



CULLODEN
ESTATE AND SPA

Our Wedding Day
Andy & Evie





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How did you meet?

Andy and I met back in 2014 at a youth summer camp, however, it was only two years later when we reconnected and began dating. For the first two years, Andy was studying at Queen's University Belfast so we lived just around the corner from each other. However, when he graduated he decided to move just outside London for work, so we embarked on 2 years of long distance. The saying 'distance makes the heart grow fonder' was definitely the case for us, as after only 1 year of Andy being away we got engaged!

How did he propose?

Easter weekend of 2019, Andy came home to visit so as usual, he organised a 'date-day' for us to spend together. We headed down to Enniskillen where he had rented a boat for the day and I brought a picnic! We sailed to the middle of the lough and while enjoying the sunshine, Andy suddenly got down on one knee and proposed with the most beautiful ring – I could not believe it! I said yes and Andy rushed to get the ring on my finger, he was terrified of dropping it overboard! We look back on that special weekend with the fondest of memories, we loved visiting all of our family and friends to surprise them with our exciting news – everyone was thrilled for us so there was much celebration.

Why did you choose the Culloden Estate & Spa for your special day?

The very first venue that we looked at was The Culloden Estate and Spa. This beautiful hotel has always been extra special to my family and I, as 30 years previous my parents had their wedding reception in the Stuart Suite. Ever since I was a little girl I have always thought it is the most magical place, hidden away behind the trees and with the most wonderful view of Belfast Lough. After meeting the events team and viewing the Stuart Suite, we knew this is where we wanted to celebrate our special day.



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What was it like planning two weddings? Highlights of the day?

Having to plan two weddings was an unexpected surprise! Due to the pandemic, we decided to postpone our big wedding day for a year however we were delighted to have a small wedding ceremony on our original wedding date as planned, to allow us to begin our life together over in England. We had originally planned to hold our wedding ceremony in a local church, however since we were only having a small number of closest family present, we decided to say our vows in the stunning Lady Jane Tower. When we decided to postpone it was on the condition that I wanted to keep our original wedding plans for our postponed celebrations, so Andy and I, along with my family, planned a completely new day in a matter of weeks – I even got a new dress! The events team at the Culloden were so helpful and did absolutely everything they could to make our day extra special.

On the 14th August 2020 I woke up to blue skies and perfect sunshine – we could not have dreamed of a better day for a wedding! Our small ceremony was perfect and it felt so special saying our vows in the most beautiful setting, in front of our closest family members. One of the highlights of the day that we will never forget, was walking out of the Lady Jane Tower as newlyweds, into the sunshine while our family cheered and threw confetti – after so much uncertainty we were finally married! We enjoyed a delicious meal in the Robinson Suite, with the backdrop of Belfast Lough twinkling in the sunshine – it very special day from start to finish. As we had planned to have a low-key day, we had originally decided not to have an official wedding photographer at our small ceremony, however when the weather was set to be so good, Andy called in a last-minute favour from his lovely friend Tiffany (@tiffanygagephotography) to be there on the day to capture some photographs, and this was one of the best decision that we made! The photographs capture the joy, excitement, and happiness of the most important day of our lives – we will treasure them forever!

Fast forward one year (it really felt like the quickest year ever!) and all our plans were finalised for our big day. I finally got to wear my stunning Susan Neville wedding dress and have my beautiful sisters stand beside me as my bridesmaids. This year, we had a special blessing ceremony at Knock Presbyterian Church Belfast, where we were able to celebrate the marriage commitment Andy and I had made one year previous in front of all of our family and friends. It was so exciting to have everyone together in one place after being apart for so long, this made our day feel extra special. We finally got to have our wedding reception in the Stuart Suite as we had planned, where we enjoyed a delicious meal, had wonderful speeches, and celebrated late into the night – it was well worth the wait! My dream wedding photographer, Jayne (@jaynelindsayphotography), captured our big day so perfectly with such attention to detail. We love every photograph, especially those set on the stunning grounds of the Culloden, with the beautiful hotel in the background.



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Andy and I often reminisce about our wedding experience, and although it was a crazy time in our lives, we feel so fortunate to have had two wonderful days to celebrate our marriage with all of our family and friends. We wouldn't change a thing! Thank you to the Events Team, especially Jenny who looked after us so well throughout the planning process, as well as all of the staff at the Culloden Estate and Spa who helped us to celebrate our wedding celebrations. The Culloden will forever be a very special place for us.

Any advice for other couples?

Our advice for other couples is to enjoy every moment. From planning two weddings in the middle of a global pandemic we know just how crazy wedding planning can be! From the engagement and picking a venue, to finding the dream dress and menu tastings, it is such an exciting time so don't stress over the little things, you will get your big day in the end!

