

Wedding story Tracy and Andy Manning

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When Tracy Morrison and Andrew Manning decided to tie the knot, there was only one place for it.

As director of resources at Fylde Council and the town hall in St. Annes receiving its licence to perform wedding ceremonies, Tracy and Andrew chose the venue for their big day on June 15. And what made it extra special was they were the very first couple to do so.

Tracy first started working there when she was just 16 on work experience, and although she has worked elsewhere since in both the public and private sectors, she returned to Fylde Council in 2003 and was appointed director in 2011.

She said: "The day was very special as we were the first couple to marry at the town hall. "The wedding was also a first for Fylde Council staff and both Maria Marcella and Alex Scrivens from the council did a superb job in making our day extra special."

Andy and Tracy, who are both 51, met through Andy's lifelong friend Lisa Power and Tracy's boss, who is also Lisa's partner, Allan Oldfield, who is the Chief Executive of Fylde Council. They became engaged on the Charles Bridge in Prague. During the ceremony verses were read by Andy's daughter Ayshea, Tracy's son Jack and her best friend Victoria Haslam. Although the occasion was bitter sweet with Tracy's dad passing away last year, she said it was wonderful to be walked down the aisle by her son, Jack Scholes who is aged just 13-years-old. She was given away by her best friend's husband Michael Haslam.

Following the service canapes were served which were beautifully crafted by Steve Shepherd of Arnold and King Edward School Catering together with a champagne reception at the Town Hall.

Guests were then taken down to Green Drive Golf Club for an evening reception in a beautiful vintage 1940's bus from Coastal Coaches which has been lovingly restored by the owner of the business.

Evening entertainment was by the Brothers of Swing who recently were joint winners of Channel 4's 'Hunted' programme and local DJ Glenn Sergeant played the dance list, which Andy had created. Their first dance was Seal's, Kiss from a Rose. Tracy said: "Lytham Green Drive Golf Club also did us proud by supplying a marque outside the venue for guests to enjoy the summer sun when they arrived. "Our guests made our day very special and guests came from differing parts of the UK, as well as locally."

Tracy's sister Deborah made a special journey from Munich in Germany for the wedding and Andy was also delighted to be joined by his other two daughters Ayshea and Tasha, with Tasha recently returning from back-packing travels abroad. Tracy's dad was specially remembered in the speeches following the wedding in a tribute from the bride herself. Andy who is from Thornton and runs his own property maintenance business, said: "I had an absolute fantastic day. "The day started with a relaxing breakfast with friends and then I had a lovely meal with family prior to the wedding which gave the whole day a stress free feel. "I arrived at the town hall an hour before our wedding to be greeted by Alex and Maria from Fylde Council. "Seeing the wedding room was a real wow moment; it looked stunning as it's a classically beautiful setting. It was only topped by Tracy as she walked in

for our wedding ceremony, looking absolutely lovely. It was just such a fabulous day shared with family and friends.” Tracy added: “I loved doing all the groundwork for our wedding day. Although there was an element of a busman’s holiday in getting married where I work, it was really special to be the first couple to tie the knot at Fylde Town Hall. I can honestly say that the whole day was absolutely perfect from start to finish.”

Tracy laid her bouquet on her father’s grave in Wrea Green the week after their wedding. They honeymooned in India and live in St.Annes.