Your Ceremony

The *Autumn* Edition

WED-MIN

Your Guide to: *Changing* your name after marriage

Wedding *Fayres*

Dates for the Diary

Behind-the-Scenes

Happily Ever After at Swanley Meadows and Mottram Hall

Wedding *Planning*

Questions *you* need to ask your venue

READ IT Here



Cover Photograph: Jonny Draper Photography



Hello and *Welcome*

As the leaves turn golden and the air begins to grow crisp, we're so excited to bring you the *Autumn Edition* of our Your Ceremony E-Zine, your guide to all things weddings, straight from Your Ceremony – Cheshire East's multi award-winning registrars.

This summer has been nothing short of magical, (and slightly busy!) with over 1200 couples saying "I do". From mid-week weddings, kiss dips, sausage planting, we've seen love celebrated in the most creative and heartfelt ways. Life for our registrars isn't about to get quiet anytime soon either, as we step into autumn, we're already feeling the excitement for rich autumnal colours, twinkling candlelight and cosy celebrations.

Inside this edition, you'll find everything from behind-the-scenes venue insights to the latest wedding trends, planning tips, upcoming wedding fayre dates and our guide to changing your name after marriage. Whether you're newly engaged, deep in wedmin, or simply dreaming of your big day, we hope this magazine inspires you every step of the way. As always, we're here to help make your ceremony unforgettable.

So grab a cuppa, snuggle up, and enjoy the read.

Love from
Your Ceremony x

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AND DON'T MISS OUR FEATURED VENUES!



Wrenbury Hall

Hosting weddings and events for over 25 years, Wrenbury Hall is an exclusive wedding venue set in the heart of South Cheshire, offering a truly bespoke and personal experience. We offer a variety of options for your civil ceremony, allowing you to choose the perfect setting to say 'I do'. Our highly experienced team will support you throughout the planning process, ensuring every detail is thoughtfully considered.

We offer a dressing suite and cabin, providing calm, comfortable spaces for you both to prepare and relax before your special day. With 12 luxury bedrooms available, there is ample room to relax, celebrate and make the venue your own.



Wychwood *Park* Hotel and *Golf* Club

A unique venue, hidden away in the borders of Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire. At the end of a sweeping driveway, with panoramic views of the rolling Cheshire countryside lies Wychwood Park Hotel.

With gleaming water features & sleek architectural lines, the bright, modern space creates a contemporary setting for your big day.

Weston, Cheshire, CW2 5AP



Fernside House

Nestled in the picturesque Cheshire countryside, Fernside House offers an exclusive retreat for couples seeking a private and elegant wedding venue. This charming country house combines timeless character with modern comforts, creating a relaxed yet refined atmosphere for an unforgettable celebration.

