



# Ceremonies

in the Wokingham Borough

# Remenham Court

## *Exclusive riverside location, Henley-on-Thames*

A unique riverside venue, offering flexible entertaining space for weddings, corporate events & celebrations. Whether you are looking to host 20 guests or 500, Remenham Court can provide a unique and flexible space which can be tailored to your needs. Better still, we offer FREE Corkage.

The venue is available to hire for day or evening events or for longer periods. We offer a self-contained bar area for your use; you just need to provide the drinks and bartender; You are welcome to bring your own event planners, caterers etc or we can make local recommendations to support you plan your special day, we will provide you with venue expertise

We are licensed for weddings and offer four locations, including: Indoor- outdoor

### **The Raised Terrace**

Ideal for any reception or party, this beautiful outdoor space offers a panoramic view of the River Thames and beyond. Drinks and food can be served to your guests whilst they enjoy the gardens and surrounding countryside.

### **Sunken Lawn**

The sunken lawn is within a walled garden and is the perfect location for a bespoke marquee or designer stretch tent catering up to 200 people.

### **The Orangery**

The orangery is a beautiful and elegant venue that combines the charm of a conservatory with the grandeur of a historic garden room. This room is a large, airy structure flooded with natural light featuring tall, floor-to-ceiling windows with lovely views across the grounds, comfortably seating 32 people. There is an option to extend directly onto an outdoor space adding a capacity for a further 70 people, this can be covered by a stretch tent making the ceremony capacity for up to 102 people. Both indoor and outdoor spaces are licensed for wedding ceremonies.

### **Riverside Field**

Remenham Field, part of the estate adjoining the towpath, is available for large events or extra-large marquees accommodating 500 or more guests. This can be hired as an independent site or as part of the exclusive house hire.

### **Bedrooms**

Remenham Court has six beautiful bedroom suites in the main house with stunning views of the garden and river beyond.

### **The Gatehouse**

The Gatehouse is separate from the main house, with unique self-contained accommodation offering two additional double bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, and private garden surrounded by a stream.

Website: <https://remenhamcourt.com/>

Email: [info@remenhamcourt.com](mailto:info@remenhamcourt.com)

Tel: 07968 620 835



# Contents

- 4 Welcome
- 6 Getting Married
- 7 Forming a Civil Partnership
- 9 Ceremonies at the Wokingham Ceremony Room
- 10 Booking your Registrars
- 11 Giving Notice and Documents
- 13 Run-up and on the day
- 16 Celebration Ceremonies and Renewal of Vows Ceremonies
- 18 Outdoor Ceremonies
- 19 Naming and Welcoming Ceremonies
- 20 Information about Religious Ceremonies
- 22 Information about Marrying Abroad
- 24 Frequently Asked Questions
- 28 Licensed Venues in the Wokingham Borough

# Congratulations!

## Congratulations on your forthcoming marriage, civil partnership or celebratory ceremony.

We hope this brochure contains all the information to help you take the next step in your plans towards the perfect day for you here in the beautiful Borough of Wokingham.

With beautiful countryside, thriving and bustling towns, picturesque riverside settings, barns, golf courses, civic building ceremony rooms, a vineyard, hotels, a cricket club, a rowing club, country estates, marquees, Wokingham offers an array of venues and ceremony types to suit all tastes, budgets, and options for you to have the occasion that suits you perfectly.

Whether you are looking for a tiny intimate ceremony, a more traditional event or a lively vibe with friends and family, we will be on hand from your first enquiry until you are holding your certificate in your hands. Our friendly team of highly trained registrars are genuinely passionate about what we do and feel privileged to be part of this special time in your lives.

We are here and happy to help if you have a question, no matter what... no question is too small, or unimportant.

We hope the information here helps with your planning and guides you through the next steps in the process, but our website is also full of information about the stages towards your big day.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

Alison (Superintendent Registrar), and all the registration team...

The Register Office  
Civic Offices  
Shute End  
Wokingham  
RG40 1WH

Email: [registrars@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@wokingham.gov.uk)

Web: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/births, deaths & ceremonies](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/births, deaths & ceremonies)



## What type of ceremony is for you?

We are here to help you celebrate your love, but you can do that in lots of different ways.

A civil marriage or a civil partnership is available to all couples. It is also the only legal alternative to a religious marriage.

For a civil marriage or civil partnership to be legal, it must take place in any Register Office in England and Wales, or in a licensed venue, indoors or outdoors, and be conducted by a registrar from that district. As long as your ceremony includes the legally prescribed vows and no religious content, we welcome you personalising your ceremony as you wish, with personal vows, readings, poems, music or other individual elements.

With around 25 registrars in the Wokingham Borough, and history dating back to 1837, there is very little we can't help with when it comes to getting you married or civil partnered!

If you have already married but wish to celebrate the occasion with friends and family or prefer to celebrate your commitment without the legal side, we also offer a range of non-legally binding ceremonies to suit you – a wedding celebration ceremony, a renewal of vows, or a commitment ceremony. Likewise, if you wish to celebrate in a venue that isn't licensed, we can lead your celebration ceremony, perhaps even combining it with a visit to the Register Office to tie the legal knot beforehand.

# Getting Married

Whether your wedding is a huge celebration, a simple ceremony to put a seal on a long-term relationship, a legal marriage before you head abroad for a larger ceremony, or you are having a religious blessing later – we will make sure your ceremony suits you as a couple.

The first step is to decide where you want your marriage ceremony to take place. The Borough of Wokingham has a Ceremony Room at the Register Office in Wokingham, plus many licensed venues to suit all styles and budgets. A list of all our licensed venues and links to their websites can be found at the back of this brochure, or on our website.

If you are marrying in the Wokingham Ceremony Room or Wokingham Register Office, the venue and the registrars can be booked together directly with us. If you decide on a licensed venue, please contact them directly to check their availability, before contacting us to make a booking for the registrars to attend.

We take bookings up until the end of the next-but-one financial year and require full payment at the time of booking. We have several teams of registrars working, especially on popular days and times of the year, so will always do our best to accommodate your chosen date and time. Do of course get in touch with us as soon as possible for best availability. For our fees and our booking request form, please see our website or visit the government website for more information.

