



Val can offer a complete wedding planning service – from the initial consultation, to managing the budget and being on-hand during the ceremony and reception – or she can calmly step in to work on the final details when there are just a few weeks to go.

There is a “fair bit of juggling” along the way, but Val starts by taking down a brief from her client which forms the basis of a

## Let Val do the hard work

Hiring a wedding planner is not just for the rich and famous. Alumna Val Mattinson can help you with your special occasion.

detailed proposal. She said: “This is often the point when they get a feel for what they actually want. I ask them to think about the weddings they’ve been to, what they liked, and what they didn’t”.

Self-confessed perfectionist Val, who stepped in to help out at her brother’s wedding in Barbados four years ago when plans started to unravel, feels that the bride and groom should not be bothered with any logistical questions on their big day. She said: “I advise couples to assign a key contact like a bridesmaid or usher who can help with the smaller details, like finding Auntie Janet for the photos!”

She assures us her job is not all glitz and glam: “Many people think wedding planners are for the rich and famous, but organising a wedding can be one of the most stressful times of your life.”

Val is not new to organising or attending special events, although she originally started out as a lawyer after graduating with LLB Hons Law in 1990. She got “the bug” for organising events when she was seconded to the role of Executive Officer in the Chief Executive’s Office at Nottingham City Council. She stayed in that role for three years before taking up the position of Director of Corporate and External Affairs at New College Nottingham.

Val still finds time to practice as a Local Government / Adult Care Solicitor, but says her experience has benefited her wedding planning business: “The skills I’ve developed as a lawyer have been useful to me both in business and throughout my life”.

To find out more about Val’s company, Benessamy, visit [www.benessamy.co.uk](http://www.benessamy.co.uk) where you can also read Val’s blog.

## Charlotte returns to NTU to get married

As if her graduation wasn’t enough, alumna Charlotte chose to return to NTU for another milestone – to get married.

Charlotte Smith (BA Hons Business Management 2009) and Robert “Bob” Boyles met at school, but didn’t actually get together until Charlotte’s eighteenth birthday. They chose to get married at NTU because of its central location and its beautiful buildings and courtyard. They also liked the convenience of holding the whole event in one location – a civil ceremony in the Old Chemistry Theatre, a dinner in the Old Library and a party and barbecue in the Benefactors’ Courtyard.

Charlotte said: “It was a perfect day. It’s a stunning venue. Our guests remarked on how welcome they were made to feel and how fantastic the food was. It was a truly memorable day that was everything that we had ever hoped for and more.”

The couple got married on 7 August 2010, had their honeymoon in Dubai and now have a daughter, Annabel Elizabeth, who was born in July 2011.



If you would like more information about getting married at your University contact +44 (0)115 848 8000 or email [enquiries@nottinghamconferencecentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@nottinghamconferencecentre.co.uk).