

Getting married?

...then get yourself
to the largest
wedding fair
in Worcester
this Sunday

Wedding

— fair 2008 —

This Sunday 10th February

Fownes Hotel

City Walls Road, Worcester WR1 2AP

11:00am - 3:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

Details of businesses exhibiting at this years Wedding Fair can be found inside this event guide.

spring wedding fair 2008

For further information please contact **Sara Matthews** on **01905 742220**

www.worcesternews.co.uk/newspaperevents

Brought to you by **Worcester News**

In association with



Fownes Hotel

Our wedding fair is the place to be if you're planning on tying the knot

THERE are just three days to go until this year's Worcester News wedding fair opens at the Fownes Hotel in Worcester.

This is the sixth year that your Worcester News has organised the event in conjunction with the hotel, in City Walls Road and everything it is set to be an exciting day.

Fownes Hotel in the very heart of Worcester is the perfect venue for couples to tie the knot in style. Assistant manager Julie Merrick said: "I am very excited about the fact I am going to meet so many future brides and grooms - and am sure it is going to be a great day."

The hotel has a licence to hold civil ceremonies, so brides and grooms have the opportunity to check it out as a venue for their ceremony and reception while they are visiting the bridal fair.

It can arrange receptions for any number of people and there is a picturesque spot in

the grounds for taking those all-important photographs.

Sara Matthews, events manager for the Worcester News, said: "We are really looking forward to the popular event which will be packed with exhibitors. Brides and grooms-to-be, who register their details when they arrive at the hotel, will also be in with a chance of winning prizes."

"They could be the lucky winner of a tiara and jewellery, or scoop a makeover. Other prizes on offer include car hire and vouchers."

This year's event starts at 11am on Sunday, February 10, and finishes at 3.30pm. Both the event and parking is free.

Visitors are advised to take cash and cheque books because credit card facilities will not be available on the day.

For more details contact Sara Matthews on 01905 742220 or visit

www.worcesternews.co.uk/newspaperevents
LUCY TATCHELL



The Fownes Hotel, City Walls Road, Worcester, has a licence for civil ceremonies. 05134703



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Help in choosing the honeymoon is at hand

CATHERINE Thorburn at Travel Counsellors believes that a honeymoon should be the most magical holiday of a newlywed couple's life, giving them time to unwind and enjoy each other's company after all the excitement of their wedding day.

Just as their choice of venue for the wedding reflects their own personalities, they will want a honeymoon destination that suits them both.

Choose from romantic beach destinations, or perhaps consider a two-centre holiday combining sightseeing or even a safari with a stay on the beach.



Catherine Thorburn can help you find a romantic honeymoon destination.

Why not take in several destinations at once aboard a luxury cruise ship?

If you are getting married, but already have all the bed linen and crockery that you need, why not

put your honeymoon on your wedding gift list instead?

Ms Thorburn said: "Our popular bridal registry service is an alternative to the more usual department store list and allows guests to contribute towards the cost of your holiday of a lifetime."

"Join me on Sunday, February 10, at Fownes Hotel to discover more about this unique service."

With almost 20 years of experience Catherine Thorburn is sure to be able to help and advise couples in planning their honeymoon and finding a perfect holiday destination.

For further details contact her on 0845 058 7562 or e-mail catherine.thorburn@travelcounsellors.com

Couple provide the icing on your celebration cake

A **COUPLE** will be hoping the wedding fair will quite literally be the icing on the cake for their business.

Adam and Nicky Fendt of Confetti Cakes in Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, create a delicious range of wonderful wedding cakes, celebration, birthday and christening cakes.

Theirs is the ideal partnership – Adam bakes the cakes and specialist Nicky then decorates them. Chocolate cakes have been particularly popular at weddings

recently but the couple produce a wide range of smaller cakes, cookies, fudge cakes, luxury carrot cakes, vanilla sponges, novelty cakes and walnut cakes.

Brides and grooms can suggest ideas to a Adam and Nicky about how they want their wedding cake to look and the couple design it. Confetti Cakes also organises wedding cake delivery across the UK. For more information contact www.confetticakes.co.uk or telephone 01684 297220.

JAMES CONNELL



WHO'S WHO AT THE WORCESTER NEWS WEDDING FAIR 2008

The following companies will be exhibiting at the Worcester News Wedding Fair 2008 to be held at Fownes Hotel on Sunday, February 10:

All About Marquees.
Alpha Limousines.
AJ-Imaging.
Armstrongs.

Beautiful Wedding Photos.
Berketex Bride.
Bridal Gallery.
Buds and Bows.
Caroline Ede The Flowers.
Chris Downton Photography.
Christian Fletcher.
Colour Confidence.
Confetti Cakes.
Daisy B Nell.