Before getting married, you will both be required to give notice of your intention to marry at your local register office and more information about this can be found in this brochure on page 11 and 12.



# Forming a Civil Partnership

For more information about whether a marriage or a civil partnership is for you, please see the information on the government [website](#).

Civil partnerships are available to opposite sex and same sex couples and offer a legal alternative to marriage.

You can choose to form your partnership in any way you choose – from a simple signing of the documents with two witnesses, to a larger scale celebration. Your first step is to decide where you would like your ceremony to take place. The same locations are available to those marrying and those forming a civil partnership. The Borough of Wokingham has a Ceremony Room at the Register Office in Wokingham, plus many licensed venues to suit all styles and budgets. A list of all our licensed venues and links to their websites can be found in this brochure, or on our [website](#).

If you choose to form your partnership in the Wokingham Ceremony Room or the Register Office in Wokingham, the venue and the registrars can be booked together directly with us. If you decide on a licensed venue, please contact them directly to check their availability, and then contact us to make a booking.

We take bookings up until the end of the next-but-one financial year and require full payment at the time of booking. We have several teams of registrars working, especially on popular days and times of the year, so will always do our best to accommodate your chosen date and time. For our fees and our booking request form, please see our [website](#).

Before forming your partnership, you will both be required to give notice of your intent to form a civil partnership at your local register office and more information about this can be found in this brochure on page 11 and 12 or go to the government [website](#) for more information.

While the perfect option for many couples, it is recommended that you ensure a civil partnership is right for you. In the UK the relationship between couples in a civil partnership is recognised legally in the same way as a married couple. However, if one of you is a foreign national or you plan to live abroad, the local laws of that country should be established to ensure your partnership will be recognised there. For opposite sex couples forming a civil partnership, there is not an option to change your partnership to a marriage at a future date.







## Ceremonies at the Wokingham Ceremony Room

Alongside the range of licensed venues in the Wokingham Borough, we offer marriage and civil partnership ceremonies seven days a week in the Wokingham Ceremony Room at the Register Office in Wokingham.

The Wokingham Ceremony Room is adjacent to the Register Office at the Civic Offices in Wokingham.

Recently redecorated, it is in the older part of the building. It is on the ground floor of the Old Rectory, with its high ceilings, ornate cornices and a stunning chandelier.

It offers an alternative to couples wishing to have a smaller, less formal, wedding ceremony. It can be booked Monday to Sunday.

The room takes up to 28, including the couple.

Website: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/births-deaths-and-ceremonies)

Email: [registrars@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@wokingham.gov.uk)

Tel: 0118 974 6000 option 3, option 3



## Booking Your Registrars

Once you have chosen your venue and preferred date, please complete the booking form on our [website](#), or phone us on 0118 974 6000 (option 3, option 3).

When we speak with you, we will discuss the next steps, confirm our availability, make the booking, and take full payment in advance.

We will confirm the booking by email, sending a confirmation letter, and more information about what will happen next. Most importantly

if you are marrying or forming a civil partnership we will advise you that the next step is to give legal notice – more information about this can be found on page 11 and 12.

Once your booking is in place and the clock is ticking towards your big day, do get in touch with us at any time if we can help with anything.

# Giving Notice

Before you can get married or form a civil partnership, you will need to go through a process called giving notice.

This can seem like a confusing process, and you may not know what you need to do. We've gathered together our frequently asked questions, which will hopefully give you some clarity on what you will need when it comes to getting booked in, and what you will need for the appointment.

## What is giving notice?

Giving notice is a legal requirement before you can get married or form a civil partnership. You and your partner will both need to prove that you are 'free' to marry, or form a civil partnership. This can mean proving you are old enough, that you are legally divorced or widowed, that you are not closely related, or that you have the right visas to marry if you are from outside the UK.

Without giving notice, you cannot legally marry or form a civil partnership, so it's really important to get booked in!

## Do I need to have my ceremony booked?

No, you do not need to have your ceremony booked to give your notice.

However, you need to be certain on where you would like to have your wedding or civil partnership.

Your notice is only valid for one venue. So, if you decide to get married or form your civil partnership at a different venue, you will need to give notice again.

## How long will my notice be valid for?

Your notice will be valid for 12 months, from the date that you give your notice. So, if for example, you gave notice on the 1st February 2024, your notice will be valid until the 1st February 2025.

## When do I give notice?

You will need to give notice at least 29 days before the date of your ceremony, and can give notice anywhere up to a year before the date. We usually recommend around 4 to 6 months before the date of your ceremony.

## Where do I give notice?

Your notice appointment will need to take place at your local register office. You will need to have been living at this address for at least 8 consecutive days.

If one or both of you is from outside the UK, then you must give notice together at a register office in the district where at least one of you lives.

## Can I give notice online?

No, you must attend an appointment in person at your local register office.

## How much does the appointment cost?

Giving notice at the Register Office costs £42 per person. If a Home Office immigration referral is necessary, the fee is £57. An additional charge may apply if you have a previous divorce that was granted in a country outside the United Kingdom.

## What documents will I need to bring with me?

There are certain documents that you will need to take with you to your notice appointment. Register Offices are very restricted on what they can accept at the notice appointment.

So, if you are ever unsure of what to take with you, the best thing to do is contact the Register Office you have booked your appointment with and discuss this with them.

If you do not have the right documents with you when giving notice, you may need to rebook your appointment and pay the fee again. However, this varies between offices. We have broken down into sections what documents can be accepted at the notice appointment. These documents come under three sections:

- Proof of Identity,
- Nationality and Age
- Proof of Residence
- Proof you are legally free to marry/form a civil partnership

If one or both of you is from outside the UK, you may be asked to bring additional documents with you.

## **Proof of your Identity, Nationality and Age**

- Valid passport
- British Birth certificate (If you're born after 1st January 1983, you will need to bring your mother's birth certificate too)
- Any change of name documents If you are an EU/EEA or Swiss National and have

settled status, pre-settled status or a pending application, you will need to provide a share code.

