



## Your Guide to Choosing Wedding Flowers

*Chelsea Gold Medal Winner*

[www.chirpee.net](http://www.chirpee.net)

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# *Introduction*

Looking for Wedding flowers? The choice is yours.

Now you have arranged the date, the venue, the reception ... the list goes on, let's see if we can help you, just enjoy your special day with beautiful flowers from Chirpee.

We have put together a guide for you which will help with your decision on choosing the right flowers, the colours, the theme for the ceremony, the reception venue and also the right florist.

*It's your day – CONGRATULATIONS!*





# Testimonials

## A few testimonials from our lovely clients posted on social media ...

### 5 star

Katie MacAllister reviewed Chirpee Flowers by Steph Willoughby

### September 24, 2017

We cannot thank Steph and Tim enough for the stunning flowers they did for our wedding, we couldn't believe our eyes! So creative and put together with so much thought. My bouquet was put together to compliment my dress and it certainly did! The flowers brought our marquee to life and made it look magical, not to mention the cake flowers, incredible! I'd recommend Chirpee Flowers to everyone. Thanks again Steph and Tim! xxx

### August 7, 2017

Hi Steph and Tim, just wanted to say a huge thank you for the beautiful flowers which helped to make Katie and Joe's day extra special. I nearly cried when Tim arrived at the house because they surpassed our expectations and the unexpected topiary trees were amazing and extremely generous of you. There will be photos I will forward on once we are back from a few days on hols so meanwhile thank you again so much.

*Val xx*

### 6 months ago

Exciting designs, flowers were lovely many many thanks.

*Liz and Robin*

### Amazing florist

Chirpee Flowers is fabulous. I have had the pleasure of seeing Steph working on a number of wedding arrangements and her work is creative and incredibly beautiful. You won't be disappointed meeting & work with Steph!!

*Mrs M Carter*

### Wonderful flowers

Steph created some beautiful bouquets and centrepieces for our wedding. Steph provided an excellent service! We would highly recommend Chirpee flowers.

*NatashaB-61*

### Emma's Wedding

You came to us highly recommended and we are very happy to endorse that view.

### November 2017

At very short notice we were let down by our original florist and thankfully your tremendous efforts to help produced a magical display of Flowers for Emma and Matt on their special day.

Thank you again

*Lisa and Charles*

### 23.12.17

Hi Steph, thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. Thank you for the lovely card and all the information on the flowers and it was so sweet of you to give us a bottle of bubbly too. The bouquet is still looking stunning and smells amazing. Have a wonderful Christmas

xxx

*Kate Linfield and Mark Warren*



## *Bride's Flowers* Chirpees' tips to choosing your bridal bouquet

It's important that you have chosen your dress before choosing your wedding flowers. We can take inspiration from the style of your dress, the style, the fabric and weight of the fabric. If you're petite, don't let your flowers overwhelm you. Wearing a ball gown? Make sure your flowers can stand up to the ruffled skirt of your dress. And no matter your fashion choice, be sure your bouquet isn't too heavy or too fragrant – you don't want to sneeze your way down the aisle. Fragrant blooms, like lilacs, freesias, lilies, gardenias, hyacinths and jasmine, are best used in moderation. Ask Chirpee for scent grades of flower fragrance to get the balance right.

As a rule, if you have lots of embellishments on the skirt you may decide a hand tied posy which will show the dress to the best advantage. If you have a "princess style" dress, a larger waterfall bouquet will suit you. A large train will need a cascade bouquet to balance your overall proportions. Slimmer body confident dresses suit an over the arm bouquet or a larger free flowing style.

Chirpee flowers will happily advise you on the most beautiful style at your consultation. This is part of the service.

**Traditional styles (A)** include a Teardrop style, Shower/Cascade styles or Waterfall bouquets – these all flow down the skirt and are held at your natural waist.

**Contemporary styles (B)** include compact posies and designed bouquets – there are many variations and shapes.

**Natural styles (C)** include free-flowing bouquets and wild meadow just picked posies.





If you have some favourite flowers ask us if they are in season when you are getting married. If you are not familiar with flower names please don't worry, we can suggest flowers to compliment your personality, style of wedding and colours, we love to do this, it's part of our service.

A good place to start is to collect a few images from social media to show us the styles you like. A note of caution regarding Pinterest images. Many derive from the USA where the seasons are not in sync with the UK making some of the images a "wish list" variety and quite expensive, especially if you have a stretched budget. It's a great place to start however, and there's lots to look at and many ideas to follow.

Ask Chirpee Flowers for suggested images if you are unsure what will look great with your style and theme.

