



"We wanted the best wedding we could have, but on a budget. Everything was paid for ourselves, splitting it 50:50. We had planned to spend over £8,000 but in the end it cost just over £5,000. We found it fairly easy to budget, despite being horrified when we found out how much some supplies cost! In fact, we had the planning so well under control we could even afford a little socialising with some early guests the day before.

Our advice is ask friends about suppliers and follow their recommendations – it really worked for us. Often there were alternatives to spending a fortune. We saved money on the meal by having a midweek wedding. We also gave very personalised cards to everyone who helped; these were appreciated much more than token gifts. As we had the skills, we created a wedding website ourselves and used email extensively – this saved us time giving out information and directions etc. Also, people asked us if there was anything they could do – we had friends helping in providing transport, decorating the cake and helping to make favours and place cards. They were only too happy to lend a hand; it makes them feel part of the day. We have no regrets, we had a great day and nobody could tell it was so economical!"

BIGGEST EXTRAVAGANCE: Photography @ £430

BEST BARGAIN: Wedding transport @ £15