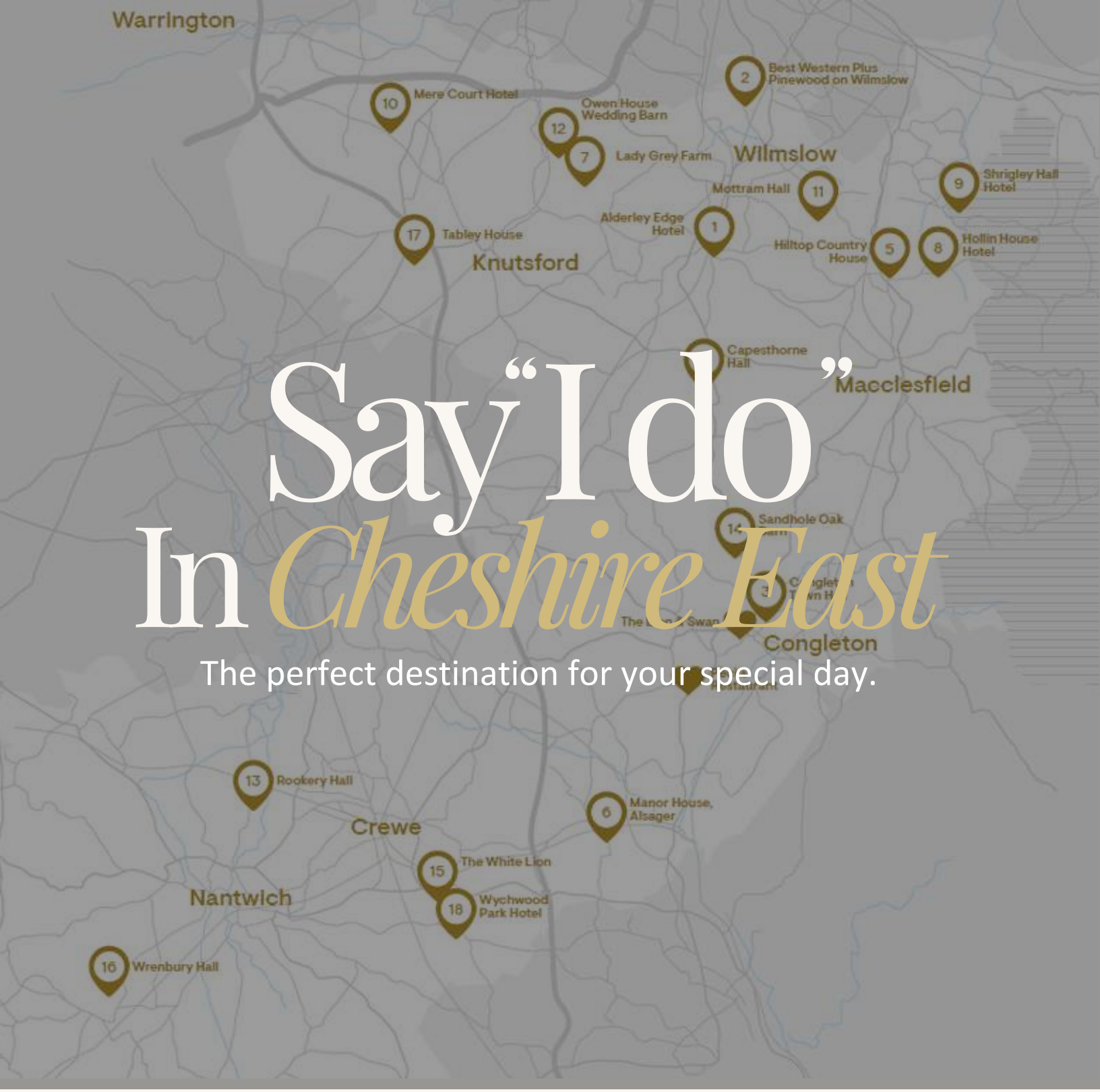
Perfect for intimate ceremonies or full-site hire, Fernside House and its beautiful barn provide a flexible space tailored to your vision. Whether you dream of a small gathering or a marquee celebration on the grounds, the setting is truly unique.



Mere Court Hotel

Mottram Hall is an elegant late-Georgian country house set within 270 acres of stunning Cheshire parkland, offering a beautiful blend of classic charm and contemporary British style. Couples can exchange their vows in the picturesque rose garden or the sophisticated St Andrew's Suite, each providing a romantic backdrop for an unforgettable ceremony.

With stylish reception rooms, landscaped grounds, exceptional dining and a dedicated wedding coordinator, Mottram Hall has everything in place to create a seamless and memorable celebration.