01273 951745 or email  
[chirpeeflowers@gmail.com](mailto:chirpeeflowers@gmail.com)





## *Bridesmaids' Flowers*

It's a great idea to have a photo of your bridesmaid's dresses, and ideally a sample of the colour if possible to hand when choosing your bridesmaids flowers. The colour and fabric will be the greatest influencer for your flower choice. The lighter the fabric the more transparent a flower choice is recommended, such as gypsophila or astrantia. Heavy fabrics suggest weightier flowers such as proteas or large roses. Little flower girls often carry a basket of fresh rose petals to scatter, a pomander of fresh flowers or a garland held between two little girls looks fabulous. If your bridesmaids are tiny, a soft teddy bear with a special floral collar would be sweet and safe to hold.

For Adult bridesmaids' smaller versions of the bride's bouquet are a good choice, a teardrop style or you might like a posy or hand tied bouquet design. If you are on a tight budget a single incredible rose tied with trailing ribbons can look stylish. Bridesmaids also carry alternative designs such as small birdcages with flowers, lanterns, parasols, teacups with flowers, garlands or even decorated antique books.

It's traditional for your Maid or Groomsman of Honour to hold a slightly larger bouquet or a special buttonhole to make it distinctive in some way, a different colour, stronger shades of the theme colour or slightly different flowers. If you are unsure what to choose Chirpee Flowers is happy to suggest ideas for you.



# Buttonholes, Boutonnieres & Corsages

## What is the difference?

- A **buttonhole** is usually a single flower and is traditionally for a man, and is worn on the left-hand side. If you are wearing a suit you may have to un-sew the buttonhole before pushing the stem of the buttonhole through. Alternatively, we can supply pins or magnets\* to attach to your suit. Buttonholes can be traditional or alternative. We often supply buttonholes that reflect the groom's hobby or work. Ask Chirpee Flowers for suggestions, we have lots of ideas and books to help you.
- A **boutonniere** is a collection of small little flowers and is worn outside the suit buttonhole, the stems showing, and are for men or women.
- A **corsage** is a larger design worn by women on the lapel of their outfit, or attached to a wrist, hat or handbag.



*\*IMPORTANT! Please check that your guests do not have pacemakers – magnets can interfere with these.*



## *Reception Ideas*

The very first thing to consider is your budget. Divide ideas into “must have” and “hope to have”. It saves disappointment when creating a wish list for your reception. Secondly consider the style of your wedding. If you have a vintage theme certain flowers like brightly coloured gerbera wouldn't work but older varieties of scented rose would. Thirdly, consider the aesthetics of your venue: if its modern, contemporary floral designs will blend beautifully. If your venue has a brightly coloured carpet or furnishings you may be fighting against things which can't be changed, so choose neutral colours or change your venue!

Consider focal points where your photographs will be taken – these are the key areas to decorate.

Taller designs are fantastic in large venues such as marquees, they don't block views of guests and provide a wow factor when your guests arrive. It's great to have a mixture of tall and low designs. Chirpee Flowers have lots of ideas and examples of decorated venues, which we can show you at your consultation. The first consultation is complimentary and we can visit your venue with you to discuss key areas to decorate, it's all part of our service.





# *How To Find the Best Wedding Florist*

As floral designers who have been supplying flowers for many years we can advise you, “what to look for” and “what question to ask a florist” before choosing. Of course, we would love you to contact Chirpee Flowers if you are getting married in and around Sussex or Kent.

1. One of the main questions to find out if the florist you are hiring is qualified. It's amazing how many florists take a short course and they set up a business. A qualified florist can train to Foundation degree level. A florist should have a minimum of Level 3, ideally Level 4 an advanced level. It's something you need to find out. You wouldn't want a mechanic who had a completed a weekend course to take your car apart or a hairdresser to cut your hair after a short period of training would you?



2. Check how long they have been in business. Be sure that your florist has plenty of wedding experience so that if there are issues they can respond quickly. Seek reassurance how many weddings they have completed.
3. Ask your florist if they can supply you with a list of venues they have decorated – they should be preferred suppliers at a few venues. You can then check out their work via recommendation.
4. A good florist will be able to suggest seasonal flowers and foliage's. Seasonal flowers are much higher quality, last longer and are often locally grown.





