



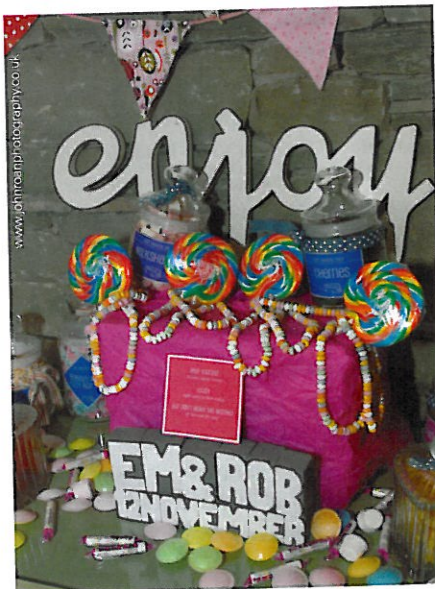
**Left:** create a bespoke cocktail  
**Below:** doughnuts or a sweetie tablemake a fun alternative to traditional cake

### 17 SHAKEN, NOT STIRRED

Why not serve personalised his 'n' her cocktails as a pre-dinner apertif, suggests Lisa Bell of new Glasgow accessories boutique Melle Cloche (mellecloche.com): "Have fun with the names too, so you could end up with 'Dan's Deadly Daiquiri' or 'Helen's Heavenly Hooch'. Going that extra mile is something that guests really will remember... as long as they don't love the cocktail just a little too much!"

### 18 SUGAR PLUM FAIRY

Take your friends and family off on a fun-filled trip down memory lane with a retro-tastic sweetie table piled high with treats like flying saucers, cola bottles and candy canes. "They've been a growing trend at Cameron House Hotel," explains Lindsay Jones (cameronhouse.co.uk). "One bride made her own labels for the jars and created personalized paper bags and tongs for the sweetie jars! Multi-coloured bunting around the table was a cute and quirky finishing touch." Try I Love Candy in Glasgow and Edinburgh (ilovecandystore.com), or click onto Sweetilicious (sweetilicious.co.uk).



### 19 MEAT AND GREET

"A great way to get the table talking over their meal is to have a roasted joint for the main course. This way each table has to designate a carver or two, hence engaging the table in chat whilst feasting on some succulent fresh meat," suggests Holly Jones of The Lifestyle Company Scotland (tlscotland.co.uk).

### 20 SCREAM FOR ICE-CREAM

"Whether served after the ceremony or as a dessert during the wedding breakfast, ice-cream is a sure way to add an element of fun to your big day and encourage guests to mingle. Brides can really go to town on the decor and presentation with a huge selection of flavours and delicious toppings," suggests Rebecca Norris of Rock My Wedding (rockmywedding.co.uk). We love ice-cream-vendor-on-wheels The Green Tricycle, that can be hired and adorned in ribbons to suit your theme (thegreentriple.co.uk).

### 21 DESSERT STORM

Many brides are opting out of the traditional wedding cake and looking for a more quirky alternatives. "One of my favourite ideas of the moment is having a styled dessert buffet," says Rebecca Barnett at Rebecca Barnett Wedding Design (rbweddingdesign.co.uk). "What guest wouldn't revel in an entire table decorated in keeping with your chosen wedding theme, brimming with yummy treats such as individual desserts and cupcakes? Pick your favourite dessert, make it the centrepiece, and cut this as your 'wedding cake'. Fruit-filled pavlova, doughnuts or cheesecake work a treat."

### 22 MUSIC OF LOVE

Don't be shy about straying away from tradition. If you're getting hitched in a church, why not ask your organist to play a song that is special to both of you, rather than the traditional Wedding March? It's bound to be an unexpected surprise that'll have your guests rocking in the aisle.



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**Above:** fun photos from a Looklook booth  
**Right:** try butterfly tags as an alternative to a guest book



### 23 SNAP HAPPY

Get your guests posing and pouting while giddy on the free fizz for mementos that'll raise smiles long after the big day. "Photo booths have been a real trend lately, supplemented with a box of funny extras such as hats and dressing-up gear," says Lindsay Jones, wedding planner at Cameron House Hotel (cameronhouse.co.uk). "The picture is then stuck into a book with a message and it's a bit different from the usual guest book." Try looklook.co.uk to hire booths.

### 24 PERSONALISED PLAYLIST

"To cater for all your guests' musical tastes in the evening, ask each one to pick a song of their choice when they're RSVP-ing to your invite. Collate their choices and – hey presto – you have a playlist for your DJ; or use the list to compile your own library of music to play on your iPod. This way each guest will feel they're a special part of your day," suggests Sarah Plant of Ayrshire Wedding Planner (sarahscreativeoccasions.com). "In addition, you could create CDs of your playlist to be gifted as favours."



### 25 TOP OF THE FLOPS

We're sure many of your lovely lady guests will be wearing their best shoes on your big day, but as the evening wears on, don't let weary feet take its toll on dance floor action. "We girls all know how much our feet can hurt after hours of socialising, so as a nice touch, why not buy lots of colourful flip-flops in the sales and put them in a basket on the side of the dance floor to give your female guests a very welcome surprise later in the evening?" suggests Danielle Coplans, editor of The Wedding Girl blog (theweddinggirl.co.uk).

### 26 SWEET MUSIC

If you're looking for a statement piece that'll really set your day apart, then a grand piano is about as elegant and glamorous as it gets. "Hiring a grand piano and pianist to play throughout your meal will make your reception look and sound a million dollars – without costing you anything like it. In some cases, you can hire a grand piano and pianist to play throughout your wedding breakfast for just £600," advises Emma Douglas of Timeless White (timelesswhite.co.uk).



### 27 ICE BREAKER

It's often difficult to know who to put where when making your table plan; you will often end up with people who don't know each other at the same table, so it's a nice touch to introduce a way of breaking the ice. "One of the best games I have found is a quiz where each statement relates to a guest at the table," says Rebecca Barnett (rbweddingdesign.co.uk). "The aim is for guests to match each statement to the correct guest at the table. So, for example, if you have a guest who is a vet the question could be 'this guest is all you need if your dog's feeling poorly'. It's a great conversation starter and you can even have a prize for the table who guess the most correct."

### 28 SET HEARTS A FLUTTER

These sweet little butterfly tags are set to take the wedding world by storm – they're a cute alternative to the guest book that also decorate the venue beautifully (£17.99 for 54 from andallthingsnice.net). "Hang on a crystals tree, from willow tree branches or create a ribbon washing line. After the wedding day they can be stored in a beautiful keepsake box, form part of a wedding scrap book or perhaps placed next to a photograph of the people that have written them in an album," suggests Andrea Riby, owner of And All Things Nice.

### 29 WRITE ON

Ditch the traditional guestbook format and look for a new way for your guests to record their good wishes, suggests David Smith, wedding co-ordinator at Glasgow private member's club 29 (29glasgow.com). "We once had a couple that handed-out stamped addressed postcards, printed with old Penguin Book covers which the guests took them home to write out and post back later."



### 30 TAKE YOUR PARTNERS

Get guests mixing with each other with a little pre-wedding organisation. "Do some crafty match-making by having pre-filled dance cards. This not only encourages guests to mingle (outside their tables) but also helps gets those singletons schmoozing," suggests Holly Jones from The Lifestyle Company Scotland (tlscotland.co.uk).