



Cheshire bride coming home

A Wedding Planners Challenge

Shantha & Shashank Deshpande (nee Sivakumaran)

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It was Christmas day in 2006, New Jersey, USA and also our Bride's birthday, when Shashank Deshpande proposed to Shantha Sivakumaran. The hours Shashank spent choosing the perfect diamond for the perfect ring were all worthwhile when Shantha accepted his proposal. Shantha knew she wanted to return home to get married and thus the decision was made to have the Wedding in Cheshire. The task was then to find a Wedding Planner that could help them make this dream become a reality.

Shantha and Shashank discovered our website and delighted with the prospect of being part of their special day, a conference call was arranged. Our proposal outlining their brief, encompassing their dreams and desires

of a quintessentially English classic wedding soon followed. A meeting with Shantha's parents in Congleton was organised, which was essential, as it was extremely important for them to have a personal connection to their Wedding Planners.

Our meeting with Mr & Mrs Sivakumaran was very relaxed and their pride in their daughter was clearly apparent as they spoke of her achievements and her recent engagement to Shashank. The challenge of planning a wedding with our Clients from 'across the pond' was extremely exciting and a project that began with immediate effect.

The first decision to be made was the choice of Venue. With only eight months to our Clients wish of a summer wedding, this vital element was going to be dictated by

availability. Shantha and Shashank requested a Stately Home or Manor House venue for up to 250 guests, with on-site hotel accommodation. With an abundance of beautiful venues within Cheshire, our task may have seemed daunting; however, the shortlist eventually came down to two venues that were more than suitable and after a tour of them with Shantha's parents and a full review to Shantha and Shashank, they finally settled on the most perfect venue, Crewe Hall, with the date set as close to their desired time, to 5th October 2007.

With the venue and the date arranged we began to source and recommend a host of suppliers. Our aim was clear; to provide our Clients with recommendations for each element that met their brief, to deliver supreme quality and service and most importantly, to share the invested interests

of our Bride and Groom. With distance being our only obstacle, we sent each suggestion via email, supported with the details of the recommended supplier websites and provided tangible samples where necessary. The process worked fantastically well and its success mainly lay in Shantha and Shashank's ability to trust and believe in the confidence of ourselves and the company.

From all the suppliers that we forwarded to Shantha and Shashank, they chose a wonderful selection, which created a recipe of what was going to be a beautifully elegant and graceful wedding. With the stationer being our first port of call, our Clients decided on a stunning design from BoyGirlBoyGirl, handmade stationery specialists based in Glasgow. The whole range was centred on a simple warm peach rose square, entwined with gold wire with threaded hearts.



This decision was then closely followed by the Photographer, and Lesley Meredith was an effortless choice. The flowers naturally fell into the hands of Ian Lloyd at The Flower Shop. Cakes by Melissa presented the most fitting design to suit the style of the wedding and for music they selected harpist, Maxine Molin Rose for the ceremony and The Quartz String Quartet for during the champagne reception. With a Planners role being centred on the attention to detail, we strongly recommended an element that can often be overlooked. We felt that adding atmospheric lighting to the Long Gallery, as part of the evening entertainment, would transform the room and create a stunning impact for when guests returned. For this to be achieved, Absolute Lighting & Events Ltd was chosen for their passion and ability to manage the complete lighting and sound for throughout.

Shantha and Shashank revealed their international guest list, with guests to be invited from, USA, India, Canada, Sri Lanka and across several European Countries. From this, the idea to create their personal website began to grow. We had a website designed to allow all their guests to have their own invitation login ID code. Guests were able to select if they wished to attend a pre-wedding buffet, make their RSVP online

and also select their menu choice from alternative dishes. With a great deal of guests travelling from abroad, they could also complete their travel details in order for a chauffeur driven transfer to be arranged, in association with David Anthony Chauffeur Services.



Shantha and Shashank planned a visit to the UK for the beginning of July and so a host of appointments were arranged for them to meet their selected suppliers. During the week we accompanied them to view Crewe Hall, whereby they selected aspects from the menu and wines right through to choosing their desired napkin folding. They met with Lesley Meredith, 8 Day Events chocolate fountain supplier, Cakes by Melissa, Ian Lloyd Florist, Affairs venue dressers, Absolute Lighting & Events and Stylist Danielle at Finishing Touch Design. Capturing the opportunity,

they utilised their ability to make instinctive decisions and together a full range of choices were made in exceedingly exquisite taste.

