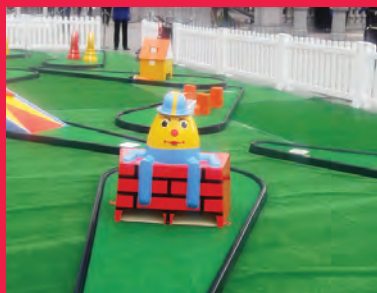


That's entertainment

If you're after a special something to keep your guests entertained on the big day, look no further than our guide to some amazing local purveyors of fun



Check out...

Garden games are a great way to break the ice between your guests. Once Aunt Hilda's played Twister with the best man, there'll be no stopping the good times. Giant Kerplunk, Jenga, snakes and ladders, ludo, lawn darts, quoits and boules – and lots more – can all be hired from AR Entertainments. It can also set up a nine-hole crazy golf course, which can be used indoors or outdoors.

Queen of the castle

You might think bouncy castles are for kids, but why should they have all the fun? Bouncy Castle Hire York has bouncy castles for younger guests but can also supply an adult bouncy castle for daytime or overnight use, or even for a whole weekend. Even better, you can have a personalised castle with your name on the front!

Game playing

To get everyone laughing and mingling with a variety of fun activities, why not opt for a village fête theme? Just add a cake stall, straw bales as seating, and games for everyone to play while they sip some elderflower-based cocktails beneath the bunting.



Roll up, roll up

Always wanted to run away and join the circus? The Circus Avago workshop allows you and your guests to learn to walk the tightrope, spin plates, juggle, ride a unicycle and walk on stilts. This is obviously all great fun for the little guests at your celebrations, but Jon Marshall from Mr Magic Entertainments, which provides the workshop, says: "We find that grown-ups are soon pushing the kids out of the way to have a go themselves!"

Fairground attraction

If you fancy a carnival atmosphere on your big day why not go the extra mile with some candyfloss before hopping on your favourite merry-go-round horse? Traditional fairground carousels are available to hire from Awkward Entertainments, but why stop there? The company also hires out dodgems, a coconut shy, helter skelter, and all manner of thrilling rides. All the attractions are supplied with staff and insurance, and the company will liaise with your venue for access.



Let me entertain you

There are countless options if you want an act to amuse and enthral your friends and family, from balloon modellers to belly dancers, so banish big-day boredom with some of these ideas.



Check out...

Welcome your guests to the Palace of Curiosities, who will bring all the atmosphere, wonderment and fun of a Victorian travelling fairground sideshow to your wedding. Marvel at the Marcus Island mermaid, and let the itinerant showmen enthral your loved ones with tall tales.



Perfect performance

To add a quirky element to your day why not have a stiltwalker weaving their way through the crowd? Or how about complementing a traditional venue with a Greek or Roman living statue? If you want to add a celebrity touch to proceedings then why not arrange for a flash of fake paparazzi to snap away as your guests enter the reception? If you've got a theme to your day there's probably a performer out there who can enhance it – the King and Queen of Hearts could attend your *Alice in Wonderland*-themed do, or for a more formal affair get James Bond to greet your guests with a Martini – shaken, not stirred, of course.

Check out: Dangerous Productions for live performers

www.drawnbymike.com



Drawn together

A caricaturist will make your guests laugh and provide them with a lovely keepsake of your wedding. It's a fun way to fill the time during quieter parts of your day. Artist Mike Bryson – Drawn by Mike – can complete 40 to 50 caricatures in a two-hour set, and is happy to draw couples and small family groups.

Small wonders

If you've got children coming to your wedding, it's worth spending some time thinking how to keep them entertained. One great idea is to set up a kids' corner especially for the younger guests. A wedding crèche can work really well, and you'll receive extra brownie points from the parents. A Little Something Extra will come in and set up a play space with dance mats, toys, jigsaws, role play, and non-messy craft activities, plus a special baby area with toys, baby gym and books. The company then clears away the toys and equipment to make way for its evening crèche, and replaces it with a flatscreen TV and a selection of DVDs. Sleep mats are provided for tired tots.

Rhythm of the night

The sun has set, the food's been eaten, and it's time to really let your hair down and party. You may well be dancing the night away, but there are plenty of other options for fun that will keep everyone talking about your wedding for months to come. Light up your night with some of these suggestions.



Check out...

Once all the official photographs are done and dusted, it's time to have some fun in a photo booth. Get giggling with your friends using props and costumes to create some fun and quirky photographs. Booth Revolution can also create handmade backdrops and decorations that will complement your colour scheme or theme. Every package includes a dressing-up box with a range of weird and wonderful accessories, including hats, glasses, masks, moustaches and lips on sticks, quirky signs and speech bubbles. Guests can also record video messages that can be put onto a DVD for you after the event.



Luck be a lady

Add a bit of competition to your evening entertainment and have a casino party where your guests play for fun and prizes. Fun Casino Hire can provide blackjack, poker and roulette, plus its friendly dealers will be on hand to help explain the games to anyone who doesn't know how to play.

Burning love

A fire performer will get your evening reception into full swing and you can be sure of an enthralled guest list as they watch him swallow a burning torch, juggle with flames and breathe out plumes of fire.

Check out...local fire performer The Fire Man Dave



Light up, light up

To finish off your celebrations with a bang, fireworks will create a magical atmosphere. Optimum Fireworks is a family-run business that creates a bespoke display for every couple and can use colours that match the colour scheme of your wedding. What could be a more fitting finale?

Contacts

A Little Something Extra

www.alittlesomethingextra.co.uk

AR Entertainments

www.arentertainments.co.uk

Awkward Entertainments

www.hireafunfair.com

Booth Revolution

www.boothrevolution.com

Bouncy Castle Hire York

www.bouncycastle-york.co.uk

Dangerous Productions

www.dangerous-stiltwalkers.co.uk

Drawn By Mike

www.drawnbymike.com

The Fire Man Dave

www.thefiremandave.com

Fun Casino Hire

www.funcasinos.net

Mr Magic Entertainments

mrmagicentertainments.co.uk

Optimum Fireworks

www.optimum-fireworks.co.uk

Palace of Curiosities

www.palaceofcuriosities.com