

26th September 2006

City breaks records with 600th civil partnership

Brighton & Hove remains the most popular place in the country to celebrate civil partnerships – and this weekend sees the 600th ceremony in the city.

On Saturday morning Bruce Gibson, 52, and Nas Badshah, 45, will, at Brighton Town Hall, become the 600th same sex couple to register as civil partners in Brighton & Hove.

The couple, who run a Spanish villa rental agency, Villaspain.co.uk in the city, have a double reason to celebrate. “We are delighted to be able to be amongst the 600, so far, who have taken the opportunity to register their relationship,” said Bruce. “This is particularly special as we have just celebrated our 26 years together.

“Working together, as property and holiday villa agents, means we are with each other 24 hours a day, so it could be considered the equivalent to over 50 years together, and a very happy time it has been.

The pair will be joined by their sisters who will act as witnesses, and will later celebrate with lunch at a country hotel.

Brighton & Hove made history on 21st December last year by hosting three civil partnership registrations simultaneously at 8 am, which were among the first in the country, including founder of Pink Weddings Gino Meriano and his partner of eight years Mike Meriano.

City Registrar, Trevor Love said: "The entire team at Brighton and Hove Register Office is immensely proud and privileged to have reached our 600th ceremony in just 9 months. This is a huge achievement and we are thrilled that couples are choosing Brighton & Hove as the place they want to tie the knot.

“We feel honoured to be able to play a part in a couple’s special day, many of whom have waited a lifetime for legal recognition of their relationship and have subsequently become our friends.”

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