Say "I do" In *Cheshire East*

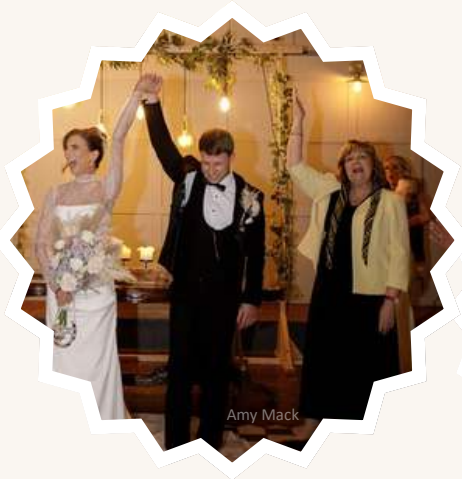
The perfect destination for your special day.

If you've just said "yes", discover why *Cheshire East* is the ideal spot to say hold your celebrations!

Cheshire East, a region renowned for its rolling countryside, spectacular venues, a footballer or two and of course Award-Winning Registrars.

We may be biased, but we think that Cheshire East is one of the most beautiful districts. As Registrars, we get to spend our days driving from one fabulous Approved Premises to another throughout the ever-glorious Cheshire East countryside. Lots of lovely couples think so too, with over 70% of couples coming from outside of the district to "tie the knot"

So let's take a look at why Cheshire East is the ideal district to say "I Do".





Your Multi *Award-Winning* Registrars

Firstly, Your Multi Award-Winning Registrars. Your Ceremony plays a vital part in your Big Day. By choosing Cheshire East Registrars, you're choosing the whole Your Ceremony Team. Our team holds years of combined experience. We've conducted and registered thousands of ceremonies and know the best hints and tips to help make your celebrations unforgettable for you and your guests.

Over 70 Approved *Premises*

In Cheshire East we have over 70 beautiful, approved venues – there really is something for everyone. From boutique hotels, stately homes, converted barns, intimate elopement venues and a castle, the choice is yours! You can even say "I do" underneath the stars at a planetarium.
For a full list of our venues visit: www.yourceremony.org.uk

Trains, *Planes* and Automobiles

By choosing Cheshire East, you can be sure that your guests will be able to reach you from far and wide. Cheshire East has excellent transport links - with Manchester Airport on our doorstep, railway Hubs linking Manchester and London in only 90 minutes and not forgetting the M6 for any cross-country journeys.












Shane Webber Photography

A SUMMER OF *love*



It has certainly been a summer of love in Cheshire East this season with over 1200 couples tying the knot. Now that the season is winding down, let's dive into some of the hottest wedding trends that have swept across Cheshire East this summer.

Mid-Week Weddings: A Rising Trend

Forget the "Saturday-only" wedding mindset—this summer, mid-week weddings have made a strong comeback. In fact, nearly half of all ceremonies in Cheshire East took place on weekdays. This isn't just a local trend either. Research from the Bank of England reveals that couples across the country are increasingly opting for the budget-friendly option of mid-week celebrations. Bridebook reports that around half of all weddings took place on a Saturday! Not only are weekday weddings more affordable, but they also offer greater venue, supplier (and registrar!) availability and flexibility.

Sausage planting... The *Secret* to a Dry Wedding Day?

Planning a wedding in Britain means accepting that the weather can be a little unpredictable. But over the past few years, one unusual wedding superstition has gained quite a following: planting a sausage the night before your big day in the hope of securing glorious weather.

For those willing to go the extra mile, some couples have even turned to Etsy witches and weather spells in their quest for sunshine on their special day.

Whilst we're not entirely convinced that sausages and spell-casting are responsible, this year certainly gave couples plenty to celebrate. With a summer marked by sunshine and several heatwaves, many weddings enjoyed picture-perfect weather.

Coincidence? Almost certainly. But if you're dreaming of blue skies for your outdoor photographs, it might be a fun tradition to add to your wedding preparations. After all, when it comes to wedding planning, every little bit of luck helps!

And if the British weather does have other ideas, don't worry. Our experienced registrars know that the most memorable part of the day isn't the forecast, it's saying "I do" to the person you love.