## **Proof of Residence**

- UK Driving Licence
- Bank statement (no older than one month)
- Utility bill (no older than 3 months)
- Council Tax Bill (the most recent bill, no older than a year).

## **Proof you are legally free to marry/form a civil partnership**

- Decree Absolute
- Death Certificate
- Foreign Divorce Documents
- Translation of foreign divorce documents

If you are using documents with two different names, you will need to show something to link these documents together.

For example, if you have a decree absolute in one name, and your passport or birth certificate is in another, we will need to see your previous marriage certificate.

## **What to do if you are a foreign national?**

Foreign nationals are defined as people who are not British Citizens, Irish Citizens and who have not been granted EU Settled Status (EUSS) or have a pending application for EUSS submitted before 30 June 2021.

If you or your partner are a foreign national, you must give notice together in the registration district which one or both of you live.

If you are a foreign national, you will also need to bring evidence of your settled status in England and Wales. This can be shown with the following:

- Indefinite Leave to Remain/Enter or Marriage Visa, Fiancé visa or Civil Partnership visa.
- If you do not have either of these, your notice will be referred to the home office. This can extend your notice period to 70 days.

## **Will my Notice be referred if I am in the UK on a work visa?**

Yes, your notice will still be referred to the Home Office. Unless you have a Marriage Visa, Fiancé visa or Civil Partnership visa, Indefinite Leave to Remain/Enter, then your notice will be referred.



## Run-up and on the day:

In advance of the ceremony, please complete your ceremony details form sent at the time of booking. This helps us incorporate the vows you have chosen and helps you communicate other elements of the ceremony that are important to you too. We will use this to create your own personalised script which we then pass to your registrar to use on the day.

Please do remember that in the run up to the event, our team of registrars is available to answer any questions, to ensure your plans run smoothly and soothe any nerves! You are in safe and expert hands with our experienced team, so we hope you can relax and enjoy this special part of your day.

### Pre-ceremony appointment:

We can arrange for you to have an appointment with one of our registrars to discuss what will happen at your wedding. We will go through the script and even practice your vow words. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions. This appointment is held over Teams and a small fee is charged, please see [website](#).

### Meeting with the registrars before the ceremony:

We will guide you through the whole process on the day... in advance of the ceremony we will see both of you, either together or individually as you choose, privately away from your guests, to ask you to confirm the legal details and to offer you some last minute reassurance. We ask that you are ready in good time, so that we do not have to compromise the content of your ceremony.

## During the Ceremony:

We will guide you through the whole ceremony. During a marriage ceremony, we will ask you to repeat your legal declaratory and contracting vows after us, so there is no need to remember anything or feel too nervous. You can also choose extra vow words for the exchange of rings and/or write your own personal vows or promises.

We love to hear the story of how you met and about important people in your lives, so there is a chance to include that as part of the ceremony. We want you to have a ceremony as individual as you are.

For a civil partnership, there are no legally prescribed vows but you can read aloud the legal statement, and include your own vows which can be read out or repeated after the registrar. You may also include personal vows if you choose, only for weddings at venues, one reading for Wokingham Ceremony Room. We welcome your own choices of music, poems, readings or other personal elements if you wish to include them. Likewise if you wish to keep things very simple, let us know and we will always work with your requests.

### Readings/Poems/Songs:

Readings are a wonderful way of personalising your ceremony and up to 3 can be incorporated into your ceremony if you choose. It can be very special to choose someone meaningful to you to read these.

We have a range of our team's favourite readings to share with you here, but there are a huge range of readings and poems available on the internet.

If not one of our suggestions, then please share your readings with us in advance, so we can confirm they are suitable (as long as they are not religious or offensive, then you can really go to town choosing anything that suits you and your ceremony), and to ensure we have a copy with us on the day, just in case.

### Music:

Music really adds to the atmosphere and can reflect your personalities perfectly. From a string quartet or a harp to your favourite rock tune, as long as it is not overtly religious in nature, or offensive anything goes as far as we are concerned!

### Exchanging Rings:

Many couples choose to exchange rings to seal the deal. It can be nice to include a loved family member, best man, friend, bridesmaid/page boy to present these during the ceremony, but you can also have them with you, or on the table at the front during the ceremony.

### Personal Vows:

If you wish to write your own vows and read/say them to each other, you are welcome to do so, and this can be a very special moment in your ceremony. We can present them to you to read at the right moment. If you don't wish to share them with each other before, then feel free to send them to us separately in advance.



### **Photography and Social Media:**

You are welcome to bring professional photographers and videographers to our ceremony room and our licensed venues. We know how important it is to capture the essence of your celebration. We will always do our best to work with them to ensure they get the best shots. Likewise, if you choose friends and family to take photographs, they are welcome to do so.

If you wish us to let your guests know you prefer them not to take pictures or post on social media, just let us know and we will announce that at the start of the ceremony.

### **Live Stream the Ceremony:**

If you have family or friends who live abroad or who are not well enough to attend the ceremony in person, you can request to live-stream the ceremony to them. Please ask for further details.

### **Witnesses:**

The minimum number of guests you can have with you is your 2 witnesses. For all ceremonies, please select 2 guests, who must be over 16, able to understand English and have understood what has taken place. They do not require ID.

### **Certificates:**

Following your ceremony we take all the legal paperwork back to the office and then register your marriage or civil partnership on to the computer system. Your legal certificates will be created and posted to you within a few days of the ceremony. If you require additional certificates to those purchased at the time of booking, please email us in advance of the ceremony. Extra copies are always available after the event too.

# Celebration Ceremonies

A celebration ceremony does not hold legal status, but is a popular and symbolic way of celebrating your relationship or a recent marriage.

You might choose this type of ceremony for a variety of reasons. Perhaps you wish to celebrate your relationship publicly without a legal obligation. You may have had a small legal ceremony elsewhere or abroad and now wish to celebrate that with a larger gathering of friends and family. Perhaps the place you wish to celebrate isn't licensed. Whatever the reason, we are here to help you plan the occasion that works for you.

You can choose wherever in our Borough you want this to take place. So long as the venue is suitable, our registrars can attend and conduct the ceremony of your choice. No legal preliminaries are required, so you can time this event as soon as you choose.



