

The Wedding of Georgina and Josh, December 19 2023

After a wet morning in Wells, we ordered a taxi and were at the Elmhay Park venue by 1pm. We were wondering where to go when Josh (the groom) approached and asked if we were Molly and Bob (we had never met him) so we made introductions and soon were directed inside.

The ceremony was to be held in a marquee erected near the main building, and we found our seats on the second row of the bride's side. One by one we met Dorothy and David, Amanda and Ellis (Isobel stayed home so as not to miss school!), Sam (Georgina's mother), and Jessica (Georgina's younger sister). And many others.....



A little after 2pm (the bride was fashionably late) Georgina was escorted down the aisle by her dad, Nigel. The relatively short ceremony conducted by the Somerset registrar was very similar in wording to that at our own wedding almost 60 years earlier – with the exception of the word “Holy” since this was a civil ceremony. The signing of the official papers seemed to take as long as the ceremony itself, but we were soon welcoming the new couple and headed indoors for the first of many glasses with which to toast.



Preparing for the confetti throw



The Newlyweds with the Bride's family

As mentioned, the weather earlier in the day had been atrocious but there was a break in the rain (even a little sunshine) for the official picture-taking session outside. Similarly, the weather stayed dry for the confetti throw, staged specifically for another official picture.



The “wedding breakfast” was served at table and was a very nice meal of pate, bangers and mash (unusual but very good!) and cheesecake - all accompanied by wine.



Then it was time for the speeches. Nigel (who had been teased a lot by his family prior to the event) did an excellent job and gave an amusing and heartfelt speech about his daughter and her new husband. Likewise, Josh and his best man gave very creditable responses.



Following this set of speeches (again remarkably “familiar” in format to our wedding), one of the venue staff took the microphone and said that he would like to offer his congratulations on behalf of the venue. We thought that we were in for a commercial for the Estate but he – and another “waitress” – suddenly burst into song. The two of them sang perhaps eight songs, wandered through the hall, got guests involved, and gave an excellent performance. Obviously, they were not staff but had been hired by the bride and groom for the occasion and were, in fact, “The West Enders”, presumably a tip to their day jobs in theater. It was an interesting and enjoyable twist to a lovely event.

A “final” outdoor camera shoot took place when we were all given sparklers to raise as the bride and groom walked up the path to a sparkling glow. Then it was time for the dancing, which presumably went on for quite a while.

Molly and I left about 8:30 (getting a taxi when offered, rather than risking lack of availability later) and both Nigel and Sam came outside to the taxi pickup point to thank us for joining them. They really made us glad that we were able to attend.



One of the pretty flower girls

