



News

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Christmas wedding for first marriage at city golf club

Christmas bells will be ringing for Melany Young and Lee Mitchell later this month, as the couple tie the knot at Exeter Golf and Country Club - the first marriage in its 113 year history.

The pair, who have a 21 month old son, Kameron-David, decided to bring forward their wedding to Tuesday (16 December), as Lee joins the armed forces next month to train to be an aircraft engineer.

The event falls on the eve of Exeter Golf and Country Club's 80th anniversary at its Topsham Road location.

Full-time mum, Melany, 26, explained: "We've been living together for six years so it was no surprise to anyone that we're getting married. When Lee proposed in October, we decided we wanted the wedding to take place before his training with the navy started, so we set a December date. There's been a lot to organise in a very short space of time!"

Lee, 24, said: "It's been a dream of mine to join the navy and this is a fantastic opportunity. I will need move to Southampton for the duration of my training and then Melany and Kameron will join me. I could be placed anywhere in the UK after that, but it will be worth it - it's a great career and I will be able to provide well for my family."

Melany added: "I know it's something Lee has always wanted to do and I fully support him."

The couple, who have lived in Exeter all their lives, say they chose the Golf and Country Club for its setting and central location.

Melany said: “The grounds are lovely and my parents really liked the venue. We have family coming from various parts of Devon and the club is easy to get to. We found staff very flexible on wedding packages too - we told them our budget and they came up with an option suited to us that we all happily agreed on.”

Referring to the current economic climate, Melany’s parents, Ian and Kari Young, who are funding the wedding, said: “Fortunately, we had already put money aside for Melany’s wedding so we can go ahead as planned, but we have had to tighten our belts in other areas.”

One of six venues in the city, Exeter Golf and Country Club was awarded a civil licence in September. Seven of the club’s rooms are now available for marriages or civil partnerships - six in the main Georgian club house.

Martin Halse, General Manager, said: “It’s an event that will go down in history for us - we have been working towards holding marriages at the club for a long time. Our first marriage couldn’t be a more fitting or happy event to take us into 2009 - our 80th anniversary at our Topsham Road home and the start of a new era in our business.”

The not-for-profit club started life as a private members golf club in 1895. Since then it has grown to provide tennis, squash, swimming and many other activities for its members.

Mr Halse added: “I should think the club’s golfers in 1895 would be quite amazed at the thought of people actually getting married here. It was an incredibly formal place all those years ago.

“Many congratulations to Melany and Lee - we wish them all the very best for the future and a merry Christmas!”

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