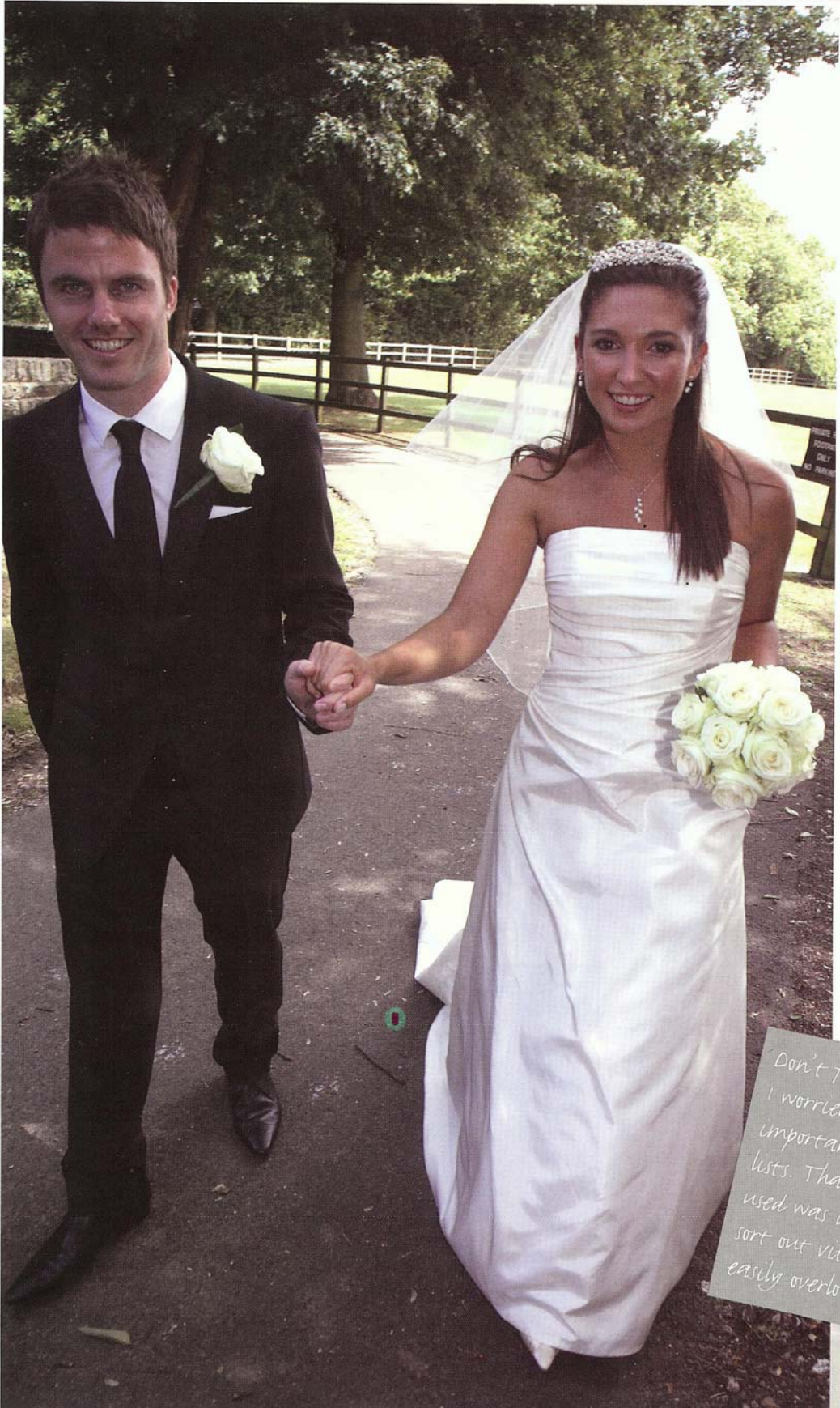


# Our wedding story:



Rebecca Jefford and Robert Power were married in Bredhurst on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Pictures by Chris Townsend

Twenty-eight-year-old Rebecca and Rob, 29, met whilst dancing the night away at Gillingham's The Zone nightclub. At the time, the couple were students at the same school and ended up sharing a taxi home. "The next day at school I just remember it all being very embarrassing," says Rebecca.