These can also be combined with a legal ceremony too, either on the same day or at a different time.

You can personalise the ceremony as you wish and include traditional elements such as being escorted up the aisle, exchanging rings, sharing vows and including music and readings. If you choose, you can sign your commemorative certificate along with witnesses and have this presented to you. We will chat through with you how you would like your special ceremony to be.

## Renewal of Vows

Your ceremony could be a celebration of a special milestone or anniversary in your relationship, or a celebration of overcoming a difficult time in your lives. Perhaps you didn't like the way you did it the first time and want to have the celebration of your dreams together! Whatever the reason, we can guide you through a wonderful celebration.

No legal preliminaries are required, so you can time this event as soon as you choose, and it can take place anywhere that works for you. This type of ceremony can also be personalised as you wish and include elements such as being escorted up the aisle, exchanging rings, sharing vows and including music and readings.

If you choose, you can sign your commemorative certificate along with witnesses and have this presented to you.

We will work with you to make sure your continued commitment to each other is celebrated in the special way it deserves.



# Thomas William Jewellery

*Wedding ring specialists*

Thomas William Jewellery is an independent jewellers with an onsite workshop based in Wokingham, Berkshire, offering a personal and bespoke service.

Working in all precious metals and specialising in bespoke bands to fit unusual shaped engagement rings, we offer everything from hard wearing titanium to diamonds in abundance. Every couple's wish list is unique and that is why it's important to work with a jeweller as committed and unique as you are.

You can book an appointment with our talented in-house team who can work with you on your design and within your price range with zero sales pressure. Whether you know exactly what you want, or need our expertise, our experienced team will be able to rise to the challenge, so contact us today to discuss creating your perfect wedding rings.

Website:

<https://www.thomaswilliamjewellery.com/>

Email: [enquiries@thomaswilliamjewellery.com](mailto:enquiries@thomaswilliamjewellery.com)

Tel: 01189 788 833





## Outdoor Ceremonies

The edge of a river, a wildflower meadow, a walled garden, a vineyard, the private grounds of a rustic barn – these are just some of the amazing outdoor locations you can legally marry or form a civil partnership in the Wokingham Borough.

Since 2022, it has been possible to marry outdoors anywhere in the grounds of a licensed venue. If the outdoor space you have dreamt of for your ceremony is not attached to a licensed venue, please see page 20 for information about our bespoke celebration ceremonies, which we could combine with a legal ceremony at another time.



## Naming and Welcoming Ceremonies

If you want to celebrate the birth of your new arrival, or welcome stepchildren or adoptive children into your family, these ceremonies provide the perfect opportunity.

This ceremony enables you to express love, care, and commitment to them in the presence of your family and friends. It is also an opportunity for supporting adults or grandparents to publicly promise to help and support your child(ren) as they grow up within our community.

Our experienced registrars will ensure your ceremony is personal and memorable. We present you with a commemorative certificate as a keepsake of the occasion.

Your ceremony can be held in our Ceremony Room, or at a venue of your own choice within Wokingham Borough.





## Information about Religious Ceremonies

If you are marrying in the Church of England, the usual process is to arrange this with the vicar and your legal preliminaries will take place in the form of your banns being read.

You will only need to present yourselves at your local Register Office to give notice of your intent to marry if either of you is a foreign national and subject to immigration control. If you are marrying in any other Church or religious premises authorised for marriage, you will need to give notice of your intent to marry, in the same way as outlined on page 13 and 14.

If you have been married in a religious ceremony that does not hold legal status in the UK, please contact us to arrange a legal marriage ceremony. This can be as simple as you choose.

All Church and other legal religious marriages in our district are registered at our Register Office after the event has taken place. After this has happened, please email us at [registrars@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@wokingham.gov.uk) to order your certificates.

# All Saints Church, Wokingham



At All Saints we are delighted to welcome couples wishing to be married in church. Marrying in church is personal, meaningful, spiritual and beautiful. Whether you are looking for a big church wedding with bells, beautiful flowers, an organ and hymns, or for a small intimate service where you make your vows in the presence of just a few close friends, a church wedding might be just what you are looking for.

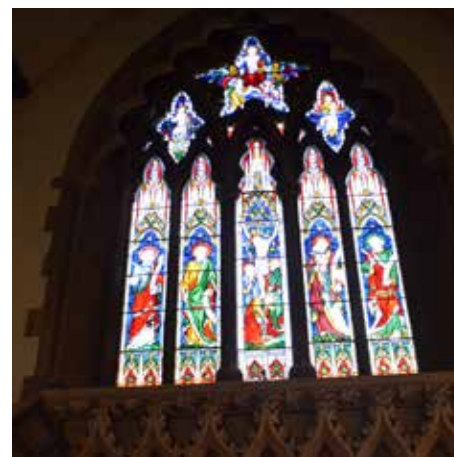
In getting married in a church you become a part of the church community. The church will welcome and support you as a couple or family, not just on the big day itself but in the run up to it, and in the years to come.

You don't have to be a church goer or christened to have a church wedding – if you live in the parish then you can be married in your local church. If you are getting married elsewhere but need your banns read at All Saints, then please get in touch through our parish office.

As well as offering you a beautiful wedding service, we can also offer facilities to hold your reception either in our newly refurbished church, or next door in The Cornerstone.

Website: [allsaintswokingham.org.uk](http://allsaintswokingham.org.uk)

Contact: [parishoffice@allsaintswokingham.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@allsaintswokingham.org.uk)  
or visit your local parish church.





## Information about Marrying Abroad

Some couples decide they wish to celebrate their marriage in a ceremony abroad, but without the sometimes complex processes involved in having the legal ceremony there. In that case we would be delighted to arrange your legal marriage ceremony here with us, at the Register Office or Ceremony Room, or at one of our licensed venues, and you are then free to celebrate as you wish abroad. In this scenario, your marriage would be registered in the UK. We can keep things very simple if you wish or it may be an opportunity to invite any guests who are not able to celebrate with you abroad.

Unfortunately, we are not able to provide advice about the legal requirements of marriage in individual countries, as you would be marrying under local marriage law. More information can be found on the government [website](#).

