



A New Beginning...

Over the last decade there has been a rise in the use of social networking groups and introduction agencies. With divorce rates constantly on the up many people find themselves alone with their old friendship groups broken down. It's a difficult task to start again, making new social circles and getting back in to the dating game can seem very scary, and social networking groups can provide a welcome new start for people looking for that fresh beginning.

Kathy, a then Coventry based computer design engineer, found herself in that very position back in 1998, and with this being the month of love she agreed to share her story with R Magazine.

Having divorced a few years earlier and with her daughters pretty much grown up she found herself becoming all career and no social life. It was in January of that year that she decided to make a fresh start and 'get out there.' "It's difficult when you have been concentrating on work and family for so long, the one day you wake up a realise that your actually lonely, and it

would be nice to have some company!" Kathy was nervous about the idea of joining a dating agency, "I wanted to meet new people socially, not end up on a string of blind dates!" So she did a bit of research and came across a company called RSVP. "The idea behind RSVP is that they organise social events, and I had an interview with the hosts before hand so they new a bit about me and my personality."

Whereas other introduction agencies arrange one on one meetings, RSVP also provide social events every month, where their clients can mingle with people in the same position and make new friends. They carefully interview new

members and insist on seeing identification, ensuring the people you meet are who they say they are. "I don't think I would have had the nerve to go out on my own," Kathy tells R, "After meeting with the RSVP hosts I signed up to go to my first social function, it was so much easier as there were other women of my age who were all in the same boat, it made me realise that I wasn't alone and many people who have been through divorce find themselves feeling a bit out of it."

It was at her very first function that Kathy seemed to strike it lucky. Whilst talking to some of the other members she spotted a handsome man at the other end of the bar, and theirs eye's met. "RSVP had picked out some guys they thought I would get along with and were going to introduce me, as I turned back I saw that the handsome man wasn't at the end of the bar and I thought I had lost him in the crowd, only to realise he had moved to where I was standing, we said hello and it all started from there!"

The 'handsome man' turned out to be Nigel, a Northants based property manager. Like Kathy he had been divorced for some time and was looking to make a fresh start, it was his first RSVP function too so they were both very nervous. "We chatted for most of the evening and swapped numbers, I felt like a giggling school girl by the time I headed home. It was exciting to realise that I wasn't past it!"

Nigel and Kathy started dating and it wasn't long before they fell head over heels in love, "It was bizarre, it was the very first function of this kind we both went to, and we hit it off so well that we never went to anymore!" After a year or so of dating Kathy moved in with Nigel at his home in Towcester, and shortly afterward they decided to get married. "It was a bit of a whirl wind romance, but we realised very quickly that we would make each other incredibly happy." With the blessings of their daughters, Nigel's daughters turning out to be the same age as Kathy's, they arranged to get married in Barbados in July of 1999.

"The wedding was everything I dreamed off, we flew our girls and family over with us for a two week break, and Nigel and I stayed for an extra week as a honeymoon, it was perfect we got married on a cliff top restaurant and had a steel band playing here comes the bride! And now 8 years later we're still very much in love, my experience of using a service like RSVP couldn't have worked out better and it has given me a whole new life I could have only dreamed of."

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Nigel and Kathy's story is one of hundreds of successful relationships that are born via social networking, for more information on RSVP visit www.rsvp-int.co.uk, or call 01604 585999.

