

Megan & Greg, Askham-in-Furness – September 2017

In the early stages of our wedding planning, we knew we wanted to do some different, informal and fun. My biggest, and probably only concern about that was not having a proper venue, and therefore a wedding coordinator or venue staff to rely upon.

I was never looking for a wedding planning to 'plan' our wedding in its entirety, we had lots of ideas, and we wanted it to be 'ours' but I just needed that extra pair of hands (and ears!). We'd decided to go for a festival themed wedding, in tipis, in a field, with live music throughout the day, and there was one thing we really didn't want – a formal sit down meal. We could visualise it all, our question was just 'how do we make this happen'.

My purpose for contacting Annabel initially, was to see if she offered support on the day of the wedding. Whilst we had a sizeable bunch of bridesmaids and groomsmen, we wanted them to be able to enjoy the day, but we knew we'd need that extra pair of hands on the day to sort suppliers, manage guests etc. Annabel explained that this was something she offered as part of her package and we arranged to meet up further to discuss how it would all work.

From our first meeting with Annabel, we had the reassurance that we'd have someone taking care of our day, that would be part of the planning journey over the following year, and by the time the day arrived, she'd know what was in our heads as much as we did and would be making sure that became a reality.

Whilst we had all our own ideas for decorations, invites, suppliers etc, Annabel was still able to provide us with further options and advice based on her experience of what would and wouldn't work well. Even just having her checklist and spreadsheet was reassuring to make sure there wasn't anything we were missing. She also gave us the great idea of having a joint Hen and Stag party which turned out to be one of the best things we've ever done, our family and friends are all pushing for us to do it again this year!

When the wedding arrived, there was probably only myself, my husband and Annabel that knew everything about the day. On the day, Annabel arrived with one of her colleagues early in the morning and they started by checking everything at the venue, and dealing with everything we'd been unable to do the day before due to the weather. After that, they came to check on me and the girls, then headed off to ensure the boys were in check before heading to the church. Whilst I didn't think about it much on the day (because I didn't have to), knowing someone was running around checking everything was how we wanted it relieved any worries I would have otherwise had, I was completely laid back throughout the day.

I remember a point during the day when my husband and I were stood in the Tipis discussing how it was just how we imagined and more. We clocked Annabel and her colleague, at the time they were lighting candles, collecting rubbish and topping up our cocktail bar. It was then that I said to my husband 'you don't realise until the day how much we needed this, its worth every penny'. And I still stand by that now, I think the management of the day would not have gone as well as it did without Annabels help, and a number of things would have fallen onto our wedding guests, which is exactly what we didn't want.

As as an added bonus, she told us she's a lucky omen with the weather and it proved to be correct. Our wedding day felt right in the middle of a storm, the week before the wind and rain was beyond belief, and they day after it returned, yet our wedding day was a beautiful day without a drop of rain!

Wonderful photography from: [Steven Taylor Photography](#)