

# A LOVE LETTER to AUSTEN

OVER 200 years since her death, *Jane Austen* is still lauded as one of the greatest writers of all time on heartfelt matters of courtship, love and marriage. What better reason then to celebrate the bicentennial year of one of the North-East's most romantic and elegant country wedding venues than by drawing inspiration from Austen's timeless work and style.

## THE STORY

With its magnificent grounds and beautiful architecture, Northumbria's Doxford Hall offers an undeniably dreamy setting for the most hopeless romantic. The splendid Georgian Hall with grand carriage entrance way, enchanting secret gardens, manicured formal lawns, and stone terrace and balustrade boasting far-reaching pastoral views, provides the perfect backdrop to the Austen-inspired shoot, captured exquisitely by wedding photographer Katy Melling.

Katy's use of natural light and ethereal style pays homage to the history and bucolic setting of this resplendent country venue, one of the region's finest houses designed by local architect John Dobson, while bride Laura oozes Regency period-style with an ivory Empire-line bias cut silk gown, overlaid in fine tulle and trimmed with decorative French Chantilly lace, pearl detail and mink velvet ribbon.

## THE STYLING

The wedding breakfast, shot in the Frank Henry Mason reception room, illustrates the decadence and indulgence of this bygone era, with original fine bone china showing off fashionable deserts and sweetmeats, and billowing English country garden-fashioned floral arrangements by Helen Mawson.

Of course, no Austen-styled set would be complete without the glimpse of a love letter from archetypal aloof romantic hero Mr. Darcy, who would surely make even the most hardened sceptic swoon with the line: '... You have bewitched me body and soul and I love, I love, I love you'



**Location:** Doxford Hall, Northumberland [www.doxfordhall.com](http://www.doxfordhall.com)

**Photography:** Katy Melling Photography, Newcastle [www.katymelling.com](http://www.katymelling.com)

**Introduction and Words:** Kate Stanley

**Bride:** Mia Bridal, Carlisle [www.miabridal.co.uk](http://www.miabridal.co.uk)

**Hair:** [www.tinaelliott.co.uk](http://www.tinaelliott.co.uk)

**Make Up:** Danielle Hall [www.danimua.com](http://www.danimua.com)

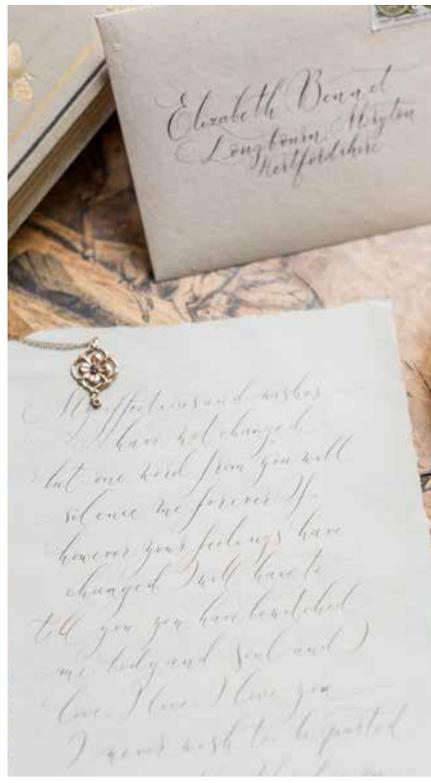
**Flowers:** Bels Flowers, Newcastle [www.belsflowers.co.uk](http://www.belsflowers.co.uk)

**Vintage fashion and styling:** Fran Boyd [www.goodbyenormajean.co.uk](http://www.goodbyenormajean.co.uk)

**Accessories:** table linens, antique artefacts and hand-dyed ribbons by Kate Cullen [www.katecullen.co.uk](http://www.katecullen.co.uk); bridal gown ribbon trim by V V Rouleaux [www.vvrouleaux.com](http://www.vvrouleaux.com); Sugared almonds [www.ukweddingfavours.co.uk](http://www.ukweddingfavours.co.uk)

**Calligraphy:** Claire Gould [www.bymoonandtide.co.uk](http://www.bymoonandtide.co.uk)

**Crockery:** [www.everythingstoptorte.co.uk](http://www.everythingstoptorte.co.uk)



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*'You have bewitched me body and soul and I love, I love, I love you'*

