



Image: Emma Beaufort Photography

You could be the King and Queen of your very own castle for the day if you choose to get married at Peckforton Castle. Embrace the grandeur and celebrate like royalty with the option of exclusive use of the venue and grounds for the duration of your event. Ready to gentrify your wedding? We spoke to the team behind Peckforton Castle about why it is a sought-after venue for betrothed couples.

### A medieval fairytale

"Peckforton Castle is the definition of a fairytale wedding venue, it's a genuine medieval-style castle nestled in the heart of the Cheshire countryside. It has grand architecture, amazing function spaces and beautiful surroundings; it offers an atmosphere that's historic and intimate. There aren't many places where you can exchange vows in a Great Hall with vaulted ceilings and stained-glass windows, then celebrate in a castle surrounded by ancient woodlands."

Matthew Naylor is the Sales and Marketing Director at Peckforton Castle. He has seen lots of couples exchange their vows at this historic wedding destination, and he can understand the attraction: "The setting is secluded but accessible. Peckforton Castle feels like you've stepped into a different world - the woodland surroundings add to the magic, giving couples plenty of space for stunning outdoor photos and the castle's architecture creates an unforgettable backdrop."

"Peckforton Castle is one of the only true castle wedding venues in the country that offers exclusive use."

### An experienced team

"With decades of experience hosting weddings, we know exactly what makes a day run smoothly. Our team of dedicated wedding coordinators works closely with every couple, whether they want a traditional celebration, a themed wedding or something completely unique. We're here to take the stress away, making sure everything is planned to perfection while still allowing couples to enjoy the fun parts of the process."

Matthew has seen a lot of interesting things during his time at Peckforton Castle, including a ring-bearing owl, which he says was "a magical moment guests loved." He thinks things like late-night food trucks and personalised cocktail bars add an extra special touch to proceedings too.

But he also thinks some couples get hung up on the wrong things: "Guests remember the atmosphere, food and fun, not the shade of your napkins. Don't stress over the little things – the important part is getting married."

He also doesn't think you should worry if it rains, as that's when you can create some of the best wedding photos. That said, Peckforton Castle is perfectly set-up to accommodate wedding parties in all weathers, with beautiful indoor and outdoor spaces – there's always a plan B.

### A slice of history

If you choose to get married at Peckforton Castle, you'll join an incredibly long list of couples who have done the same and had the most amazing day. But this picture-perfect venue hasn't always been a wedding venue, as Matthew explains:

"The castle was built in the middle of the 19th century as a family home for John Tollemache, then, during the Second World War, it was used as a hostel for physically disabled children. Following that, the Tollemache family used the castle for occasional gatherings, but otherwise it was unused until 1969."

"From 1969 to 1980, the castle was leased by the fourth Lord Tollemache to George W. Barrett, and it again became a

## A fairytale wedding venue



private residence, closed to the public. The right wing and tower and the castle gardens were restored by Barrett.

"During the 1970s and 80s, it was used as a location for shooting films and television programmes and then, in 1988, the castle was bought by Evelyn Graybill, who converted it into a hotel.

"The Boutique Hotel Group took over Peckforton Castle in 2006. Since then, we've transformed it into one of the UK's most sought-after wedding venues while trying to preserve its incredible heritage."

It is worth noting that Peckforton Castle can be hired for other occasions too: "Peckforton Castle is a fantastic setting for corporate events, private parties, film shoots and special occasions. We've hosted everything from award ceremonies to murder mystery nights. The castle's unique atmosphere makes any event unforgettable."

### Modern day touches

The team at Peckforton Castle do an incredible job of preserving the history of the castle, while staying up to date with wedding trends and keeping the event exciting. With plenty of wedding coordinators on hand, there's always someone to help soothe your worries and fix any issues. They can even help with budgeting, which is something that can get out of hand if you don't keep on top of it.

Matthew thinks that modern weddings are becoming more personalised and relaxed these days. "Post-pandemic, couples are prioritising experience over tradition, with smaller, high-quality guest lists and more immersive entertainment."

With this in mind, he thinks there are a few questions couples should ask themselves before choosing a venue. "Think about the experience you want your guests to have. Does the venue flow well from ceremony to reception? Is there enough accommodation for key guests? Most importantly, does the venue feel right to you? You'll know when you step into the space if it's the one."

Despite wedding trends shifting over the years, Matthew's favourite part of any wedding is still the same. "That moment right after the ceremony when the couple walk back down the aisle - it's pure joy. The nerves are gone, and it's all about celebrating with family and friends from that point on."

**Could Peckforton Castle be your wedding venue? For more information:**

[peckfortoncastle.co.uk](http://peckfortoncastle.co.uk)

