

DAWN MARIE Wedding & Event Design was established in January this year and has proved a huge success for its creator, wedding and events consultant Dawn Marie.

Having worked in the events industry for over 11 years, Dawn Marie has organised everything from intimate candlelit marriage ceremonies to lavish marquee receptions complete with fairground dodgems, clay pigeon shooting and rodeo bulls, from car launches to shop relaunches, naming ceremonies to civil partnership exhibitions.

With over 400 weddings under her belt, countless conferences, corporate and Christmas parties, public events, wedding fairs, an Honours Degree and the HCIMA qualification, Dawn has a wealth of knowledge and experience and says: "I love the variation in my work and now I have established Dawn Marie Wedding & Event Design, I can concentrate on the areas I enjoy most.

"It is a great compliment when couples you have arranged weddings for in the past come back to you for naming ceremonies, anniversaries or, as some brides have, to help with other family or friends' weddings. I have made some good friends over the years and regularly see a few of my past brides."

Dawn's first project was on behalf of Newcastle Registration Service. Following the change of law in December 2005, a Civil Partnership Exhibition was arranged at the Mansion House, Jesmond. The event was well attended and led to the creation of a Civil Partnership Accredited Services List (available from Dawn Marie direct or Newcastle Registrar's office). This is a collection of companies eager to expand into the civil partnership market. Dawn comments: "Unbelievably I met with a lot of prejudice against the partnerships but have had good feedback from couples who have used the List."

Two more successful Wedding Fairs followed, one at the Corner House Hotel, which followed a business consultation to discuss its application for a civil marriage license, and the other at Horton Grange Country House Hotel and Restaurant. Both are being repeated later in the year. "The Corner House Fair was really well attended," recalls Dawn. "Both the exhibitors and the hotel managers did an excellent job of promoting their services.

"Horton Grange is a fantastic, exclusive-use venue and I am looking forward to successfully repeating both events.

I try to make the fairs a bit more interesting than the usual and have a casino running at both venues to win a meal for in their restaurants, a magician, chocolate fountain and, at Horton Grange, a marquee and helicopter landing! Look out for the photos of the helicopter in October's North East Times!"

Dawn is also co-ordinating a Marquee Exhibition in October in association with Waltons Marquees: "The event is to show how marquees can be used not only as an extension of a venue, but also as a complete, independent reception alternative.

"Whether your reception is to celebrate a wedding, naming ceremony, birthday or corporate milestone, a marquee is a great way to create a truly unique occasion."

The exhibition will showcase bar and catering facilities, an exclusive champagne supplier, a live band, deluxe cloakroom facilities, a florist and of course, Dawn Marie Wedding & Event Design. "I will be available to discuss how marquee events can be brought together to create a stunning occasion that will keep your guests talking for months," explains Dawn. The event is by invitation only and anyone interested can email Dawn via her website.

Another exciting project underway is an Elite Wedding Fair to be held in the Banqueting Hall and



Dawn Marie with Evelyn Bell of Oriflame exhibiting at Horton Grange Wedding Fair.

A local success story

one function rooms within Newcastle Civic Centre. "This is a big one!" says Dawn. "The fair will feature an outstanding collection of all things bridal from the region's leading wedding suppliers. It is set to be a fantastic event! Companies I regularly deal with are keen to attend a large, locally-arranged show in a central location and everyone involved is keen to make the Fair a huge success."

The Fair is to be opened by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle and is sponsoring the local Sunshine Fund charity with the £1 admission charge going directly to the charity. "There are other exciting events happening to mark the launch of the fair which are soon to be revealed," reveals Dawn. "The fair is to become an annual event and every one involved is keen to establish it as one of the leading fairs in the North East."

Supported by Newcastle Registration Service, registrars will be available to give advice on civil ceremonies, show couples around the dedicated marriage rooms and to informally discuss forthcoming marriages or civil partnerships.

Staff from Hospitality Services at the Civic Centre will also be available to discuss their facilities: the impressive Baronial style Banqueting Hall is one of the only places in the region to offer facilities for up to 600 guests. Anyone interested in finding out more or in exhibiting at the event should contact Dawn Marie.

So, for a company only eight months old, the pace is fast at Dawn Marie Wedding and Event Design and it is obvious Dawn is passionate about what she does and genuinely cares about her customers. Throw in the business consultations, wedding consultations baby naming ceremonies, fashion shoots and the Wedding Agony Aunt column Dawn writes for a local magazine and you have one very busy, very happy lady!

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Dawn Marie with David Walton of Waltons Marquees and Alistair, general manager of Horton Grange.

Forthcoming Events

Wedding Fair

October 8, 2006
1pm – 4pm, Corner House Hotel, Heaton

Marquee Exhibition

October 14, 2006,
Noon – 4pm, Horton Grange County House
Hotel & Restaurant, Berwick Hill

Elite Wedding Fair

October 15, 2006
1pm – 4pm, Horton Grange Country House
Hotel & Restaurant, Berwick Hill

Elite Wedding Fair

February 18, 2007
11am – 4pm, The Banqueting Rooms, Civic
Centre, Newcastle