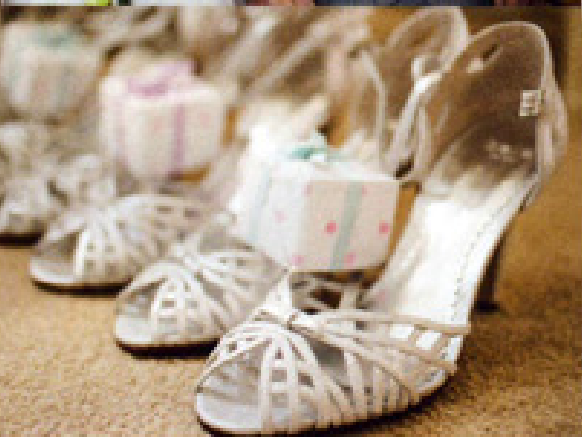


WE'VE GOT THE SCOOP Right: Fiona and Ben surprised their guests with an ice-cream cart



# Sweet surprises

Pretty summer pastels were perfect for Fiona and Ben's English country-garden wedding

## The couple Fiona & Ben

Fiona Tanager, 30,  
teacher, and  
Ben Keast, 30,  
account manager

30 August 2008  
Church ceremony at  
St Benet's Minster  
in Beccles, Suffolk

### In the beginning

Ben was Fiona's first teenage crush. "I'd fancied Ben from the age of 14, but never had the courage to speak to him," admits Fiona. "Luckily he approached me at my best friend's 18th, called the following day and it went from there."

In 2007, after the couple had been dating for about 11 years, Ben proposed at the top of the Rockefeller Center in New York. "Ben offered me a Love Heart with 'Say Yes' written on it, but I wasn't sure whether this was a proposal or just him offering me a sweet, so I ate it," explains Fiona. "He was worried I hadn't understood what the sweet

meant, so he got down on one knee – with a broken leg – and proposed with a Haribo ring. We both have quite a sweet tooth!"

### The outfits

Fiona's layered tulle dress with a diagonal organza bow was by David Fielden. "I tried on dresses from the moment Ben proposed and although I found a designer I loved in David, I couldn't choose between two dresses," reveals Fiona. "I went back to the shop about five times and made the decision by imagining looking back at each dress in 10 years' time. The one I chose reminded me of Audrey Hepburn in *Sabrina*. I figured that if I thought her >

WORDS BY CEMAL ARIVAN; SIDESTOCKISTS; PACE FOR DETAILS





HERE'S ONE WE MADE EARLIER  
Creative touches gave the day country-style charm



COSMOPOLITAN  
**Bride**



dresses still looked good now, then I couldn't go far wrong picking a similar one." Fiona added a long veil from Grace Couture in Loughborough, a bespoke birdcage veil from Bellapacella and 1950s-style shoes that matched her bridesmaids' ones, by Belle. Ben wore a suit and shirt from Paul Smith with a Marc Wallace tie.

**In the summertime**

The couple chose Elms Barn in Norfolk for their country-style reception for 120 people. "We wanted a very relaxed venue where guests could stay on-site, but without the grandeur of a hotel," says Fiona. "Elms Barn was the first venue we looked at and we booked it days later. The idea of holding it in Norfolk, a long way from home, really appealed. It gave people the perfect excuse to take a few days off work and enabled us to spread the celebrations over a few days."

**Time for tea**

Inspired by "old-fashioned tea parties, pastel shades and photographs of weddings from the Fifties", Fiona and Ben created a colourful party packed with personality.

They displayed menus in photo frames, made centrepieces from birdcages, jugs, plant pots and busts, and created a seating plan out of discs of floral card hung from ribbon. Fiona made the table numbers by sewing buttons onto card. "For the ladies' place cards and favours we made lavender-stuffed hearts embroidered with their name on one side and 'F&B 30.08.08' on the other," says Fiona. "For the men, we filled jars with sweets and covered them with the same fabric."

**Style me pretty**

The beautiful decorations continued outside. "We made bunting to hang around the





## Fiona's dream team

### Photography

Polly Alexandre  
(alexandreweddings.com)

### Venue, catering and flowers

Elms Barn in Norfolk  
(elmsbarnweddings.co.uk)

**Bride's dress** David Fielden  
(davidfielden.co.uk)

**Make-up** Lisa Wilson  
(lisa-wilson.co.uk)

**Hair** Angela Way  
(angelabridalhair.co.uk)

**Bridesmaid dresses**  
Dessy (dessy.com)

**Stationery** Made by  
Fiona and Ben

**Transport** Four Minis  
hired from CCAH  
(coolcars4hire.co.uk)

**Bouquets and buttonholes**  
Made by Fiona's friend  
Vicky Wood

**Cake** Cakes by Jacqueline  
(cakesbyjacqueline.com)

**Entertainment** Jukebox  
hired from SM Jukeboxes  
(jukeboxhire.co.uk)

**Ice-cream cart** Parravani's  
(parravanis.co.uk)



**ICING ON THE CAKE**  
Fiona chose pastel shades for everything, from the bridesmaid dresses to the cake



garden and put fairy lights in the trees and in jam jars that I had decorated with glitter and ribbon and dotted around the grounds," says Fiona. "The lovely people at Elms Barn also filled the flower beds around the marquee with hydrangeas to match our flowers."

### Ice-cream dreams

"Before the pre-reception drinks, we surprised everyone at the church with a traditional ice-cream man on a bicycle to provide refreshments," recalls Fiona.

Well known for their love of sweets, the couple also set up a 'pick and mix' sweet table at the reception to give guests a sugar rush after the dancing, and brought out the most colourful of wedding cakes. "It had four flavours and multicoloured icing," laughs the bride. "I sent my cakemaker a swatch of every bridesmaid dress so the icing would match perfectly."





**PUSH THE BUTTONS**  
Decorate tables with these hearts. £6.95, Aspen & Brown (aspenandbrown.com)



**ICE, ICE BABIES**  
Ice-cream biscuits are a must for this fun theme: £2.50 (£3 gift wrapped), Fancy Nancy (fancynancy.info)



**THE WILD ONE**  
Bouquet, £75, Arena Flowers (arenaflowers.com)

COSMOPOLITAN April/May 2008 £3.99  
**Bride**

# Steal Fiona's style

Candy colours and tasty treats are a great combo



**TOTALLY DISHY**  
Ice-cream dishes in pastel shades, £4.50 each, Maxwell & Williams (maxwellandwilliams.co.uk)



**VEILED AFFAIR**  
Silver tear headpiece, £225, Jane Taylor Millinery (janetaylormillinery.com)



**COSY UP**  
These vintage-fabric egg cosies make novel favours: £12 for four, Chloe Powis (chloepowis.com)



**CANDY STRIPER**  
Try a brilliant fairytale creation like this amazing pastel cake. Canter cake, £333, sphere cakes, £13 each, and dome cakes, £6.50 each, all Maki's Cakes (makiscakes.com)



**THINK PINK**  
The perfect gift for your bridesmaids: Beautiful Me purse, £22.50, Antoni & Alison (antoniandalison.co.uk)



**GROW YOUR OWN**  
Let your guests create their own bouquet in a can! Around £7.50 each, Fred Flare (fredflare.com)

COMPILED AND SHOT BY KATE HORSBY