TikTok's *Viral* Trend: Hiding the Rings

Thanks to TikTok, the practice of "hiding the wedding rings" has become one of the most talked-about trends of the summer. Here's how it works: the rings are hidden beneath the chair of an unsuspecting guest, and at the point of the ring exchange, the registrar announces that the rings must be found. The lucky guest whose chair is hiding said rings becomes the impromptu ring bearer!

Although we were initially unsure how this would play out, we've picked up some essential tips along the way for couples keen on trying this fun twist:

Communication is Key: Always inform your registrar and venue staff of the plan ahead of time.

Reserved Seating: We always suggest named reserved seating for your guests, however this does work particularly well if you are planning to hide your rings. You can be sure that the rings are underneath the correct chair without arousing any suspicion.

Choose the Guest Wisely: Avoid a completely random selection for the ring bearer. You don't want to put a shy or reserved guest in the spotlight unwillingly.

As we look back at the unforgettable moments of this summer wedding season, one thing is certain: couples are continuously looking at ways of making their day truly them - whether it's through showstopping moments or trying out new traditions! As we head into autumn, we can't wait to see what new trends emerge. Here's to another season of love and celebration.



Anna Bukowska Photographyy



Rookery Hall Hotel

There's something magical about Rookery Hall Hotel. Situated at the end of a sweeping drive, this impressive Georgian manor house, sets the tone for elegant weddings and celebrations.

Picture postcard gardens turn into impressive lawns, overlooking mile upon mile of stunning Cheshire countryside. It's a blissful setting for a special wedding day.

Rookery Hall has several unique areas for your wedding ceremony. With 38 acres of grounds too, there's plenty of space for outdoor ceremonies.



Shrigley Hall Hotel

With breath-taking views over the Cheshire countryside, Shrigley Hall provides a truly romantic setting.

Your entire day can be hosted at this charming country house venue, with beautiful grounds, choice of unique function spaces, original features, 154 bedrooms, golf and spa.

Your happy ever after begins at Shrigley.



Tabley House

Tabley's sweeping steps ensure a magnificent entrance to the State Rooms for you and your guests.

Your vows will be exchanged within the elegant Gallery, whilst the Portico Room provides a splendid setting for a Champagne reception or similar, with everyone able to enjoy views across to Tabley Mere.



Sandhole Oak *Barn*

Sandhole Oak Barn is designed specifically with weddings in mind, this magnificent family-run exclusive Cheshire venue boasts all the essential ingredients for a magical wedding, with it's light airy space and picturesque lakeside setting.

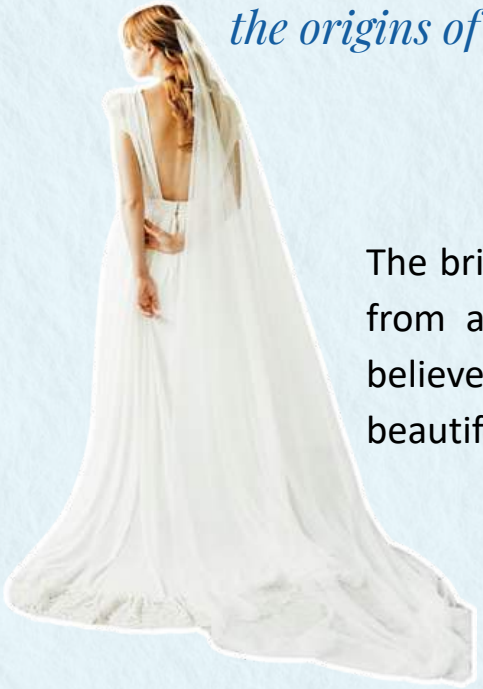
Ceremonies can take place in the purpose built Oak Barn or beneath the beautiful lakeside Clock Tower. A romantic setting for your 'I'do's' and stunning photographs.

With seating for up to 140 guests your wedding reception and 180 in the evening.