5. Consider the perfume you will be wearing on the big day – a qualified florist will have studied fragrance levels of each flower. Each flower has a numbered perfume grade and they will be able to check whether the fragrances will blend correctly.
6. Did you know a qualified florist will also have studied wedding fabrics, dress shapes, their weight, their surface quality, how flower textures relate to the fabric of your dress and they can offer floral suggestions that are bespoke to you. They will also have studied face shapes, hairstyles and can suggest the correct headdress for you.
7. Ask your wedding florist if they can supply you with Pantone colour charts. If you are looking for a specific colour match these are an invaluable guide.
8. A bespoke wedding florist will be able to sketch your design to show you how it looks with your dress. They will be able to supply mood boards.
9. A wedding florist will have in-depth knowledge of Cultural weddings and alternative ceremonies

*Call us today to book an appointment*

**01273 951745**

*or email*

**chirpeeflowers@gmail.com**





# *The Top 10 Wedding Flowers To Choose*

## 1. Rose

Long considered a symbol of beauty and love, the rose features in many legends and has been used commercially since Roman times. A favourite in the world of weddings, the rose is far from safe, particularly when it comes to colour – the rose is available in solid colours and bicolour varieties, and there are striped roses and tipped roses as well. Lately the trend is for glittered roses and even chocolate dipped roses!

Professional florists stock high grade roses with unusual colours and can access auctions where over three thousand varieties are sold.



## 2. Peony

The peony has a large, full head, strong perfume, and bright colour. But despite this outward showiness, the flower acquired the Victorian meaning “bashfulness.” A bouquet made solely of peonies can be gorgeous; the flower can also be used to create beautiful centre-pieces and arrangements. Grown in single – and double-flower styles, this expensive bloom is seasonally available from late spring to early summer. It is hard to obtain in other months and is generally a lot smaller. Check with your florist if you are choosing these beauties.



## 3. Hydrangeas

A large full bloom that is common in UK gardens. Commercially there are over 600 colours, an incredible selection in the world flower markets, from miniature varieties to large lacy florals. It's a flower that can wilt quickly when cut make sure they are conditioned correctly. Hydrangeas look best “en-masse” or mixed with smaller summer flowers. As they are so large they can fill out centre-pieces or pedestal designs quickly.



## 4. Sweet peas

The sweet pea, which signifies “lasting pleasure,” was first brought to England from Sicily in 1699, and the English have had a love affair with this delicate flower ever since. Its ruffled blossoms make this an old-fashioned favourite in bouquets for the bride and her bridesmaids. The sweet pea’s many colours range from white to intense pinks and purples, and its scent can be delicious, it’s one of my favourites. Your florist can advise you on suitable designs as the flowers are so delicate.



## 5. Stephanotis

The Victorian meaning for this flower is “marital happiness,” making the dainty white Stephanotis an obvious choice for weddings. The star-shape, waxy florets grow on a flowering vine; each must be individually wired or placed onto a special holder before it can be arranged. Alternatively, I love to unwind the vine and use it trailing in large loose bouquets, it looks amazing! A bouquet of stephanotis blossoms is one of the most traditional a bride can carry, and a stephanotis buttonhole is a classic choice for a formal wedding. Fairly expensive but worth it.



## 6. Lily of the Valley

A bouquet of lily of the valley might be your dream, a more affordable alternative may be to use just a few stems to infuse a bouquet or centrepiece with its wonderful fragrance. Most people know of the white variety, but lily of the valley also comes in a very rare rosy-pink. It is a very seasonal flower and it is at its very best in April and May, other times of the year it can be quite expensive in floral designs.



## 7. Calla lily

This elegant, trumpet-shaped blossom originated in Africa and symbolizes “magnificent beauty” in the language of flowers. Two types are commonly available: a large-headed variety with a long, smooth stem and suitable for tall arrangements or presentation-style bouquets, and a miniature version ideal for



bride's bouquets. Creamy ivory is the most popular colour, but calla lilies also come in white, yellow, orange, mauve-pink, and dark purple amongst others. The calla lily is also known as the Arum lily or the botanically correct Zantedeschia.

## 8. Orchids

Orchids are luxurious flowers and are associated with sophistication and glamour. From the flat “Moth” orchid (Phalaenopsis orchids) to the large winter Cymbidium orchids and the tiny Singapore orchids there is a huge variety to choose from. Very long lasting and great for bouquets and headdresses, it's one of the best flowers to choose to last all day.



## 9. Gardenia

A flower that was routinely used in weddings in the UK from the fifties. Surrounded by waxy leaves, the heavenly gardenia exudes an intoxicating heavy scent. A few gardenias are wonderful in a bouquet or floating in a low bowl as a centrepiece, and a single gardenia makes an exotic corsage or hair accessory. Be gentle when handling this bloom, the delicate, creamy ivory petals of this expensive flower can bruise easily. Ask your florist for availability – it has a short season.