Although they never really had a 'first date' Rebecca and Rob became a couple after chatting at the local pub. Finally, 10 years later, Rob proposed.

"Along with Rob's friends, I had been pulling his leg about when he was going to ask me to marry him, and he always said that it would be when I least expected it."

True to his word, Rob popped the question at Rebecca's sister's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday, in front of 100 party goers. "It was a complete surprise," laughs Rebecca. "Rob's usually quite shy."

That was in February 2007 and Rebecca excitedly got on with the planning straight away. "I loved every minute of it," she says.

Here's the couple's wedding story...

*Don't forget the small things... I worried most about forgetting something important and so I wrote hundreds of lists. Thankfully the catering firm we used was brilliant and really helped me sort out vital things that I could have easily overlooked like glasses and cutlery.*

# Rebecca & Robert

*In the car from the church to the reception Rob and I both felt relieved that the hardest bit was out of the way. We'd both been really nervous about the ceremony and so had learned our vows word for word beforehand.*



### SAYING I DO

It was important to Rob to get married in a church and Bredhurst is close to where we both grew up. It is a very pretty little church tucked away in the village. The vicar who married us was a governor at the school that I teach at. He actually moved to a new parish about six months before the wedding and came back to Kent on his day off to marry us.



### KEEP IT SIMPLE

My sisters thought they were too old to be my bridesmaids – they're 41 and 43 – but they changed their minds when I showed them the dresses I had chosen. My best friend Jill was also a bridesmaid and the three of them looked great in their full-length black gowns. Luckily they all really liked the simple style of the dresses. Phew!

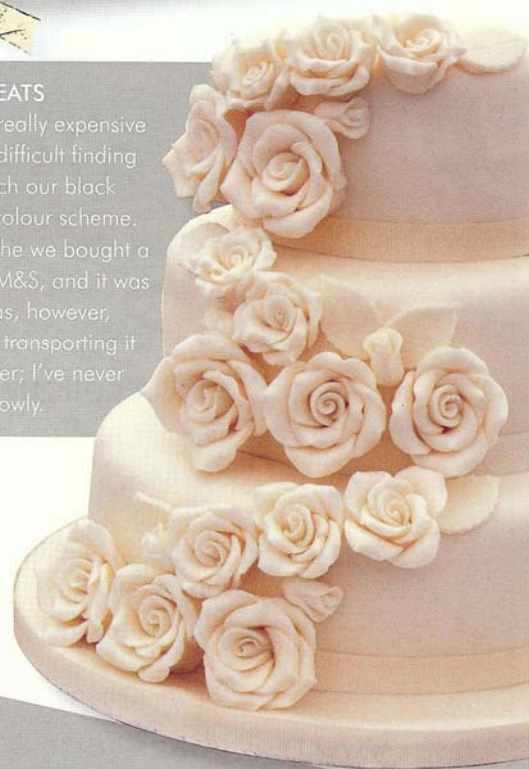


### ON THE MOVE

I hired one car which did two trips to the church, first taking the bridesmaids, and then me, my mum and my brother-in-law who gave me away. Rob and I then went in the car from the church to the venue. I also arranged for a coach to take our families from the church to the wedding reception, and then home after the reception. It was one of my best ideas.

### SWEET TREATS

Cakes are really expensive and it was difficult finding one to match our black and white colour scheme. In the end we bought a cake from M&S, and it was lovely! It was, however, really scary transporting it to the caterer; I've never driven so slowly.



*I recommend... brides-to-be enjoy every second of their wedding from the very beginning of the organising to the end of the day because it's all over in a flash*