Deputy Driver.
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Edinburgh & Waterford Crystal.
1860 Suit Hire at Greenwoods.
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Kingsmoor Carriages.
Magenta Designs.
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Nicholas Smith.
Once Upon A Party.
Paper Kisses.
PhotoBiz.
Pure Bridal.
Pure Platinum Executive Cars.
Rochelles.
Royal Worcester.
Slimming World.
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West Country Marquees.
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Cost for initial Colour Consultation - £35.00
Wedding Day Make-up Lesson - £15.00

Ensure you feel and look fabulous on your special day - book your consultation with **Cheryl Phillpott - 01905 358 212**
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Flowers are grown in the artist's very own garden

CAROLINE Ede is guaranteed to bring a fresh and individual approach to the floral arrangements for your special day. As a practising artist and textile designer with commissions for Libertys and the Royal Academy, Caroline has combined her artistic eye and love of all things English with her passion for growing flowers to create her new enterprise, The Flowers.

Living and working near Hereford, Caroline Ede prides herself on the natural country look she brings to all her floral arrangements, which she creates with love, care and individuality.

She assures customers that some of the raw ingredients in her florist's palette are grown in her own garden, while others, wherever possible, are sourced locally.

Meet Caroline Ede and take a look at some of her designs at the Worcester News Wedding Fair at the Fownes Hotel on Sunday, visit her website at www.carolineede.com or telephone her on 01544 387923. **JACKIE HARRIS**

Gift list service is tailor-made

ROYAL Worcester Spode offers a tailor-made wedding service for all brides and bridegrooms-to-be. Happy couples can create their lists of china, crockery and cookware on offer and the team at Royal Worcester will handle the rest.

Angela Lockyer, manageress of bestware, said that having a wedding list with the company means couples can have a dinner service for those special occasions, kitchen utensils to cook with and crystal glasses and cutlery to eat and drink with. And they can choose between Arthur Price, Royal Worcester, Edinburgh and Waterford ranges.

She said: "Once the couple have registered the wedding list we handle the free delivery and gift wrap."

Royal Worcester handles each couple individually to talk them through what they should have on their list.

Mrs Lockyer said: "I love the individual approach. I find lots of young brides do not know the ins-and-outs, they are very aware that some of our range is quite expensive, so we go through the range with them."

"Then when someone phones up to order we advise them on



Angela Locker with some of Royal Worcester's wedding collection. Picture by John Anyon. 06299101

what they should buy." But what if at the end of the wedding the couple have an incomplete list?

Mrs Lockyer said many couples receive money as a

wedding gift and for this reason the list can remain open for six weeks after the special day so they can spend the money on other gifts which they might need.

A list is also provided for the married couple telling them who bought what and their address, making it easier for thank you letters to be written. **LUCY TATCHELL**

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- Tel: Laurie 07790 715465
Warndon Community Centre, Shap Drive, Warndon
10.30 a.m. - Tel: Shirley 01684 833679
Oldbury Park School, St John's 6.00 p.m.
- Tel: Sam 01905 350243

WEDNESDAY
Claines Church Hall, Cormeado Lane 6.00 p.m.
- Tel: Sue 01905 20682
Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School, Bransford Road,
St John's 5.45 p.m., 7.30pm. - Tel: Clayton 07782 242710

THURSDAY
Lppard Grange Community Centre, Warndon Villages
12.00 p.m., 6.30 p.m. - Tel: Sue 01905 20682
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Visit us at: www.2haveand2holdforever.com

New collection will be at the wedding fair

ONE of the largest bridalwear retailers in the UK will bring cutting edge elegance to this weekend's wedding fair at the Fownes Hotel.

Berketex Bride now has more than 30 stores nationwide and is excited to be involved in the wedding scene in Worcester after the company opened its new store in the heart of the city.

Finding that perfect dress is a special occasion for any bride-to-be, but with Berketex Bride they will have a truly memorable experience – and that perfect dress for their perfect day.

A spokesman for Berketex said: "We especially look forward to welcoming new brides to our store in College Street and bringing our many years of collective experience in the bridal arena to Worcester."

Berketex Bride offers

traditional gowns with stunning, hand-worked beading, fairytale princess styles with acres of frothy tulle and crystals and even contemporary shorter length dresses to help brides find their perfect dress.

At Berketex brides can choose what individual style suits them – princess, ball gown, column, Empire or fishtail – and how it will work with the setting for their wedding – church, a civil ceremony at a hotel or a stately home or a romantic beach location.

For more information about Berketex Brides visit Sunday's event or contact the Worcester showroom on 01905 670005.

To view the collection simply visit the website www.berketexbride.com or contact your nearest Berketex Bride store to arrange an appointment.

JAMES CONNELL



This stunning bridal gown is one of the many available at Berketex.

Designs to suit fairytale and romantic brides-to-be

FAIRYTALE brides and their grooms have the chance to look their glamorous best on their big day in the style of their choice.

2 Have and 2 Hold stocks a wide range of the latest fashions for brides, grooms and bridesmaids.

The company, based in Kidderminster, offers modern and traditional styles from romance to fairytale from designers like Benjamin Roberts, Nicola Anne, Hollywood Dreams, Ginnis, Mori Lee and Tiffany Bridal.