A fitting end to the week's schedule saw the appointment of our men's suit hire company, Simply Suits. As Shashank's Groomsmen spanned across four countries, we offered him a solution of a mobile suit hire service that provided an online self measuring guide that all his Groomsmen could follow. With his Groomsmen only arriving in the country the day before the wedding, Simply Suits delivery service would ensure the suits would be with the Groomsmen upon their arrival and any amendments would be made in time for the day itself.

Paradoxically, Shantha's four Bridesmaids all lived in the South of England; however, their dresses were sourced in the USA. Therefore; Shantha concentrated on having her dress fittings through a bridal boutique in New York and arranged to take her Bridesmaids dresses to them all in time for a traditional Hen Weekend in London.

In no time at all, the night before the wedding arrived and Shantha and Shashank wanted to welcome and share



an informal and relaxed evening with their guests before the wedding with a buffet dinner and drinks. Many of their family and friends had travelled such huge distances to be with them and the evening provided the platform for a fantastic atmosphere, to be carried through to the Wedding itself.

On the morning of the Wedding there was a great vibe around the whole venue, as we visited Shantha and her Bridesmaids,

Shashank and his Groomsmen and made the final preparations. All of the suppliers delivered with the utmost professionalism and Crewe Hall exceeded everyone's expectations. The enormous journey that Shantha and Shashank and we at Perfection Planner had shared to get to this point had been a fantastic adventure and the results of the hard work were about to be encompassed into this day.

The Ceremony was held in the Long Gallery and the room was dressed with cream linen chair covers with peach sashes and stunning flowers that accented the colour scheme. The whole room boasted elegance and grace as Shantha made her way on her Fathers arm to Shashank and the emotions began to run high. As they made their promises and exchanged their vows to each other, there was a richness of culture and warmth throughout the room and an overwhelming sense of affection for them both. Readings were made by Shashank's sister Rani, the Chief Bridesmaid Shelly and Shantha's close friend Cathy, all speaking words of the importance of Marriage and overall, love and understanding.

Shantha and Shashank, their parents and all the guests enjoyed a glorious autumnal day on the terrace for the champagne and

canapés reception. They then led their guests back to the Long Gallery to enjoy their Wedding Breakfast and listen to speeches made by Shashank, both Fathers, the Best Man and Shantha herself, ensuring she had the last word!

The guests then enjoyed a relaxing interlude, before the evening celebrations began and their entrance back into the Long Gallery was that of astonishment, as it was transformed into 70's disco fever, complete with mirror



ball! All the guests partied the night away and for an additional surprise, they were invited outside where a magnificent fireworks display mesmerised and astonished the guests and made a fitting tribute to the whole day. We managed to catch a few moments with our Bride and Groom, who expressed their thanks to all the suppliers who were involved with the day, the utmost thanks to Crewe Hall and their staff and also our service for the Wedding, of which they said *"was planned to perfection"*.

Wedding Suppliers:

<i>Wedding Planners</i>	Perfection Planner Ltd	<i>Chocolate Fountain</i>	8 Day Events
<i>Venue</i>	Crewe Hall	<i>Venue dressing</i>	Corporate Affairs
<i>Photographer</i>	Lesley Meredith	<i>Transport</i>	David Anthony Chauffeur Services
<i>Flowers</i>	Ian Lloyd at The Flower Shop	<i>Music</i>	Harpist - Maxine Molin Rose
<i>Stationery</i>	BoyGirlBoyGirl	<i>Stylist</i>	String Quartet - The Quartz String Quartet
<i>Lighting & Sound</i>	Absolute Lighting & Events Ltd	<i>Fireworks</i>	Danielle at Finishing Touch Design
<i>Cake</i>	Cakes by Melissa	<i>Men's Attire</i>	Pains
			Simply Suits

If you would like to enquire about any of the suppliers named above, please contact us at Perfection Planner Ltd.