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A floral fairytale in Cumbria

Rachel Smoker, 32, married Daniel Hood, 33, at St Michael & All Angels Church, Hawkshead, followed by a reception at Rachel's parents' home in High Wray, on 28th May 2016. She says:

We chose to get married at the church I attended as a little girl, and having our reception at my parents' home nearby seemed the natural decision from there.

It was lovely to host our spring celebration surrounded by the flowers in the garden. My grandmother, who is no longer with us, loved Cicely Mary Barker's *Flower Fairies* books and our theme for the day took inspiration from those stories – our tables were named after the fairies, we had special signage made and we dressed the cocktails with edible-flower ice cubes.

I wanted a classic style of bouquet, so lily of the valley felt like an obvious choice. The day's other arrangements were influenced by the flower fairy stories – we used sweet peas, stephanotis, jasmine and delphiniums and the scent was incredible.

We had two wedding cakes – one was a three-tier masterpiece covered in lilies of the valley and made of layers of chocolate and Guinness, lemon drizzle and Victoria sponge. The other was a traditional fruit cake made by our lovely neighbour. Its top tier is now safely tucked away in our freezer.

My top tip: If you're hosting at home, you don't have an army of venue staff to attend to your guests. So if your priority is to spend time with them, or you're worried about leaving them unentertained, ask your photographer to take reportage-style shots as you mingle, rather than separating everybody for individual pictures.



How *they* did it... at home!



OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FARM WHERE THE GROOM AND HIS USHERS STAYED THE NIGHT BEFORE THE WEDDING. THE INVITATIONS, STEPHANOTIS WAS USED TO DECORATE THE CHAIRS. THE ORDER OF THE DAY WAS WRITTEN ON SLATE FROM THE LAST WORKING SLATE MINE IN ENGLAND. THE NEWLYWEDS. **THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE** THE BRIDE'S BOUQUET WAS LILY OF THE VALLEY; HER PEARL AND DIAMOND EARRINGS WERE A BIRTHDAY GIFT. THE BAR WAS ADORNED WITH ARRANGEMENTS OF BOMBASTIC SPRAY ROSES, VIBURNUM OPULUS, WHITE DELPHINIUM, WHITE HYDRANGEAS, ASTILBE, EUCALYPTUS AND IVY. ONE OF THE COUPLE'S TWO CAKES. THE SEATING PLAN. PRETTY FOLIAGE SET THE TONE. THE TABLE NAMES WERE INSPIRED BY CICELY MARY BARKER'S CLASSIC 1920s FLOWER FAIRIES BOOKS



Where they bought it

THE BRIDE Dress, veil, headband and shoes, all lesposedigio.com.

Earrings, mikimoto.co.uk

THE GROOM Three-piece suit, shirt and tie, all dunhill.com.
Shoes, church-footwear.com

THE CATERING Canapés, three-course wedding breakfast, supper buffet and recovery BBQ, karenrhodes.co.uk.

Three-tier cake and stand, thebakeryatnumberfour.co.uk

THE DECOR Marquee and banquet chairs, bakerwood.co.uk. Chandeliers, lightech.co.uk. Calligraphy for invites and signage, calligraphy-for-weddings.com. Natural confetti, shropshirepetals.com. Table names, amoretowedding.com. Slate for order of service, honister.com. All other decor, including table-plan screen, lanterns, hurricane lamps, lounge furniture, escort cards and table decorations, @narrativehire

THE FLOWERS Bouquets, corsages, buttonholes and reception flowers, all brackensofbowness.com. Silk ribbons, lancasterandcornish.com

THE PHOTOGRAPHER melissabeattie.com

THE PLANNER & STYLIST tebbeyandco.com →