If the country in which you intend to marry requires a Certificate of No Impediment and you are a resident of the Wokingham Borough, then please contact us for an appointment. This is available to UK citizens only.

If you have already married abroad, there is no facility or requirement to register your marriage in the UK. If you married following the local law of the country, and you would have been allowed to marry by law in the UK, then your marriage should be legally recognised in the UK. If you have any doubts, then please seek legal advice.



## Marie Rowe Travel

### *Independent Honeymoon specialist*

As an experienced travel professional backed by Travel Counsellors, I specialise in affordable luxury and worldwide honeymoons.

I am passionate about providing a service that offers a high level of customer satisfaction, out of hours contact, supreme value, and a level of service that you won't find online.

From once in a lifetime adventure honeymoons to safari, beach escapes, island hopping, and more – my personal service includes expert knowledge & advice, 100% financial protection, and 24/7 support at no extra cost.

My unique gift registry service allows you to invite your family and friends to contribute to your dream honeymoon as a wedding gift, providing you with an online account and dedicated webpage.

Tel: 0118 321 3860

Email: [marie.rowe@mytc.com](mailto:marie.rowe@mytc.com)

Website: [travelcounsellors.co.uk/marie.rowe](http://travelcounsellors.co.uk/marie.rowe)



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Can I get married in the Wokingham Borough if I don't live here?

Lots of couples from across the UK and abroad choose to marry in this historic county. You can have a civil marriage wherever you choose in England or Wales, but you must both give notice in person of your intent to marry in the Register Office in the district where you live. If you live abroad but have been resident in the UK for at least 7 full days, then you can give notice.

## Should I get married in a Church/religious building or have a civil ceremony?

Civil marriage is offered as a legal alternative to a religious marriage. For that reason, we cannot include any religious elements or readings. We are happy to hand over to someone else e.g. a minister of religion at the end of the ceremony who can guide you through a blessing.

## Is a celebrant-led marriage legal?

No, according to the marriage law of this country, a celebrant can only offer a celebratory ceremony which is not legally binding. You would additionally need to go through legal preliminaries and a legal marriage ceremony in a Register Office or licensed venue at a separate time in order to be legally married.

If you choose us to marry you, you know you will be legally married there and then on the day.

## How far ahead can I book the registrars?

You can book our services for any date in the current and the next two financial years. Our fees increase annually at the beginning of each financial year. When you book your ceremony you pay the fee that is current at the time of booking. All the information around current fees are kept updated on our [website](#).

## Where will we sign the legal documents and who can be witnesses?

The signing takes place in the ceremony room or outdoor location you have chosen in front of your friends and family. Witnesses can be friends, relatives or anyone who is over 16, understands English and what marriage/civil partnership represents. They do not need to bring ID. They will sign the marriage or civil partnership schedule and photographs can be taken during the signing if you wish.



## **I had a simple marriage abroad for legal reasons but now wish to celebrate with friends and family here in the UK**

We can offer a celebration ceremony. This is not legally binding and cannot contain the legal marriage vows, but we have a range of alternative suggested vows, or you can write your own. Otherwise, you can celebrate as you choose, with bridesmaids, exchanging rings, being walked down the aisle – plenty of ways to make it really special!

## **We need to change the date of our ceremony – is that possible?**

We understand that circumstances can change. When you book, we will discuss the terms and conditions with you and send them to you in your confirmation email. You can bring your ceremony forward (assuming you have given notice already) or postpone for up to year from the original ceremony date. There will be an administrative charge for the rebooking, plus any small increase or refund in the fees paid depending on whether you move to a date attracting a higher or lower price.

When you give notice, your documents are valid for a year, so if your new date is beyond the date you gave notice then you may need to give notice again.

## **Can we have drinks before or during the ceremony?**

Food and drink cannot be consumed in the ceremony room/area for an hour before or during the ceremony. Of course, a drinks reception away from the ceremony room is fine and in the ceremony a glass of water to soothe a nervous dry mouth is totally acceptable.

## **What is the difference between a civil partnership and a same sex marriage?**

In the UK civil partnership was originally introduced as an alternative to same sex marriage. Now marriage is available to all couples, and more recently civil partnership has also been made available to opposite sex couples. So, the choice of marriage and civil partnership is available to all couples. There can be confusion between a civil marriage and a civil partnership – civil marriage is a non-religious legal marriage conducted by a registrar. A civil partnership is a legal alternative to this. Please see the information on the government website.

Please note if you are same sex couple in a civil partnership this can be changed to be a marriage if you so choose. This is because for some couples they did not have the option of marriage at the time they formed their partnership. This is therefore not an option for opposite sex couples, who must dissolve their partnership if they wish to be married.

## Can I change the name in my passport to my new married name before my wedding/honeymoon?

You can apply for a passport in your partner's surname from 3 months ahead of the ceremony, as long as you have already given notice. The new passport will be dated from the date of the ceremony and will be rescinded if the marriage or civil partnership does not take place. The form can be found on the [government website](#).

If you are marrying here with us at Wokingham, we are happy to complete this for you for a small fee. Please either send or email the completed form to us, we will complete our sections and then return it to you.

## Why are my parents' details included on the marriage documents and certificates?

Parents appear in the online register and the certificates for ancestry reasons.

The law changed in 2021 to modernise the registration process. Previously only fathers could appear in the register. That has been changed to include mothers, step-parents (if they are or have been married to the birth/adoptive parent), and same-sex parents. Deceased parents can of course also be included. If you choose not to have a parent included for your own reasons, we will totally respect that.

## I want to change my name after marriage – how does that work?

Your marriage or civil partnership will be contracted using your current legal names and these are then shown on your marriage/civil partnership certificate.

There is no requirement for either party to change their names afterwards or make an immediate decision- this is a personal decision for you both.

Your certificate is the evidence of your entitlement to use either name, or to double-barrel your names. There is no specific moment when the name changes, so you can do this in your own time e.g. when your passport expires. If you are changing to an option that is not one of your surnames, you would need to do this by a change of name deed.





