essex Tel. 01702 531430  
Web. [www.crystalclearvisual.co.uk](http://www.crystalclearvisual.co.uk)

