

Whimsical woodland wedding

Vicky and Andrew's big day was the first to be held at a magical new outdoor venue in Thetford Forest

Images courtesy of Stepping Stones Wedding Photography





My four older bridesmaids wore dusky pink full-length gowns and the flowergirls had pretty grey dresses.

My grandad, who was a farmer, had Massey Ferguson tractors that we used to drive as children, so I was delighted to discover Hannah and Jeff had one that I could use to take me and my bridesmaids to the ceremony.

Vicky Cliff and Andrew Harris first crossed paths when he was interviewing her for a job. "Afterwards, I told my mum I hoped I didn't get it as I thought I'd fall in love with my boss," admits Vicky. She was right! However, it wasn't until after six years of being best friends that they finally started dating. They moved in together in June 2011 and on Christmas day that year, Andrew popped the question.

"He proposed while we were opening our presents. It was a complete surprise and, as I'm not a great fan of jewellery, he used a Haribo jelly ring instead. I lost my dad in 2006 and my mum in January 2011, both after a long battle with cancer, so 2012 was a new start," she adds.

They tied the knot on 20th July, 2018 at Little Lodge Farm, home of the newly launched Forest Lodge Weddings, an outdoor venue space set in the heart of Thetford Forest. Read on for Vicky's account of their big day.



My best friends Hannah and Jeff own Little Lodge Farm and I used to go there for holidays with my horse. It's a truly magical place; we were so pleased when they said they were doing weddings and we were honoured to be their first one.



The team from Firefly Tips was amazing and organised everything for us.



Our record favours also doubled up as place names. We made each guest a seven-inch single of what was number one on their birthday and for those that were born before the official charts, we used the top song on their wedding day.



I had sweet peas in my bouquet which were my mum's absolute favourite.



Andy chose the suits for him and his best man and he couldn't have picked better



I chose my Benjamin Roberts Heloise Ivory gown because it reminded me of my mum's wedding dress. I had a bolero made from the same lace and a three-metre long veil.



We had photos of everyone in the bridal party displayed on a board with details of their relationship to us, so everyone knew who they were.



We had buttonholes for my parents along with their wedding photo on a display and lit candles for them and my brother who had also sadly passed away.

"We chose the venue because every time we visit it feels like home plus my parents had both been there so it almost felt like they were there too."



The tables were named after our favourite films.

"We had a glitter bar in the evening which was amazing. Loads of people, including me and even some of the men, had a sparkly makeover."



The mobile bar was kept busy throughout the day.



The children had activity packs at their places to keep them amused during the wedding breakfast.



We used DVD covers for the table names with facts about each film on the back.



There were lots of quirky outdoor seating areas where our family and friends could chill out and relax.



The cake was so much more than we expected and tasted amazing too!



We had a wish table with little wooden hearts for our guests to write on and pop their message in a jar.

VICKY AND ANDREW'S LITTLE WHITE BOOK

Photography | Stepping Stones Wedding Photography | steppingstonesweddingphotography.myportfolio.com

Videography | Aspire Aerial Media | aspireaerialmedia.com

Venue | Forest Lodge Weddings | facebook.com/forestlodgeweddings

Tipis and styling | Firefly Tipis and Dreamcatcher Prop Hire | firefly-tipis.co.uk

Bride's dress | Confetti & Lace | confettiandlace.com

Hair and make-up | Makeup by Rosie | facebook.com/makeupbyrosieid

Bridesmaids' dresses | Quiz | quizclothing.co.uk

Flowergirls' dresses | Roco | rococlothing.co.uk

Groom's suit | Debenhams | debenhams.com

Flowers | Fig | figflowers.co.uk

Cake | Sweet | sweet-catering.co.uk

Catering | Lenwade House | lenwadehouse.co.uk

Mobile bar | The Wonky Donkey | wonkydonkeybar.co.uk

Table and chairs, cutlery and crockery hire | CMA Hire | cmahire.co.uk



EXCITING NEWS!

LITTLE LODGE FARM | Sanford Downham | Brandon | Suffolk IP27 0TY | 01842 813488

Forest Lodge Weddings, Fire Fly Tipis have collaborated to create the ultimate woodland wedding venue - your wedding your way!

Imagine your big day in a romantic setting all around, surrounded by nature with the trees as your canopy. Set to realise woodland wedding dreams for couples looking to embrace the great outdoors.

Set in a secluded private woodland at Little Lodge Farm in the heart of Thetford forest.

Forest Lodge Weddings has joined forces with the amazing Firefly tipis who offer couples the entire wedding package to create your ultimate dream wedding.

The traditional Nordic giant hat tipis and rustic props coupled with the artistic flair of our team take away the stress and strain of organising a wedding. With our expert knowledge of the industry and contacts you can be sure that no stone is left unturned.

Rustic, bohemian and classic weddings can all benefit from this magical and mystical setting in the forest.

The horse friendly venue invites couples with horses to bring their beloved animal along to the ceremony or make their entrance atop their horse.

We aim to be licensed to hold legal ceremonies for spring 2019 but until then we can host your wedding celebrant.

Guests can camp-on-site also with tents or caravans. The venue does have three wooden lodges also which do get booked up very early!

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