## **What if I am nervous or emotional on the day and forget my words?**

Please don't worry about a thing – nerves and excitement can play a part in your big day, but we are here to guide you through it. No need to remember a thing – just simply repeat your vows after the registrar, who will say them in bite-sized chunks... so you can relax and enjoy your special moment. We will also make sure we have tissues and encourage you to take your time if you need to compose yourself, or we can say it again, it's not a problem at all.

## **Do I need to bring anything on the day?**

No, just yourselves! Neither you or your witnesses require any ID. You have shown that when you gave notice, and we will have all the paperwork with us.

## **How long does the ceremony usually last?**

From the moment you enter to the time the signing is completed is usually around 30 minutes, depending on the elements you include. And then- signed, sealed, delivered!

# Licensed Venues in the Wokingham Borough

## **Wokingham Cricket Club**

W: [www.wokingham.cc](http://www.wokingham.cc)

E: [info@wokinghamcricketclub.co.uk](mailto:info@wokinghamcricketclub.co.uk)

T: 0118 978 0361

## **Stanlake Park**

W: [www.stanlakeparkweddings.com](http://www.stanlakeparkweddings.com)

E: [Weddings@stanlakepark.com](mailto:Weddings@stanlakepark.com)

T: 0118 932 0914

## **Doubletree by Hilton, St. Anne's Manor**

W: [www.hilton.com/en/hotels/brasadi-doubletree-st-annes-manor/](http://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/brasadi-doubletree-st-annes-manor/)

E: [events@dtstannes.com](mailto:events@dtstannes.com)

T: 0118 977 2550

## **Sindlesham Court**

W: [www.sindleshamcourt.com](http://www.sindleshamcourt.com)

E: [info@sindleshamcourt.co.uk](mailto:info@sindleshamcourt.co.uk)

T: 0118 978 3902

## **The Mill House Hotel**

W: [www.themillhousehotel.co.uk](http://www.themillhousehotel.co.uk)

E: [info@themillhousehotel.co.uk](mailto:info@themillhousehotel.co.uk)

T: 0118 988 3124

## **Leander Club**

W: [www.leander.co.uk](http://www.leander.co.uk)

E: [events@leander.co.uk](mailto:events@leander.co.uk)

T: 01491 575 782

## **Cantley House Hotel**

W: [www.cantleyhotel.co.uk](http://www.cantleyhotel.co.uk)

E: [weddings@cantleyhotel.co.uk](mailto:weddings@cantleyhotel.co.uk)

T: 0118 989 5100

## **Stokes Farm Barn**

w: [www.stokesfarmbarn.co.uk](http://www.stokesfarmbarn.co.uk)

E: [info@stokesfarmbarn.co.uk](mailto:info@stokesfarmbarn.co.uk)

T: 07742 734725

**West Court** (currently not taking bookings)

**Bill Hill Park** (currently not taking bookings)

**Bearwood Lakes Golf Club** P31

W: [www.bearwoodlakes.co.uk](http://www.bearwoodlakes.co.uk)

E: [weddings@bearwoodlakes.co.uk](mailto:weddings@bearwoodlakes.co.uk)

T: 0118 304 8200

**The Great House/Coppa Club Sonning** P37

W: [www.greathouseatsonning.co.uk](http://www.greathouseatsonning.co.uk)

E: [marry@various eateries.co.uk](mailto:marry@various eateries.co.uk)

T: 0118 921 9890

**Remenham Court** P2

W: [www.remenhamcourt.com](http://www.remenhamcourt.com)

E: [info@remenhamcourt.com](mailto:info@remenhamcourt.com)

T: web form

**The Moat House** P35

W: [www.moathousetreading.co.uk](http://www.moathousetreading.co.uk)

E: [conferences@moathousetreading.co.uk](mailto:conferences@moathousetreading.co.uk)

T: 01189 499 988

**Sonning Golf Club** P34

W: [www.sonninggc.co.uk](http://www.sonninggc.co.uk)

E: [office@sonninggc.co.uk](mailto:office@sonninggc.co.uk)

T: 0118 969 3332

**Town Hall, Wokingham** P32

W: [www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk)

E: [info@wokingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@wokingham-tc.gov.uk)

T: 0118 978 0880

**Crowne Plaza Reading East** P30

W: [www.cpreading.co.uk](http://www.cpreading.co.uk)

E: [events@cpreading.co.uk](mailto:events@cpreading.co.uk)

T: +44(0) 118 944 4231

**The Register Office /  
Wokingham Ceremony Room** P9

W: [www.wokingham.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk)

E: [registrars@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@wokingham.gov.uk)

T: 0118 974 6000 option 3, option 3



**VIC WATSON  
SAXOPHONIST**

Available for parties, weddings,  
general events

Contact:  
Vic.watson2911@gmail.com  
07799846078



## Vic Watson - Saxophone player

An experienced saxophone player, Vic is available for any event or function, including weddings. Having played at a number of weddings in the past four years he is able to play anything from upbeat dance songs to slower melodic tunes to suit any situation.

Vic has played during wedding ceremonies: the brides walk to the altar/front of the venue, the signing of the register and the exit of the bride and groom from the church/venue. He has also played during drinks after the ceremony and during the evening, accompanying either a DJ or a band.

Anything is possible!

### To get in touch:

Email: vic.watson2911@gmail.com

Tel: 07799 846 078



Discover the Perfect Wedding  
Venue for your Special Day

- ▶ 2 AA Rosette awarded  
Modern British & Authentic Indian Cuisine
- ▶ Luxurious Spacious new Bedrooms
- ▶ Wedding capacity up to 180 guests
  - ▶ Landscaped Gardens
- ▶ Licensed for Civil Ceremonies
- ▶ Discounted rates for Wedding Guests

For Enquiries:  
+44 (0) 118 944 4231 | [events@cpreading.co.uk](mailto:events@cpreading.co.uk)  
[www.cpreading.co.uk](http://www.cpreading.co.uk)




## The Wedding Studio Berkshire

### *For the modern bride*

TWSB is a relaxed and welcoming space, and home to a thoughtfully curated collection of modern bridal wear from incredible independent brands.