## 10. Ranunculus

A simple flower, like a small peony. The Victorian language for this flower meant “I am dazzled by your charms” – a very sweet message to carry in your bouquet. It's a delicate early spring flower that has a little bit of a problem – it bruises easily and breaks even more quickly. Your florist will know ways of overcoming this.



*Whatever you choose, make sure the flowers are the very best quality; the most beautiful blooms you can afford, they will always be remembered.*

*Don't forget, Chirpee Flowers can advise you on the very best flowers for your budget, style and season.*



# Five Wedding Packages from Chirpee Flowers

## 1. Chirpees' Linen Package

A beautiful Brides bouquet of fresh roses, eucalyptus or rosemary and gypsophila – compact posy

3 × Hand tied bridesmaid's posies with or without trailing matching ribbons

6 × Rose and Gypsophila buttonholes

2 × Mothers Lapel Corsages

1 × Flower girl basket of fresh rose petals

Bag of fresh petal confetti

# £325\*

*Terms and conditions\* will be supplied on request. Delivery dependent on mileage, a nominal mileage may apply or you may collect if you prefer.*

*Standard rose colour choices available all year round: Red, orange, yellow, white, pale pink, deep pink, peach.*

*Unusual varieties of rose may incur an additional charge.*



## 2. Chirpees' Silk Package

Brides hand tied/cascade bouquet of roses, freesia and alstromeria\* or similar seasonal flower and your chosen colours

4 × Bridesmaids matching hand tied posies

5 × special buttonholes

2 × Lapel corsages

Registrars or Top table cascade arrangement

Filled Table jam jars × 6 tables or table arrangements

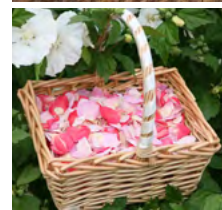
Cake Table – flower garland and top-tier posy

Large bag of fresh petal confetti

5 metres of car ribbon

£695\*

*Terms and Condition apply\* A mileage fee may be applied for delivery.  
Seasonal flowers only are used in rose package.*





### 3. Chirpees' Satin Package

A Beautiful Brides bouquet of seasonal mixed flowers

4 × Matching bridesmaid's posies

5 × special buttonholes

2 × Lapel corsages

Registrars or waterfall top table arrangement

1 × large pedestal or urn design

8 × special table floral designs

Cake Table – flower garland and top-tier posy

2 × “Thank you” bouquets or gift wrapped orchid plants plus large bag fresh petal confetti plus car ribbons and posy

£895\*

*\*Terms and conditions apply.  
Delivery charge may apply  
depending on mileage to your  
venue. Seasonal flowers only.  
Colour choices.*





## 4. Chirpees' Lace Package

A Beautiful bride's bespoke wired or shower cascade or posy bouquet – your flower and colour choices

5 × Bridesmaids bouquets – to compliment bride's bouquet

1 × Groom's buttonhole plus 10 × Groomsmen buttonholes plus 2 × Lapel corsages or hat/handbag decoration

Reception or Ceremony flowers: 10 Pew ends or Special Guest table designs

Reception flowers: Garland or table runner for bar or other area plus Top table waterfall arrangement

Matching cascade cake table design + cake flowers

2 × large Pedestal or Urn designs

2 × Luxury "Thank you" hand ties in presentation vase and wrapping

Large bag of fresh flower confetti + Car ribbon

# £1,500\*

*\*Terms and conditions apply.*



## 5. Chirpees' Organza Package

Beautiful Luxury Brides Bespoke design complete with sketches /mood boards/colour charts/premium flower choices

5 × Bridesmaids bespoke bouquets

Grooms Special buttonhole plus 30 × Guest buttonholes plus 2 × Lapel or handbag/hat Corsages

**Reception design:** 5 × Luxury Guest table designs or bespoke design of your choice

2 × Large Pedestal or Urn designs

10 × Pew ends or Chair decorations

Top table full length cascade design or full bloom table runner

Full length Garlands for top table/buffet tables

Floral arch or Floral chandelier for reception or ceremony

Cake flowers and cake table waterfall decoration

2 × Luxury "Thank you" Bouquets in vase and presentation wrapping

Car flowers – bonnet/back shelf plus Basket of Fresh petal confetti

# £3,000\*

*\*Terms and conditions apply. Nominal mileage charge may apply. Premium flower choices.*





