

# Brides prepared for a leap of faith on big day

A number of Nottingham couples are hoping to put their relationship to the test in front of thousands of viewers on television. **Lucy Budge** finds out why they have applied to be on the latest series of *Don't Tell The Bride*

**THE** Show who are rarely engaged, planning their special day takes time, money and military organisation.

But a number of Nottingham couples may have been in a bit of a rush with only three weeks and a limited budget.

Along with their partners, they have applied for the popular BBC Three reality programme *Don't Tell The Bride*, and now for growing on TV screens soon.

The programme, which first aired in 2007, follows a different couple every week to the run-up to their wedding day.

but with a twist: the bride must take a leap of faith while the groom takes control of all the planning, including the venue, dress and the love and meg parties.

This must all be done in a three-week timeframe and on a budget of £12,000.

For Nottingham-based couples Karen Rouse and Paul Berrisford, it's a nervous but exciting prospect.

The couple met online two years ago and, two years later, Paul, 31, moved from Wolverhampton to be with Karen, 31, in Nottingham.

They were first in December

with their seven-month-old son, Aaron. Paul's daughter Hannah, 11, and Karen's older sister James, 25, and Holly, 12, Karen, who is a nurse practitioner, said: "I was a divorced mother of two and Paul was widowed 11 years ago after his wife died from breast cancer."

"It's been a long time. In fact, we married him a year before we could get married."

They applied to *Don't Tell The Bride* only two weeks after meeting it on a family.

"The kids love it and they would love to engage and wedding. We all thought it was a great idea," said Paul, who is a service architect.

Karen Rouse and Paul Berrisford are ready for the challenge



Kim Gregory and Nick Wilby are making a second attempt at going on the show.

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## TOP TEN WEDDING VENUES

**ACROSS Nottinghamshire** there are a whole host of venues that are the perfect place to tie the knot. Here are the top ten wedding venues in the county:

**1. COLWICK HALL HOTEL** is the grandest home of Lord Byron, the country house mansion has a vast list of excellent and luxurious facilities.



**2. KELHAM HALL AND COUNTRY PARK** The Victorian stately home is an impressive backdrop in the park.

There is also a new 100 state rooms on the site.

**3. NOTTINGHAM BELVUE** An ultra-modern hotel, it has just over 100 rooms for small or large weddings. The venue features a panoramic restaurant lounge.

**4. THE COUNCIL HOUSE** Located in the city centre, the building features both a ballroom and a dining room that can be hired for special occasions.

**5. RUTFORD HILL, IN RUTFORD COUNTRY PARK** The historic manor house and lake offer an inspiring backdrop for weddings.

**6. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB** Located only 10 minutes from the city centre,

the club is surrounded by rolling green hills.

**7. ASHBY'S NOTTINGHAM** The hotel and restaurant is conveniently situated in the city centre and can accommodate up to 100 guests.

**8. DOGGESDALE** This grandly named venue, in Pilsborough, has a number of rooms, including the Garden Room and Lakes Lounge. That can be hired for your special day.



**9. BRANDBRIGT ROOMS** The Grade II listed building in Burton-on-Trent, features Victorian architecture right in the city centre.

**10. THE OLD VICARAGE BOUTIQUE HOTEL** This Georgian building is located in Southwell and has been meticulously refurbished to create a truly lovely finish.



**We've both been married before and so we know we want something a bit different and quirky.**

"We haven't really discussed it, though, because I only proposed on 1 February 2016."

"We met over the internet and our friends and family. I'd got the ring about three weeks beforehand and had a 1000 egg box. I arranged it with the caterer to take a wedding breakfast. She didn't have a choice as to what to do because she didn't want a dress. I had to make her. When she did find it, she thought it was an apron and had to see it. She opened it and it was over the chicken seat."

The couple said that if they were to be successful on the show, they'd want the full support of the organisation, despite Karen's nervousness.

She said: "I'd like to think they'd be sensible - but we have teenage girls."

"We've both been married before and I've done the traditional wedding thing, so we know we want something a bit different and quirky."

The follow-up article from Gregory said: "Nick Wilby, who is the second time that he has missed the show despite the fact every man getting off to the best interests of their."

Site: 20, and Nick, 25, met

when they were both only 11 to their former wives of 10 years. The pair "We've been friends since we were 11 but I've always loved her. When I was 16, I told her I loved her and for her to be my wife."

"We met online. I was heartbroken. I told her I shouldn't have said anything. We got back into contact and I sent her some of my photos for a while - I was the 'crazy' one."

After getting engaged on November 11, the happy couple hope to get married in the first special day.

The bride Kim admits that she has some nervousness, but she's a wedding planner.

"I'm a bit of a control freak and for her to be in charge is a bit of a challenge. I'm not sure I can be in charge of her wedding."

"I'd be nervous about what he'd choose. I can imagine it

would be football-themed - he loves Nottingham Forest. It's a bit of a challenge, but very nice."

Nottingham wedding planner but Mattinson knows all about the process and stress involved with organising a wedding. "It's a bit of a challenge, but very nice."

She said that the weekend whether the groom knew what they're taking on before they applied to the show.

"I always wish it was a million times as easy as this. Most of us don't know what we want for our wedding, but some do."

"Many of the brides think they've got the idea of what they want for their wedding, but they're not really knowing how much it's going to be involved."

"Some of my clients that I married and organising

and that's when they know exactly what is happening, but they are knowing the same and getting the message."

But he said that the biggest aspect of the bride has to be nervous about it to the show.

She added: "I've had clients

who think they want one type of dress but then they end up with a different one."

"The show is a bit of a challenge, but very nice."

usually find one. It's really difficult. Most people don't know what they want to wear."



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## EXPERT TIPS FOR BIG DAY

**NOTTINGHAM wedding planner** Val Matthews, shared an expert at making sure her clients special day runs as smoothly as possible. With her top tips and advice for tying the knot, organising the event doesn't have to be as tricky as it sounds.

**● TALK MONEY** It's often a tricky subject but very important. If you don't get the right budget in the end, you may find it falling back to the bride. Before you get to the point of the wedding, agree

and decide on your budget with your partner. This is an important, as all your decisions will depend on it, including when you want to get married, where you want to have the wedding and the size of your wedding party.

**● DRAW UP A PLANNING SCHEDULE** It's important to be organised but also realistic about the time and the jobs you have, if you

want to do nearly everything yourself, sit your schedule to find out what will be involved.

**● LOOK AFTER YOURSELF** Try not to get stressed with the planning. The bride's day should be a special time with your partner and enjoy being engaged, rather than seeing it as just a job between being single and married.