Situated in the heart of Wokingham, it is the perfect place to be celebrated, uplifted and empowered to find your dream wedding look.

Web: [www.theweddingstudioberkshire.co.uk](http://www.theweddingstudioberkshire.co.uk)

Email: [emily@theweddingstudioberkshire.co.uk](mailto:emily@theweddingstudioberkshire.co.uk)

Instagram: [@theweddingstudio\\_berkshire](https://www.instagram.com/theweddingstudio_berkshire)



# Bearwood Lakes Golf Club

## *Exclusive Golf Club*

Bearwood Lakes Golf Club, located just outside Wokingham on the Bearwood Road, hold a limited number of weddings each year, meaning every wedding is unique and marks a special place in the history of the club as well as for you. Their team are passionate about making your wedding dreams a reality and your very own dedicated Events Manager will be on hand at every moment during your planning process, ensuring that the build-up is seamless and the big day itself is everything you could wish for and more.

The exclusive golf club is surrounded by 200 acres of beautiful Berkshire countryside and woodland, with picturesque lakes providing the perfect backdrop and plenty of creative opportunities for your wedding photographer. All packages include exclusive use of your dedicated area of the Clubhouse, including the south facing balcony area which boasts stunning panoramic views across the course.

The beautiful Clubhouse oozes sophistication and charm, with glamorous finishing touches such as a statement chandelier, creating the perfect ambiance with an extra sparkle. The neutral décor means you can personalise the venue to your own specific theme and colour scheme.

Following your ceremony, a trip down to the lakes will no doubt be one of the many highlights of your day. As you are driven through the stunning grounds it is a moment of peace and calm for the two of you to relax and take it all in.

Whether you are looking for a formal sit-down wedding breakfast, casual BBQ, or buffet, the team are on hand to tailor the menu to your taste and cater to your specific needs. The passionate chef team work with you to produce your perfect wedding menu; an added special touch is a complimentary menu tasting to help you decide on your catering. The beautifully decorated restaurant facilities comfortably seat up to 110 guests, or cater for up to 150 guests 'buffet style'.

As the sun goes down and the cake has been cut, you and your guests can take to the dance floor and continue your celebrations into the night.

Website: [www.bearwoodlakes.co.uk](http://www.bearwoodlakes.co.uk)  
Email: [weddings@bearwoodlakes.co.uk](mailto:weddings@bearwoodlakes.co.uk)  
Tel: 0118 304 8200





## Wokingham Town Hall

### Beautiful historic venue in the heart of Wokingham

With elegant rooms and wedding packages that range from ceremony only, celebratory drinks reception before or after to a wedding with fully catered reception, our venue is flexible enough to meet all your needs.

Our stunning Grade II\* listed Victorian cross-beamed main hall and Diamond Jubilee room are perfect for large or smaller, more intimate weddings, civil partnerships and naming ceremonies. Our dedicated events planner will work with you to choose what you need for your special day and ensure that everything runs smoothly. If you'd like more information or a tour of the building, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Website: [www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.wokingham-tc.gov.uk) Email: [info@wokingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@wokingham-tc.gov.uk) Tel: 0118 978 3185



# FunkyFlowers

0118 979 6019 by Kate Thomas Master Florist

**We want your wedding day to be one of the most memorable days of your life and we know choosing the perfect flowers will help you achieve this.**

From planning to assembling, Kate and her team will give the level of excellence you deserve for your special day. Drawing from over two decades of experience, you can have full confidence in our artistry in going above and beyond for your wedding day. Our floral creations are a delicious treat for the eyes, adding a touch of pure, natural elegance to your wedding day.



**Reserve your free complimentary wedding flower consultation** at our flower shop in the heart of Wokingham, Berkshire. Our first meeting it's about getting to know you, discussing dreams, ideas, and inspirations, your likes and dislikes as well as the venue and your gorgeous gown. Each and every detail will help us understand the dreams for your perfect wedding flowers.

We work closely with the wedding team at your venue and event planners to understand the importance of advising on designs to tailor your chosen theme and venue. This allows us to give you the most current and relevant advice to your wedding day. As a long-standing local business we have close working relationships with many local businesses.

It's not just weddings, we can create amazing designs for any event, from births, naming ceremonies, parties, corporate events and funerals. We also run a thriving flower school from our amazing shop, where you can create your own masterpiece!

**Looking forward to hearing from you.**

Call 01189 796019 or email [hello@funkyflowers.co.uk](mailto:hello@funkyflowers.co.uk).  
Visit us online at [funkyflowers.org](http://funkyflowers.org)

unique  
flowery  
things





## The Eyot Centre

### *Your Wedding, Your Way...*

At our lovely riverside venue in Henley-on-Thames. Close to historic Henley bridge, you can rent our venue and have everything as you dream; arrive by boat? No problem. Guest glamping to keep the party going? Why not? Small, intimate gathering? Our vaulted hall is perfect for that, with the offering of free corkage.

We have seen so many beautiful weddings, from blow up pubs with giant lawn games to classic marquees with the honeymoon suite on a moored barge.

We would love to hear from you and make your dream wedding a reality!

Website: [www.eyotcentre.co.uk](http://www.eyotcentre.co.uk)  
 Email: [sue@eyotcentre.co.uk](mailto:sue@eyotcentre.co.uk)  
 Tel: 07812 760033



## Sonning Golf Club

*A bespoke service with a personal touch*



SONNING GOLF CLUB  
EST. 1914

Sonning Golf Club is set in stunning grounds on the A4 between Reading and Maidenhead with close access to both the M4 and M40 motorways.

From small intimate receptions to larger celebrations, we can tailor make your Wedding to suit individual requirements and budgets. Our modern function rooms with a terrace overlooking the beautiful golf course makes Sonning Golf Club the perfect venue.

With an experienced personal Wedding Coordinator and dedicated Front of House Team included to guide you through every aspect of your special day, you can be assured this will be a day to remember!

Included in the venue hire is exclusive use of the non-members side of the Clubhouse, Bar & Patio, in house Toastmaster, pre-wedding menu tasting for two, dance floor, silver cake stand & knife, all table linen & crockery, fully staffed bar and ample free car parking on site.

