



BALLYGALLY  
CASTLE

# *Your Wedding*

**Couple's Names:** Nathan Lyons and Deborah Lyons

**Wedding Date:** Friday 16th July 2021

**Ceremony @** Greenisland Church of Ireland

**Reception @** [Ballygally Castle](#)

**Photography:** [Mark Barnes Photography](#)

**Videography:** [Rabbit and the Fox Films](#)

## The Couple

### **How you met & when:**

We met in summer 2016, in Thompson Primary School, working at a summer scheme for Newtownabbey and Antrim Borough Council. I started talking to Nathan first and made the connection that his mum was a principal in a school that I had completed a Stranmillis teaching placement at. We spent the summer chatting and getting to know each other! Nathan then told me that he was moving to Plymouth to do a PGCE in Science. In September 2016 I flew over to Plymouth to visit Nathan and he asked me out on the 18th September on a beautiful beach in St.Ives in Cornwall. From the very beginning we knew we were going to make the long distance relationship work as in our hearts we wanted to be together forever. I was finishing my Primary teaching degree at Stranmillis as we were flying back and fourth to see each other at least once a month (we always lived for the countdowns). Finally in December 2018 Nathan came back home to Northern Ireland!



## **The Proposal**

Nathan planned a big trip to the West Coast of America in summer 2018. We went to San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Monterey and then on to Lake Tahoe. When we were in Lake Tahoe on the 7th August 2018, we went for a walk around Emerald Bay State Park. It was so stunning! On the walk back, Nathan told me to go and stand beside the lake to take a photograph and when I turned round, he was down on one knee with the most gorgeous ring asking me to marry him! It was honestly the most perfect proposal. We then got to FaceTime all of our family and friends the next morning because of the time difference, it was all so exciting!



## **The Day**

### **Venue:**

As you can tell, we have a bit of a recurring theme... We like to do things by the sea / water! We loved the fact that the Ballygally was right beside the sea and the beach. It was the most perfect setting for our wedding. The grounds were out of this world, the flowers, the courtyard area, everything! We were sold on it all. The staff at the Ballygally were always so helpful and all of our guests said they felt as though they were treated like Royalty on our wedding day. The food was just out of this world and everyone complimented on what a great day they had at the Ballygally. The breakfast the next morning was unreal and the staff were so kind to all of our guests and ourselves! Thank you team Ballygally for everything.



**Theme:**

Elegant / Classy

**Wedding Planner/Stylist:**

Fairytale Designs decorated the ballroom at the Ballygally with drapes and lights on the windows, chairs, table covers, napkins and floating candles.

**Wedding Dress:**

I got my wedding dress from LA Bridal in Carrickfergus. I had tried on other dresses in different shops but I never got that 'this is my wedding dress' feeling. My mum suggested that I tried on a dress in LA Bridal and when I put it on we all cried as I just knew that it was 'the one' and I said yes to the dress! It was such a lovely time with my mum and maid of honour. I loved everything about my wedding dress, it was definitely my dream wedding dress.

**The Bridesmaids:**

I got my bridesmaid dresses from an online store called 'Rewritten'. They were perfect and matched the underlay of my dress so well!

**Groomswear:**

The men's suits were from Hire Class in Belfast. I always wanted Nathan in a navy suit and wanted to keep the style classy and elegant! All the men looked great, especially my husband!



### Decor

**Wedding Flowers:**

I knew from the very beginning that I wanted Floralearth to my wedding flowers. I got my dream wedding flowers on my dream wedding day. Flowers were always so important to me on my wedding day as I wanted there to be flowers everywhere, in the church and in the Ballygally. There certainly were flowers everywhere and they were just out of this world! From the bouquets, to the floral pillars outside the church, the men's button holes and the top table flowers...WOW!

**Room Decor & Table Plan:**

Fairytale designs completed our room décor and it was just stunning!

**Stationary:**

The White Letter designed all of our stationary. We told Kerry what sort of design and colours we wanted for our stationary and she worked away showing us lots of different ideas for our wedding stationary. We were so pleased at how well our invites, order of services, table names, table planner and welcome sign all turned out! They were beautiful.

Food & Drink

**What food you choice & why:**

For starters we had melon and then vegetable soup. For our main course we allowed our guests to have a choice of turkey and ham or roast beef. For dessert we had a trio of desserts. We picked all of our food at the Ballygally one Sunday afternoon when they invited us for food tasting for our wedding day. It was delicious!

**Wedding Cake:**

Our wedding cake was from NI Cake Design. Landa was amazing to work with and she designed the bottom layer of our wedding cake to match with my wedding dress (Nathan obviously didn't know that). The ruffles at the bottom layer of the cake matched with my dress. We told Landa we wanted elegant and classy with silver tones throughout. Well, she exceeded all of our expectations! Our cake was incredible looking and tasted amazing. We had a chocolate layer, vanilla and lemon.

Photos/Video





**Why you chose your photographer:**

I met Mark at my maid of honours wedding and he was just wonderful! When Nathan and I got engaged, I made sure I booked Mark as I loved all of his pictures on social media and he was just so friendly at my maid of honours wedding. On our wedding day, Mark was brilliant from the moment he arrived at my house. He knew everybody's name from the very beginning and treated us all so well throughout the day. Mark was so kind and helpful throughout the whole process of planning our wedding! Such a gentleman. Mark captured our wedding day brilliantly and we have loved looking at the wedding photographs he has sent us so far!

**What made you choose your videographer?**

Ricky (owner of Rabbit and the Fox Films) was a friend of my brothers and I also knew his wife from the Girls Brigade. I had always followed the rabbit and the fox films on Instagram and always thought his videos of weddings were amazing and full of lots of joy and happiness! Ricky and his wife Vicky were super on our wedding day and I am delighted that they were there to record all of our special moments. We have watched our teaser video hundreds of times already!



## Finally

### **Any funny stories from the day?**

Favourite Moment Groom: My favourite moment of the day was watching Deborah walking down the aisle towards me in her beautiful wedding dress, smiling at everybody as she was walking down and then smiling at me as she got closer to me. Once she got to the top of the aisle her flowers were shaking but her smile lasted the whole entire day.

Favourite Moment Bride: Seeing Nathan standing at the top of the aisle with a big smile on his face. Eating ice cream and dancing outside in the courtyard area at the Ballygally with my husband and friends. Going over to the Ballygally beach before dessert and getting pictures and photographs taken with my husband. It was just the most perfect and happiest day ever. The best day of our lives.

Your wedding day is your most important day and we want to make everything perfect. Our experienced Wedding Coordinators are among the best in Northern Ireland and are on hand to will help you to create an unfor- gettable and magical day which is truly a unique expression of you.

Please email [conf1@bgc.hastingshotels.com](mailto:conf1@bgc.hastingshotels.com) or call to speak with our Wedding Coordinator on **028 2858 1066**

