

How We Work

Before You Book

We recognize that it is important for you to select the right suppliers to work with you, which is why we work hard to ensure that we understand the 'flavour' of your wedding day and that we are the right wedding videographer for you.

Our showreel DVD is designed to give you an overview of the type of work we do. It represents a cross section of weddings, because no single wedding contains the variety of shots and situations that we can create or record. We do not send out sample DVDs of full weddings because a unique product cannot be as representative of our style as a montage of many weddings.

Our Reportage style presents the day in a very natural way, with a restrained approach in shooting and editing. It is ideal for couples wanting a professional but unfussy record of their day and best suited to shorter or more intimate wedding celebrations.

We like to be more Creative on the day if you wish, and the 'Orchid' Cinematic style pushes this further, with more artistic flourishes in both filming and editing. We believe that the more grand and elaborate your wedding, the bigger and better your wedding video needs to be.

We hope that our website, our online showreel, our showreel DVD, our pricelist and a chat with you on the phone will give you all the information you need to make a decision about whether to book with us. If not, we'll arrange a time to meet with you to chat further. These meetings are held at your home, or occasionally at the wedding venue, and most often on weekday evenings.

This document lets you know what happens thereafter, and our booking form contains our terms of business which should answer any remaining questions you may have.

We know that you have a lot of organising to do for your wedding, and that things can evolve over the preceding months. This is why when you book we do not ask for a definitive commitment to the exact nature of the package that you choose. You just want peace of mind that you have chosen the right videographer, and that one more job has been ticked off the list.

If you indicate that you're keen to book with us, we will hold the date for you until the decision is made, and also let you know of any other interest in your date, so that you won't be 'gazumped'. In some instances we will need to confirm availability of our team members before we can take your booking, and we appreciate your understanding in these cases.

When You Book

Your first commitment to book can be by phone or email, but no contractual arrangement is in place until we receive the booking form and deposit from you.

We will confirm that we have received your booking and issue a deposit receipt.

Then – well, then you can relax!

Before The Big Day

Don't worry if things then go quiet for a while! We'll be in touch before your wedding day (usually 2-3 months) to arrange to have our 'pre-meet' with you. This is often the first time we meet our couples.

These meetings are also usually held at your home, or occasionally at the wedding venue, and most often on weekday evenings. It can be valuable to meet at the wedding venue for a couple of reasons; if you are going there to meet other suppliers or finalise arrangements with the venue, or if the venue is unusual or the logistics of your day are very particular.

Normally we don't need to see a venue per se, and a number of venues local to Surrey and Hampshire are already familiar to us. Almost without exception we do not meet at a church, nor do we attend rehearsals.

If the logistics of arranging the pre-meet are too complex, we can chat by phone, although this seldom happens.

The purpose of the pre-meet is to go through the logistics of the day and to understand – whilst all weddings are individual – what arrangements are particular to your day. Therefore it's useful to have our meeting when all other arrangements are finalised and you have a full picture of the wedding to hand.

At this stage we also double check your package and options requirements.

We seldom need to speak to any other suppliers (venue, vicar, photographer) before the wedding, but will do so if asked. Whilst we prepare well, we also talk to all the above when we meet them for the first time on the day.

On The Day

On the day we arrive at least an hour before the ceremony, except where we are shooting bridal preparation. In this case, we arrive with the bride about an hour – usually more – before she is due to leave for the ceremony. The exact timings depend on the logistics of the day and whether the ceremony is church or civil. This represents one cameraman's job – the other cameraman will be at the venue.

Whilst there are two cameramen on the day, this does not double our visibility. Our focus is on achieving the coverage we need, not pointing two cameras at the couple all day. Usually there are 4 points in the day when both cameras are focussed on the same action: the ceremony, the speeches, the cake cutting and the first dance. The most visible of these is the speeches, where both cameras need to take a position where the top table and the speakers can be clearly seen – even when your guests are standing.

We don't tend to interact with our couples very much on the day – that is the photographer's job. We work hard to shoot alongside photographers, liaising with them at all the key points on the day.

Being unobtrusive is one of the cornerstones of the way we work. One of the biggest concerns that couples have about a wedding video is cameras up close and personal, and we recognize that. Natural shots are best achieved when the subject is not aware they are being filmed.

Our cameras are quite small and portable, we rarely use other complex equipment and seldom do we use lights.

Our longest period of 'downtime' is during the meal, when we leave you and your guests to eat in peace. We do ask that some food is provided to us, but we do not join the wedding breakfast – usually we go to the bar or an adjoining room.

Preparation is important to the way we work, hence the reason we ask for a detailed itinerary. However it is equally important that we are kept aware of how proceedings are unfolding on the day. Sudden changes, reorganisations or whims are not our friend!

After The Day

We only get in touch with you after the wedding if we need to remind you about your music list, which is a prerequisite for us to commence the editing.

The music is integral to the editing process; there is no edit without it i.e. we cannot send you a copy of the wedding for you to set the music to.

The editing is completed in the quickest reasonable timeframe after your wedding, taking into account our workload at the time. We appreciate that you are keen to see the results – and we are keen to show them to you!

Our approach to editing is not 'flash over substance'. It is to take a well composed and creative record of your day and add subtle effects and colour grading to boost the look and feel of the video – to make it look a bit more special. 'Special effects' are not our thing. To us, your day is about emotion and moments, not about how fancy we can make it look using software.

Occasionally we are asked by the couple have an unedited version of the wedding, but this is not practicable or necessary as we do not leave any of the 'good stuff' out of the final edit. All that you would gain would be a much longer running time, plus any technical hitches. We only shoot what we need, and then we use virtually all of it on the DVD.

Be Reassured

With over 150 weddings to our credit, we feel we are well qualified to cover your special day.

We set ourselves high standards when shooting, both technically and professionally. The recording of sound, especially during the ceremony, is important, which is why we use up to 5 differently placed microphones to get the best result under the circumstances. One of these is a small radio microphone that the groom wears during the ceremony.

We get as frustrated as you by delays, hitches and bad weather! We want things to run smoothly so that we can do our job as best as possible and have freedom to get the most from the day.

Our couples like what we do. We hope you will too.