Our function rooms can accommodate 106 for a Civil Ceremony, 110 for the wedding breakfast and 180 for the evening reception. With our focus on fresh, homemade, local produce we have menus to meet all requirements and are happy to discuss bespoke menus on request.

Website: [www.sonninggc.co.uk](http://www.sonninggc.co.uk)  
 Email: [office@Sonninggc.co.uk](mailto:office@Sonninggc.co.uk)  
 Tel: 0118 969 3332

# Moat House Reading Hotel

## *Licensed for Civil Ceremonies.*

Each and every wedding is an individual as you are, so for this reason we will ensure that all of your requirements are treated with the utmost care and attention by our experienced team. Whether it will be a wedding ceremony, wedding reception, multi-cultural event or civil partnership ceremony you can be assured of our attention to detail.

We will engage with you in every step of planning the perfect personalised event, from an initial tour of our event facilities to a menu tasting with our chef and working closely with you to bring your vision to life, to ensure that you cherish every moment of your day.

The Moat House Reading Hotel is a modernised, historic hotel set on 10.5 acres of natural landscape, offering views of the surrounding River Loddon and within easy reach of the town centre and only an hour out of London (M4, J10).

Your guests can settle into one of the hotel's stylish 129 guest rooms, including 25 deluxe rooms inside the historic mill. We have two licensed ceremony rooms for up to 250 guests. The Sindlesham Suite is our newly refurbished banqueting suite with luxurious carpets, LCD lighting and natural daylight.

Our events co-ordinators can assist you with any additional requests or ideas you may have; packages are just a guideline and may be adjustable as per request. If there is anything you would like or are interested in regarding your special day, just ask your events co-ordinator for more info!

Website: [www.moathouereading.co.uk](http://www.moathouereading.co.uk)

Email: [conferences@moathouereading.co.uk](mailto:conferences@moathouereading.co.uk)

Tel: 01189 499 988



# Wedding Fairs



## Autumn 2024

22  
Sept

**De Vere Wokefield Estate** Nr Reading - RG7 3AE

29  
Sept

**Highfield Park Hotel** Hook - RG27 0LG

6  
Oct

**Crowne Plaza Hotel** Nr Reading - RG1 8BD

**Shaw House** Newbury - RG14 2DR

13  
Oct

**Sindlesham Court** Sindlesham - RG41 5EA

20  
Oct

**The Olde Bell** Hurley - SL6 5LX

27  
Oct

**BRIDAL FASHION SHOW** at some fairs.

Please enquire for more details.

[www.berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk](http://www.berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk)

12  
Jan

## Spring 2025

19  
Jan

**Highfield Park Hotel** Hook - RG27 0LG

26  
Jan

**Coppid Beech Hotel** Bracknell - RG12 8TF

**The Olde Bell** Hurley - SL6 5LX

2  
Feb

**De Vere Wokefield Estate** Nr Reading - RG7 3AE

9  
Feb

**Donnington Grove** Newbury - RG14 2LA

**Burnham Beeches** Taplow - SL1 8DP

16  
Feb

**Shaw House** Newbury - RG14 2DR

23  
Feb

**Trunkwell House** Nr Reading - RG7 2AT

2  
Mar

E: [info@berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk](mailto:info@berkshireweddingfairs.co.uk)



[berkshireweddingfairs](https://www.facebook.com/berkshireweddingfairs)



[berkshireweddingfairs](https://www.instagram.com/berkshireweddingfairs)

# The Great House Sonning, Coppa Club

## *Riverside Licensed Venue*

A former Elizabethan coaching inn on a quiet stretch of the Thames, The Great House is our original clubhouse, and award-winning wedding venue.

Tucked away in the picturesque village of Sonning, in the heart of the Berkshire countryside; The Great House offers a sweeping setting, with manicured lawns leading down to the river.

The space can host a wedding breakfast for 100 guests and an evening reception for up to 200. The room is adaptable and perfect for intimate celebrations too.

Here at The Great House, you can arrive your way. Sail up to the hotel, arrive by car or take a stroll in from your bedroom after spending the night here, the wedding couple will receive a complimentary night in one of our Biggy Riverside rooms.

Contact our team about designing your day your way.

Website: <https://www.coppaclub.co.uk/thegreathousesonning/weddings/>

Email: [marry@various eateries.co.uk](mailto:marry@various eateries.co.uk)

Tel: 0118 921 9890



# Ceremonies in Wokingham Borough

## The Register Office

Civic Offices, Shute End  
Wokingham RG40 1WH  
Phone: 0118 974 6000 (option 3, option 3)  
Email: registrars@wokingham.gov.uk

Fees and charges for our Registrar Service are found here [website](#).

## Forming a Civil Partnership

See the Government Website:

<https://www.gov.uk/marriages-civil-partnerships>

# Lil & Blue

## Vintage Wedding Car Hire

Lil & Blue offer beautiful vintage wedding cars for both chauffeur driven and self-drive hire. All of our cars are in stunning condition and come with many fabulous features such as convertible sunroofs, rear wicker picnic baskets, luggage racks and white wall tyres.

Our very friendly drivers are highly experienced and will do their utmost to ensure everything is perfect for you on your big day. Nothing is too much trouble and we are always happy to make multiple journeys and photo stops. We will work with your photographer, both before and on the day, to ensure you get the very best images with the car. We also provide high quality flower garlands, ribbons and signage to decorate as well as refreshments on board.

At Lil & Blue, we strive to provide more than just a fabulous wedding car but an amazing experience that will leave you with unforgettable memories to cherish. If you are looking for something truly unique and lots of fun, a Lil & Blue car would make a perfect choice for your wedding day transport. We'd love to hear from you!

Tel: 07789 278 374 Email: [info@lilandblue.com](mailto:info@lilandblue.com)

Web: [www.lilandblue.com](http://www.lilandblue.com)

IG: [@lilandbluevintagecarhire](https://www.instagram.com/lilandbluevintagecarhire)

Please quote '**WBC**' for a **10%** discount.





**WOKINGHAM**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# Ceremonies

in the Wokingham Borough