



LOTTERY FUNDED

A Christmas Wedding

Eileen and George met by chance after Eileen and her mum had gone to see a film and George was coming out of the cinema when they were. They started chatting and they got on really well! The happy couple got engaged in September 1945 when George was on leave from the navy and they set the date for the 25th December 1945 as this was when George was back home on leave and had nearly two weeks at home.

Eileen turned 19 the week before her birthday and George was 22 years old. Eileen had 4 bridesmaids, her 3 sisters and her sister's friend, they all wore blue satin, her little brother was a page boy and he was all in white!

On the day of the wedding her bouquet didn't turn up and so she had to use one of the bridesmaids! Also, due to the war time rail service, George's best man couldn't get to the wedding, so her sister's friend's boyfriend stepped in at the last minute!

They married at St Mary's Church in the afternoon on Christmas Day, the vicar charging them double for the privilege!

The reception was held in her mum's home, Eileen doesn't remember them having problem getting food, despite rationing still being enforced- they had a wedding cake and there was plenty of food. She does remember her family rallying around and giving her clothing coupons so she could have the dress she wanted and bridesmaids' dresses.

For their honey moon they went to Sheffield to see George's mum as she was unable to come to the wedding... However it wasn't all plain sailing after the wedding, George re-joined his ship and Eileen didn't see him until September 1946!

Eileen and George were together for 57 years. Eileen still remembers her wedding day as being very happy and full of laughter.