2 Have and 2 Hold stocks an extensive array of tiaras, jewellery, feathers and shoes and menswear from waistcoats to kilts.

Some of the latest designs will be on display at the wedding fair because 2 Have and 2 Hold exhibits 20 to 30 dresses from this season's must-have collection.

For more information visit www.2haveand2holdforever.com

The showroom is at 89 New Road, Kidderminster, telephone 01562 752545.

JAMES CONNELL



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Choice of menswear follows latest trends

ARMSTRONGS of Worcester has been providing high-quality menswear for 240 years and for the last 30 years it has had a very successful hire wear department.

Owner Simon Hyslop said: "Hiring from Armstrongs means that you will try on the exact suit that you will hire, as we have our own stock rather than measuring you up and ordering them in."

"This also means that we can assess the clothing, ensuring it's always of a very high standard."

The store, in Sansone Walk,

Worcester, is always developing stock and keeping an eye on the latest trends, the newest addition being a luxury lightweight pure wool black tailcoat. Armstrongs' good reputation is well-deserved. The staff are all fully-trained to ensure that a customer's suit is the perfect fit for the big day.

Mr Hyslop said: "We give our customers a lot of personal attention, whether they are hiring a suit from £30 or buying a £500 outfit. It could be a customer's first experience of a gentleman's outfitters so we ensure that it is a pleasurable one."

"We offer an alteration

service from our in-house tailoring department, so whether it's for a wedding day or for a school prom, you will look your best."

As well as the formal hire department, Armstrongs has a great selection of casual clothes available in its menswear and ladies wear departments.

Mr Hyslop said: "We offer traditional service and attention in a very contemporary atmosphere with fashionable stock."

"There is everything from studs for collars through to the latest designers."

LUCY TATCHELL



Let Armstrongs of Worcester measure you for the all important wedding suit.

Photographers adopt an observational approach on the day

CHRIS Downton Photography is run by husband and wife team Chris and Helen Downton.

Mr Downton, a member of the Master Photographers Association, said: "We love meeting people and being part of their special day."

"Digital technology has

changed wedding photography beyond recognition, allowing far more scope for creativity and enabling us to produce pictures of consistently high quality in a variety of styles."

The business is based in the village of Hanley Swan, near Malvern.

Mrs Downton describes their approach as 'observational'.

She said: "We record the story of each couple's day as it unfolds and are constantly on the lookout for images which above all capture emotions and expressions"

Mr and Mrs Downton

recommend couples get to know their photographer before the wedding, choosing someone who they really get on with.

Mr Downton said: "We build up a rapport with our couples beforehand, so they're comfortable with us on the day - that way, their pictures look

natural and relaxed. We keep in the background to a large extent - we're there to record couples' special day, not direct it; although we offer guidance, we really try not to be intrusive."

For more information call 01684 311692
CLAIRE FRY

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Anne can show you how to personalise the stationery

BRIDES who want to create their own individual wedding stationery under the guidance of an expert need look no further.

Anne Noble of Virtu personalised stationery is offering brides-to-be and their entourage the chance to spend an enjoyable day putting together their own invitations at her home in Albion Road, Malvern - with lunch included.

Mrs Noble, who has been designing and making personalised stationery from her home studio since 1997, is launching this unique service at the Worcester News Wedding Fair at the Fownes Hotel on Sunday, February 10.

She said: "I often have brides telling me that they would love to make their own stationery but simply don't have the time. Now I can offer them the ideal opportunity to get more involved in the process and have fun at the same time.

"All they need to do is set aside a day and bring up to five family members or friends. I will provide all the materials



Anne Noble with some samples of the wedding stationery she provides through her company Virtu. Picture by Simon Rogers. 06299401

they need to create the design they have chosen, and print out the wording they have decided on so that all the stationery can be finished off in one session.

"The day will also include lunch, so everyone can relax

and enjoy the whole experience.

For many brides-to-be this really will give them a sense of satisfaction knowing that they have played a part in sending out truly personalised

invitations to their guests."

For further details, call Anne Noble at Virtu on 01684 568953 or 07720 804594 or speak to her in person at the Fownes Hotel on Sunday.

JACKIE HARRIS

Company can provide the marquee and setting

IF you are planning to hold all or even part of your wedding celebrations under canvas then All About Marquees will help you realise your dream reception.

The firm offers customers a complete package, from a small marquee in the garden to a fully-equipped one that is lined, floored and decorated to a couple's specification. It also has a wide variety of chairs, tables, colour schemes and layouts to suit specific needs.

Many people dream of a marquee wedding but may have to settle for a function room in a local hotel because they don't have the space at home. All About Marquees has a variety of venues all set against beautiful backdrops to make that wedding dream come true.

The firm can cater for parties from 40 to more than 400 plus, and owner Noel Lewis said: "There is nothing we can't do. If you want it we can provide it."

All About Marquees will be providing the marquee at the wedding fair - so visit and see for yourself.

LUCY TATCHELL



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