



Excited: Dan and Beth

©NINE-MARIE SANDERSON

A right royal wedding for Dan and Beth

A LOCAL couple are all set to share their special day with Prince William and Kate Middleton.

Elizabeth Whitaker and Dan Stern had booked their big day for April 29 at West Lodge Park Hotel in Cockfosters Road, Hadley Wood, last August and had already arranged the catering and flower arrangements long before the royal couple set their date.

The couple, who were friends for five years before they started dating two years ago, have arranged a family-centred wedding.

They chose the venue because the ashes of Beth's gardener grandfather, Horace Wisdom, are buried in the arboretum with a magnolia stellata, his favourite plant. The date for the wedding was dictated by the month the magnolia is in bloom – April.

And now office manager Beth and customer services manger Dan will not have to worry if their guests will be able to get time off work after the government announced that the royal wedding will be marked as a national holiday.

Groom-to-be Dan, 28, explained that he predicted that the royal couple would pick the same date. He said: "I heard on the radio they were planning a spring wedding and with the Easter weekend before and the May Day bank holiday I thought they would give people an extra treat."

"My dad phoned me when he heard the

By
*Kim
Inam*



news," said Beth, "he said 'guess who else is getting married on YOUR day?' I couldn't believe it.

"My nan has asked if there will be a TV showing the celebrations and she is wondering whether we will get an invite to the garden party at some stage."

Dan had planned to propose to Beth while on holiday in Spain last July, but after his grandmother's death he chose to seize the moment and presented Beth with his nan's diamond ring. The couple also used Beth's mother's wedding band to make a new engagement ring, symbolising bringing the two families together.

The couple, who are inviting 120 guests have chosen feathers as part of their theme.

Beth said: "After my grandfather died, my nan read somewhere that when you see a feather it's those passed watching over you, and whenever we go to West Lodge Park we always see fresh clean white feathers."

So the couple have adorned their homemade invitations with white feathers, and Beth's pastry chef mother Angela will be baking their four-tiered cake.

Unlike William and Kate, who will go to Canada for a royal tour, instead Beth and Dan will be honeymooning in the Maldives.

Talking about marriage Dan said: "We are doing it because we want to be together for ever." Beth added: "You just know when you've found the one, when you can be yourself totally together."

Keeping up with the HRHs

Bridesmaids: Three including Beth's elder sister plus one flower girl

Best man: Lifelong friend Mark House delivers the cheeky speech

Announcement: Rang families, told close friends, changed Facebook status to 'engaged'

Venue: West Lodge Park Hotel, Hadley Wood – 120 guests

Bridesmaids: Five including Kate's younger sister

Best man: Everyone holds their breath as Prince Harry takes the mike

Announcement: Clarence House statement, day is declared a bank holiday

Venue: Westminster Abbey followed by Buckingham Palace – 1,900 guests... and a £10m budget

