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MIDSUMMER MAGIC

Zoe and Jason's big day was filled with fantastic touches to create an enchanting event



the couple

Bride and groom Zoe Young, 25, reflexologist, and Jason Nicholls, 39, company director.

Date 25 August 2007.

Ceremony Civil ceremony at Leez Priory in Chelmsford, Essex.

In the beginning "My brother-in-law Matthew worked for an air conditioning supplier – Jason used to buy his supplies from him and they became great friends," says Zoe. "A few years later, in July 2004, Jason and I met at a family barbecue. My sister and I offered to take two of his daughters to Party in the Park as he was away for the weekend. After the party, I dropped the girls off and was halfway home when he sent me a text and asked me out. From that first date, we have not been apart and I moved in three months afterwards!"

The proposal Jason popped the question in September 2005, although Zoe's initial response may not have been quite what he was hoping for... "When he first proposed we were out for the evening – it was very late and I was slightly the worse for wear!" laughs Zoe. "My reply to his 'Will you marry me?' was 'Can I go home now please?' After spending

the following week dropping hints to see if I could remember (which I couldn't), he finally proposed again on the following Saturday in the kitchen. It wasn't the most romantic of places but I didn't mind!"

the outfits

Bride Zoe's beaded lace dress with satin underneath was from Pronovias (020 7518 8470). "I thought I'd have a straight fitted dress, but ended up choosing something different," she says. She teamed her gown with a Swarovski necklace that her mum had bought for her from House of Fraser (0870 160 7270), diamond earrings that Jason had bought for her 24th birthday, and a bag made by her nan. She also wore a veil and ivory shoes from Pronovias, and a hairslide from Butler & Wilson (020 7409 2955).

Groom Jason had help choosing the suits from our wedding planner Bernadette ▷





"From that first date, we have not been apart and I moved in three months afterwards"





Chapman at Dream Occasions (01376 561544), who was amazing," says Zoe. "The groomsmen wore matching suits with floral waistcoats and cravats, while Jason wore a slightly different shade suit with a patterned waistcoat and a cravat." The suits were hired from Anthony Formalwear (www.anthonyformalwear.co.uk).

Bridesmaids Zoe's bridesmaids were her sister Louise, best friend Luchia and Jason's daughters Erin, Megan and Niamh. All the bridesmaids' outfits were from Marks & Spencer (0845 302 1234).

the reception

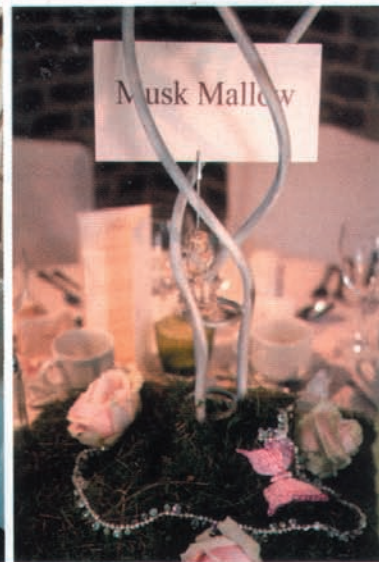
Venue The couple also held their magical reception at Leez Priory (01245 362555). "When I was younger I used to work at Leez and always vowed I would marry there as it is so beautiful," says Zoe.

Theme "The theme was 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' and 'Enchanted Forest', with a colour scheme of pink, green, brown, gold and taupe," says Zoe. "I love fairies so this was also included as they feature in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*." The stunning theme was evident throughout the day, from the aisle flanked by large 15ft birch trees to the fairy decorations and even a fairy hunt for the guests! "They had to find 10 hidden fairies to win a prize," says Zoe. "The prizes were given out by two living statues – dressed as fairies!"

Flowers The beautiful wedding flowers were by Beverley at Jades Flower Design (www.jadesflowers.co.uk).

Photographs by Kerry Morgan (0845 370 1770, www.kerrymorgan.com)

"I used to work at Leez and always vowed I would marry there"



the details
Cake This was by Choccywoccydoodah (www.choccywoccydoodah.com). "It featured hand-carved chocolate fairies, acorns, ivy, roses, owls and toadstools," says Zoe.
Tables These were named after wild flowers.
Decoration Birch trees or old-fashioned birdcages were used to decorate the tables.



TURN THE PAGE FOR FUN IDEAS



Get Zoe's fun look...

Cosmo Bride shows you how to steal her style



Zoe's top tips

- *"Instead of the usual table plan, Donna Michelle Designs (01376 562314) made a tree from willow branches and hung fairy lights and scrolls telling people where they were sitting." If your theme is inspired by nature, make unique table settings by writing guests' names on dried leaves or pretty pieces of slate.
- *"I hired games and cushions to keep guests comfortable and entertained during the drinks reception." If you want to add the fun factor to an outdoor reception, The Garden Game Company (www.thegardengame.co.uk) stocks everything from croquet sets to giant snakes and ladders.
- *"We treated our overnight guests to cupcakes with icing flowers which we left on their pillows." If you're stuck for ideas on what to give as favours, cupcakes can be tailor-made to match your colour scheme.

- 1 Rose bouquet, from £75, Jamie Aston (www.jamieaston.com)
- 2 Zoe's stationery was made by Donna Michelle Designs (01376 562314)
- 3 'Elegant Fairies' fabric, from £2.40, Loving Fabrics (www.lovingfabrics.com)
- 4 Ivy leaves, £1.99 for 12, Confetti (www.confetti.co.uk)
- 5 Cupcakes, £7.50 each, Carolyn Mackenzie (www.carolynmackenzie.co.uk)
- 6 *Fairie-ality: The Fashion Collection*, £25, Walker Books (www.amazon.co.uk)
- 7 *Fairytales*, £60 for 100ml, Lulu Guinness at Selfridges (0800 123 4000)
- 8 Wand, £24, Seychelles Designs (www.seychellesdesigns.co.uk)
- 9 Tealights, £3.99 for six, Confetti (as before)
- 10 Flower clip, £13.95, Cherry Chau at Selfridges (0800 123 4000)
- 11 Wings, £5.50, Fuzzy Kids (www.fuzzykids.co.uk)
- 12 Dragonfly clip, £88, Basia Zarzycka (www.basia-zarzycka.com)
- 13 Lip Glaze in Passion Fruit, £15, Stila (01273 408800)
- 14 Eye and Cheek Palette in 01, £15, The Body Shop (01903 844554)
- 15 Rouge Pots cheek mousse in Water Lily, £14, Stila (as before)