## *Chirpees' Wedding Flower Planning Tips ...*





- Your flowers really reflect your wedding personality. Tighter bunches of traditional bridal blooms such as peonies and roses fit a classic style, while lush arrangements of soft, big blooms will take on a romantic note. Sleek architectural varieties in minimalist arrangements are more modern, and loose clusters of vibrant flowers mixed with greenery create a rustic feel. Work with us to pick the style that matches the overall look of your day. Or break away from traditional table designs and experiment with alternatives: feathers, fruits or grasses.
- Be specific about what you like – do you like roses, or are you really after a pink bloom? If you can be less specific and leave the choice to your florist you will stretch your budget further as they can buy best value for you.
- Pastel flowers are ultra-feminine; vibrant shades can have a more contemporary feel; and soft greens and white creates a timeless combination.
- Would you like more meaning? The Victorians gave meanings to different blooms – red tulips signify love and passion while lily of the valley represents happiness and purity. Ask Chirpee the meanings behind your flower choices.
- Flowers aren't just bouquets and table centrepieces. Of course, that's what you think of when you think wedding flowers, but there are other arrangements to consider too. All eyes will be on the altar when you say, "I do," so use flowers to frame the two of you. A large urn or pedestal arrangement or even an archway of flowers will look incredible. These amazing arrangements will be included in lots of the important photos, like your walk up and down the aisle and your first kiss. Don't forget other key area such as the cake, your card or gift display and the entrance. First impressions are very important.
- Chirpee flowers can also make extravaganzas such as hanging floral chandeliers, screens and much more.



## *What To Do Next?*

Call Chirpee Flowers to check your date is available

Book your complimentary consultation

Discuss designs and flowers

Great Choices ... Your day is booked with Chirpee!

*Call us today to book an appointment*

01273 951745

*or email*

chirpeeflowers@gmail.com

## *Social Media Links*

 <https://www.instagram.com/chirpee.flowers/>

 <https://www.facebook.com/chirpeeflowers/>

 <https://www.pinterest.co.uk/chirpeefloral/pins/>

 <https://twitter.com/chirpee2>



# *About Chirpee Flowers*

## *My story so far ...*

My earliest memory of flowers is an odd one. I was positioned at the bottom of a long flight of stairs in my Dads' florist shop in Grantham, aged six and told to shout "SHOP!" at the top of my voice if a customer came in. Both parents worked upstairs creating the designs, downstairs was filled with masses of fragrant, colourful, beautiful blooms. Even writing this brings a smile as it sounds reminiscent of "Open all Hours" but I remember the feeling of responsibility at this tender little age as well as knowing it was place I loved to be.

I'm a third-generation florist, my grandad had a large chrysanthemum nursery in Lincolnshire, the centre of the floral world in the 1930's who supplied the old Covent garden market in London.

Three shops later in Sussex, and my family "persuaded" me to run one of the shops at the unconfident age of eighteen. A little later, after early mornings meeting the refrigerated vans from Holland at 7am, working very long hours, usually very cold and my hands continually red and sore I decided to go back to studying!

Interior design degree under my belt, two children growing up, I found I missed flowers, so started a fledging wedding flower business working from my garage to start with, alongside part-time hours in the family business and temping for other florists in Sussex. A busy life.

Competitions intrigued me, and I was lucky enough to work with the World president of Interflora who sponsored an exhibit at the Chelsea Flower Show. An extremely large and very heavy bonsai tree was created with a few thousand white dendrobium orchids which won a Gold medal. A very happy moment.

After teaching at a local FE College and becoming Head of Floristry I was privileged to be offered a role working for World Skills International, training young floristry students to compete around the world. They are very talented people, so successful, gaining over 18 Gold medals at Chelsea between them, many of whom have opened their own businesses. I'm incredibly proud of them.

Internationally I've taught and judged in many countries from Brazil, Canada, Japan and Finland to name a few as well as local shows. Last year an amazing trip to Russia, to help train the Russian Kazan floristry team for their debut onto the world stage.

The wedding flower business has ticked nicely along in the background for 21 years but is now mine and the teams' focus. We create beautiful designs for lovely couples around Sussex and bring our expertise when you are planning the most visual and decorative part of your wedding day.

We have also created an Online Floristry school with over 500 students.

Go to [www.southdownsfloristryschool.com/](http://www.southdownsfloristryschool.com/) to find out more.

Flowers are growing in my world.

Let us create magical floral designs in yours.



*Steph x*

Call us today to discuss an appointment.

## *Conclusion*

We hope our guide has given you some pointers towards choosing the right flowers  
and wedding florist.

May you have a happy and stunning day.

[www.chirpee.net](http://www.chirpee.net)

01273 951745 *or* 07545489569