

Love... in black and white

The new Mrs Emma Swingwood tells the story of her wedding to the boy she met at school

The bride and groom

Emma Mottershead and Michael Swingwood.

Occupations

Emma: Respiratory Physiotherapist.
Mike: Marketing Manager.

The parents

Andy and Sheila Mottershead and David and Julia Swingwood.

The best man

Paul Swingwood, Mike's brother.

The attendants

The bridesmaids were Hannah Newton (school friend) and Nicole Morgan (university friend). The ushers were Tom Bodkin and Matt Wall (school friends), Dan Webb (university friend) and Tim Mottershead (Emma's brother). Our wedding party was made up of a group of our closest friends who all know each other from school (Tettenhall College) and Nottingham Trent University. Having all of our friends there as part of the wedding party was really special.

Where and how did you meet?

At school (Tettenhall College) in the sixth form. Unplanned, we both went to Nottingham Trent University for three years. I then went to King's College, London to do my Masters, while Mike did his in Birmingham. Two years later we finally ended up in the same place at the same time. Nottingham. Mike proposed after seven and a half years while we were in the Lake District.

The wedding and reception

The wedding ceremony was at St Michael's And All Angels Church, Penkridge. This church is situated in my home village and was also connected to my first school. It is such a beautiful church and I always imagined getting married here. It is also where Mike's brother Paul got married. The reception was held at Moddershall Oaks, near Stone. We chose this venue because of its picturesque location and its young and modern atmosphere. We had a marquee in its grounds which enabled us to decorate and make the most of our black and white theme.

The bride's gown

By Caroline Castigliano.

The groom's suit

From Peter Posh, Telford, white tie and tails.

The bridesmaids' dresses

Black with white/ivory trim from Coast.

The flowers

The bouquets and buttonholes were all white calla lilies. Topiaries and heart-shaped wreaths followed the black and white theme containing white calla lilies, white vintage roses, black and white ghost leaves and greenery. We were so pleased with the flowers from Alison Wharton, Shifnal, they were beautiful.

The photographer

Mark Robinson, tel: 07733112130
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Special touches

I treated myself to a pair of Jimmy Choos.



Our car was an old, stretched, white Beetle which was so much fun to go in – it made everyone smile as we passed them.

Instead of name places we had a black and white photo of every single guest on their table where they were to sit.

The day

Father Mick led the church service, and kept it all very light-hearted and enjoyable. While we were signing the register, we had a school friend to sing some of our favourite songs (*Your Song* by Elton John; *Heaven* by DJ Sammy and *She's The One* by Robbie Williams). So many positive comments were made about his service.

Our Beetle car then took us to

Moddershall Oaks where we were greeted with garden games and Kir Royale. Our wedding breakfast consisted of Monkfish and Parma ham kebabs or melon and fruit coulis to start; Roast Beef and all the trimmings or Tian of roasted vegetables with red pepper coulis followed by Profiteroles or Apple tart for pud. During the speeches we drank more Champagne and ate our vanilla sponge with white chocolate and Champagne ganache filling wedding cake (Heather Higgins, Brewood). We made sure that as many things as possible fulfilled my chocolate obsession.

The evening entertainment was by Souled Out 2 Funk, a 12-piece jazz/soul band who got everyone dancing...my Nan

(at 84) was dancing all night. To round the night off we topped up our energy levels with bacon butties.

Where was the honeymoon?

We had a 'honeymoon' in Bath and Bristol, and are planning a trip to Australia for the New Year when it's hot.

What is your most precious memory of the day?

We were really nervous about the church ceremony but actually once we were in there and saw each other we felt fine. Knowing that everyone was there to share the day with us was such an amazing feeling and really quite flattering. ■