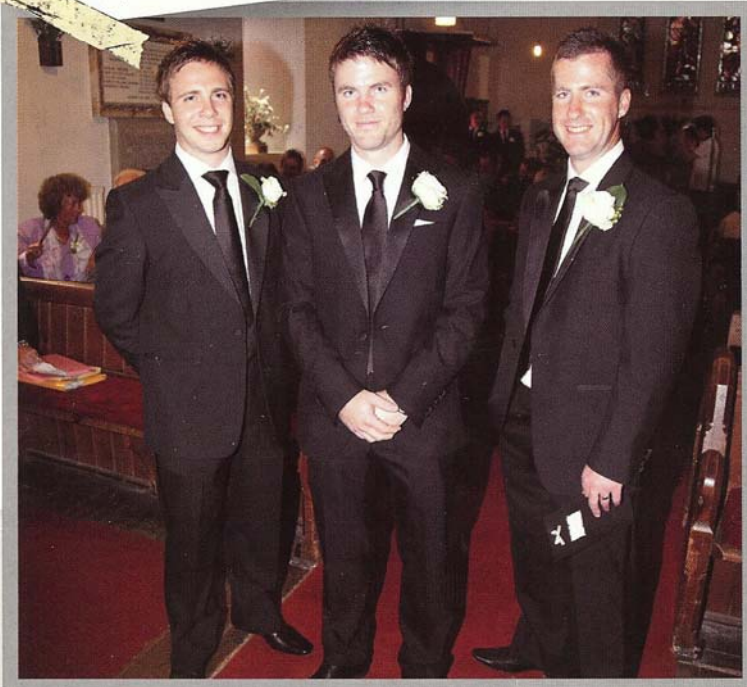


**THE SEARCH IS ON**

I tried on hundreds of dresses. I thought I was never going to find the one. Eventually I found a gown I liked in a shop in Godalming. My mum took me to see it, and although it wasn't right, I did find another one in the same boutique. The woman who served me was brilliant, if a bit brutal – she told me I had a long body and short legs – but she found a dress to suit me. I knew it looked good because I felt like a princess and my mum gasped then cried.

**A HUGE HELP**

We often visit The Duke of Wellington pub in Ryarsh and so I asked them to recommend a good caterer. However, they told us that they could do it for us. They were brilliant from start to finish, helping me to organise everything beforehand and were also amazing on the day, even sorting out a power cut so Rob and I didn't need to get involved. Our wedding wouldn't have been as much of a success without The Duke of Wellington.



**SUITS YOU**

Rob's two best men were his brother and a friend he has had since playschool. My four nephews, my brother and my brother-in-law were ushers. They all looked great in their Rat Pack style getups, and we did splash out on a Hugo Boss shirt and tie for Rob.

*Rob arranged for a three-piece band to be playing when we arrived at Nettlestead Place. They were excellent and really set the tone of the day, helping everyone to relax and enjoy the celebrations. My only regret is that they didn't play in the evening as well.*



#### ALL DRESSED UP

I had my hair done by my usual hairdresser, Joanna. I wanted something simple and not too bridal, and Joanna knew exactly what to do. She does both my sisters' hair too so when it came to the day of the wedding I just told her to do whatever she thought was best, and they both looked beautiful!

Joanna also recommended make-up artist Kirsty. I had a trial about a month before the big day where she tried out different styles, although I didn't want to look too different from normal. On the day she did everyone's make-up including my mum's.



#### THE CELEBRATIONS GET UNDERWAY

We had booked Yotes Court for our reception, but when we returned from holiday in June, 2007 we found a letter waiting for us saying the venue was no longer holding weddings. At first I panicked as the vicar and church were both booked. I called lots of places and Nettlestead Place was one that was still available, so we paid it a visit. Rob loved it straight away, but it was much more expensive than our original venue so I kept trying to put him off. It was stunning though – completely picture postcard...

Our photographer, Chris, was excellent. I liked his pictures and, importantly as we would be spending so much time with him on our special day, I liked him too. He organised our guests really well, and was unobtrusive during the day. He also made us laugh!

#### CONTACTS

PHOTOGRAPHER Chris Townsend [www.ct-weddingphotography.co.uk](http://www.ct-weddingphotography.co.uk)

RECEPTION VENUE Nettlestead Place [www.nettlesteadplace.co.uk](http://www.nettlesteadplace.co.uk)

BRIDE'S DRESS Evangaline Rose [www.evangeline-rose.co.uk](http://www.evangeline-rose.co.uk)

CATERER Duke of Wellington [www.dukeofwellingtonryarsh.com](http://www.dukeofwellingtonryarsh.com)

GROOMSMEN'S OUTFITS Penguins Menswear 01634 843 046

MARQUEE Cavendish Marquees [www.cavendishmarquees.co.uk](http://www.cavendishmarquees.co.uk)

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