

A plan and a half

Think wedding co-ordinators are just for wealthy brides? They're just as important for brides on a budget, as *Christina Miller* explains

ALAN & JACKIE RANKINE - PHOTOGRAPHERS

My now husband proposed in January 2012 and the wedding was set for May the same year (we'd been together ten years already – I'd waited long enough!); we had a small outdoor affair with Pimms and a hog roast. There was no fuss, no arm-length guest list, no complicated requests – we just wanted to get married. I had thought that, because it was a small, budget wedding, a wedding co-ordinator would be an unnecessary expense. I (wrongly) assumed that it would be cheaper and easier if we handled everything ourselves. Looking back now, 18 months later, a wedding co-ordinator

would have been a wise investment. When organising your own wedding, there's plenty of time to consider your plans, from huge decisions such as choosing your venue to smaller choices such as finding the perfect shade of green ribbon for your bouquet. It's enjoyable, it's fun, it's exciting – you're getting married! There's a great sense of satisfaction that comes from pulling together your perfect day, regardless as to whether or not you call in help and support during the planning stages. That said, hiring a wedding co-ordinator to take care of the

logistics on the day allows you to completely relax and enjoy your wedding without any last minute panics such as droopy hydrangeas.

My wedding experience proved

Hiring a co-ordinator allows you to completely relax

this theory: life on my wedding day would have been easier with a wedding co-ordinator. As much as I planned and organised everything before the day, some details - large and small - didn't go as planned on the day. (Don't worry, B2Bs; it was still the happiest day of my life!). A wedding co-ordinator would have dealt with any issues (including a catering mishap), taking the pressure off me, my mum and my bridesmaids so that we could enjoy the wedding with no interruptions.

Your wedding day is the most special day in your life. You shouldn't have to worry about decorations being arranged before the guests arrive, or see your parents struggling with chair covers before the ceremony. You and your groom should be enjoying some quality time with the bridal party before the day officially begins; you definitely shouldn't be concerned with the logistics of the day. Similarly, after the ceremony and photographs, the bridesmaids shouldn't have to rush around getting the reception room

ready – by that time, they should be enjoying themselves with a well deserved drink, safe in the knowledge that the wedding is under control, courtesy of either a personal wedding co-ordinator or your venue's wedding co-ordinator. So, if you don't have a co-ordinator of some description, these seemingly trivial tasks fall to your bridal party and in turn, can become a bugbear - even after the day.

It might be that your venue has a wedding or events team, who have been on hand to help you plan your wedding, listening to your requests (however large or small) and taking notes for the finer details on the day - but, unless a venue specifically states that you will be assigned a personal wedding co-ordinator (who will be there on the day of your wedding) then their priority lies with the venue and how the day runs from their point of view. For example, they will do an excellent job of setting the timings, arranging the correct menu and making sure all overnight bookings are confirmed, but they won't magically appear with ten white balloons in time for your photographs or remember to light two dozen lanterns at dusk. To be frank, these finer details aren't in their job description. If you want your dream day to become a reality, hiring a wedding co-ordinator might be money well spent. ■

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BLUE THISTLE WEDDINGS LTD www.bluetistleweddings.co.uk	01738 710360
EDEN EVENTS www.edeneventplanning.co.uk	01738 567892
JORDANA EVENT DESIGN & FLORIST www.jordanaevents.com	0141 337 1117
LITU LTD. www.litu.com	01333 426373
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SIXPENCE WEDDINGS & EVENTS www.sixpenceweddings.co.uk	0131 445 1000
THE WEDDING CO-OPERATION - DUNFERMLINE www.weddingcoop.co.uk	ENQUIRIES@WEDDINGCOOP.CO.UK
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