

WEDDINGS. with your Figaro

This is a short synopsis about carrying out Wedding or special occasion hire with your Figaro.

I will be designing a proper longer feature for the Club shortly with photos and testimonials.

I started back in 2014 with a trial wedding, and decided it was something (outside of the day job) that I would continue to do.

Mr Plum was the first Figaro and was shortly joined by “Lily” Figaro to hire both out as transport for the Bride and Groom, or a combination, and for bridesmaids/VIP wedding guests even.

First thing is to consider:

Your car’s condition – it has to be ready to go and not let the wedding party down on the Big Day. This will involve a little more maintenance than normal and a gleaming exterior. I try to keep the interior as plain as possible, and the exterior with the required wedding décor.

Insurance – we insure with Classic line for an agreed number of weddings per year, usually 5 or 6. I don’t want to do more than that number as it can be stressful, and also dilute the Figaro’s presence. Some people like the fact it is a bit more unique. Wedding insurance on your policy is essential. It covers you to do them but it does not cover the cost of a car if yours breaks down on the day or a replacement needed. You can get insurances that do all that, but usually more expensive and difficult to find a replacement wedding car on the big day itself.

Viewings – I always ask the customers to come and view the car(s). It’s essential they check it is the right vehicle for them, does it fit the dress, will it fit all the bridesmaids, are there any tall people, any people less able. I’ve come across all these scenarios and it is a “must” for the couple to check the car out. If they say yes on the viewing, I send them a booking form and T&Cs after with all the date and detail on, and a form to say that if for any unforeseen reason, the Figaro breaks down or is not available on the day due to a fault etc. then I cannot be liable for that – it remains a risk. Luckily, I haven’t had to encounter that yet but it is a reality.

Décor – I ask the bride and groom what sort of décor they want on the car and what colours are their wedding colours/theme to see if they a) want their florist to theme it and supply flowers or garlands or b) for me to include in the cost a display for the rack on the boot from my local florist or c) I supply a simple white spray of gypsophila and hessian ribbon. On nearly all occasions they have just asked for the c) option. I use a high-quality poly ribbon or hessian or fabric ribbon for the bonnet, wing mirrors plus anything else they want. I also have some props (wedding signs, hearts, rustic or retro items) they can use. If you’re a static booking for a wedding it can be nice to have a basket of flowers to suit their theme on the boot rack.

Prices – price of wedding hire cars vary wildly. I charge roughly between £250-£300 depending on where it is, the journey, the requirements. Some charge more but a lot of people don’t expect to pay much higher rates for a Figaro. Sad but true. Mostly, our wedding bookings have been for both cars then I give a discounted rate for both for me and my husband to drive, both cars. You will get enquiries that expect it for nothing, or for petrol. I generally politely say that’s not possible. I would say 80% of enquiries ask you for self-hire, but I would never just hand the keys over as a) you won’t get insurance for self-hire or if you do, it’s not cost efficient. B) you wouldn’t be insured if they trashed or damaged it.

Marketing – you can market the car hire yourself if you are only doing the occasional wedding hire by social media, local ads, word of mouth etc. I've tried wedding fair (pre Covid) but they were expensive, had a lot of window shoppers going for free goody bags, and some expecting prestige vehicles, so I don't do wedding fair any more unless they are free to exhibit at. A website is useful and I put all the photos of ours on www.rookerynook.zenfolio.com although I don't always get time to keep it up to date as I have a main full-time job.

Enquiries that go nowhere – quite often I have enquiries that give no info, they just ask for a "price" but they could be anywhere in the UK (one was Cornwall!) so you have to get used to asking for detailed info and then sometimes you hear nothing or it is way out your area.

Past weddings – have been great fun, wonderful, rained on, long days, or short days. Some people hire the Fig as a static for their wedding. This is easy work but generally I charge less. One wedding we were put in a gravel area and didn't see the bride or groom at all. In 30 degrees and not offered any food or drink this was a lesson learned to take supplies! They had forgotten we were there!

Lessons Learned and Funny stories: I've had one couple book the car for their parents and I asked if they could bring their parents to try it out and they said no it was fine. On the day the parents were mortified and nearly refused to get in what they called "a ridiculous car". Another wedding I was told the bridesmaids were small. On the day four came out, and I had to squeeze an eight-month pregnant lady in the front seat and 3 tall ladies in the back. They were not happy either but we had to laugh and turn it into a fun day for them. Diplomacy and tact are often called for along with patience.

Roof up or down – is a big debate and quite often we have been asked to put the roof down so it doesn't ruin hair (but then no one can see inside), and sometimes an unexpected rain shower comes along en-route so you have to hurry out and close the roof.



Despite all the above, we have enjoyed our weddings and with the lessons learned and hints and tips, we still do approx. 5 a year. Festival weddings are the best as are retro events. We have also accommodated proms hire but as you can't get Proms insurance, you ask for a "donation" to the cars upkeep. I've never charged more than £75 for a prom as they're generally quite easy and not time consuming. On a wedding day you need to be up early with the car prepared the day before, and prepared to be about after the ceremony and back at venue for photos, but these can often be after the drinks etc.

I hope this has given you a flavour of weddings with your Figaro, but I will be writing an article for the Club shortly with plenty of photos. Let me know if this has been helpful or if you have any more queries. Best regards, Jules.

