

I can show you how to pop the question

Bernadette launches marriage proposal service

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UNIMAGINATIVE men filled with dread at the prospect of popping the question can finally breathe a sigh of relief.

Bernadette Chapman, 37, from Coggeshall, has set up a marriage proposal service.

Mrs Chapman speaks from experience, having been asked to marry husband Paul in a confined kitchen at a flat in Walthamstow.

Now help is at hand for men who need a bit of assistance preparing for the romantic moment.

Mrs Chapman, a wedding planner and event director at Dream Occasions, will come up with three personalised proposal ideas and make all the necessary arrangements, which could include a hidden film crew.

Reflecting on her husband Paul's proposal, mum-of-three Mrs Chapman said: "Paul had put thought into his proposal, but it was memorable for the wrong reasons.

"We used to live in Walthamstow and he had made dinner and was planning to propose at the table.

"But instead he proposed in our tiny little kitchen."

Mr Chapman, 40, had been meaning to propose on the beach while the couple were on holiday in Zante a week or two



■ Kitchen proposal - Bernadette and husband Paul Chapman, whose offer of marriage didn't go to plan

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“**A successful marriage proposal is not about how much you spend, but rather how much thought has gone into the proposal**

earlier, but the plan fell through.

Mrs Chapman said: "We went out for a meal and he was planning to propose on the beach, but I was stuffed and didn't want to go for a walk.

"So he always says he had planned that, but I ruined it." Mrs Chapman was inspired

to launch her new service after a client asked her advice on how to propose and she heard about proposal consultants in the US.

She said: "A successful marriage proposal is not about how much you spend, but rather how much thought has gone into the proposal."

Mrs Chapman will come up with ideas for £95 with the full service, which could include filming, setting up the moment and co-ordinating family members, varying on application.

THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

● Sean Greenhill proposed to girlfriend Emma Garrad in the skies over Colchester in 2008.

He hired a plane to fly over the town dragging the message: "Emma I love you. Will you marry me?"

● Dean Turner asked girlfriend Emily Hennings to marry him using the Gazette's pages in September last year.

A picture of Dean holding a ring

was accompanied by the headline: "Emily you're the one, will you marry me?"

● Neil Jones, the Gazette's entertainment reporter, proposed to girlfriend Catherine D'Arcy live on television in 2007.

He popped the question while he was a contestant on Sky One's Are You Smarter Than A Ten Year Old?

■ For one night only - Rhod Gilbert is visiting the arts centre on Sunday



Comic Rhod at arts centre on Sunday

STAND-UP comic Rhod Gilbert is set to perform at Colchester's Arts Centre.

The Welsh funnyman will preview material ready for his forthcoming tour and is appearing in the town for one night on Sunday.

He is the latest in a line of big

stand-up names to have previewed material in the town, including Michael McIntyre and Lee Evans.

As well as hosting two series of BBC show Ask Rhod Gilbert, the comic has also appeared on programmes including Live at the Apollo and Have I Got News For You.

He won Comic of the Year in the Time Out awards in 2008 and the Comics' Comic title in the Chorlton awards the following year.

Tickets are £15 and doors open at 7.30pm.

To book visit colchesterartscentre.com or call the box office on 01206 500900.

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