Something Old, Something New



Wedding planning often means hunting down that elusive "something blue," keeping your other half away from sneak peeks of your dress and figuring out the perfect moment to toss your bouquet. Chances are that your partner popped the question while down on one knee too! But have you ever paused to wonder about the origins of these traditions and the meaning behind them?



Bridal Veils

The bridal veil has long been a symbol of purity and modesty, originating from ancient Roman and medieval practices. Back then, the veil was believed to protect the bride from mischievous spirits. Today, veils offer a beautiful addition to your bridal look.

The White Wedding Dress

Queen Victoria is often credited with popularising the white wedding dress. When she married Prince Albert in 1840, she chose a white gown made of silk satin and Honiton lace, a bold statement at a time when brides typically wore their best dress, regardless of colour. Her choice symbolised purity and wealth and quickly became a fashionable standard amongst the upper classes.

"Something Old, Something New..."

This well-known rhyme actually originates from an old English custom dating back to the Victorian era: ***"Something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue, and a sixpence in her shoe."***

- ***Something old*** keeps family connections close.
- ***Something new*** celebrates the new chapter you're embarking on.
- ***Something borrowed*** is traditionally lent by a happily married woman, sharing her luck.
- ***Something blue*** stands for love and loyalty.
- And, of course, the ***sixpence in your shoe*** brings a wish for financial prosperity.



The Wedding Ring and the Left Hand



The tradition of wedding rings dates back to ancient Egypt, where circles symbolised eternity. The Romans introduced the custom of placing the ring on the fourth finger of the left hand, believing a vein (the vena amoris) ran directly from this finger to the heart. Though we now know this vein doesn't exist, most couples still follow this tradition.

Throwing Confetti

Confetti has come a long way from its ancient roots. Originally, grains, seeds (ouch!), or petals were thrown to bless the newlyweds with fertility and prosperity. These days, whether you opt for eco-friendly petals or vibrant (environmentally friendly) paper, this tradition is all about celebrating your happiness - and allows for some fabulous photographs too!



Carrying the Bride Over the Threshold

In Roman times, it was thought that evil spirits lurked at the entrance of a new home. To keep the bride safe, her partner would carry her inside as a gesture of love and protection. Now, it's perfect for adding some fun to your first steps together as a married couple.

Wedding Breakfast

Don't let the name fool you, the wedding breakfast isn't about a bacon butty and a brew! This tradition stems from medieval times, when couples fasted before their vows. The celebratory meal afterward marked their first shared feast as newlyweds. Today, it's a wonderful opportunity to gather your loved ones and toast to your happiness.

Despite all these traditions, remember that weddings today are all about celebrating you as a couple. So, whether you choose to include these traditions, adapt them to suit your style, or skip them altogether, your big day is a reflection of your love and individuality. What could be more special than creating a wedding day that's entirely yours?

Wedding *Fayres*

Your *ultimate* wedding planning 'hack'.



Planning a wedding can be an exciting yet overwhelming experience.

From choosing the perfect dress to finding a venue that matches your vision, the list of decisions seems endless. One invaluable resource that can streamline your planning process and provide inspiration is attending a wedding fayre -it's like a real-life Pinterest board!

Lots of our incredible Approved Premises host Wedding Fayres so it is the perfect opportunity to have an informal look around, see the venue fully dressed for a wedding and chat to the venue's staff.

Recommended suppliers from the industry including florists, photographers, videographers and caterers to name but a few will all be under one roof to offer their expertise and help you visualise your dream wedding more clearly. Our Award-Winning Registrars will also be in attendance at many of the fayres too and will be available to talk all things ceremonies.





A visit to a wedding fair is a great day out but it also serves as a valuable resource in planning your dream big day. It offers the chance to chat with suppliers, check out venues and maybe grab a glass of bubbly too!

Dates for the Diary

11th *October*
CREWE HALL

11th *October*
HOLLIN HOUSE

18th *October*
ROOKERY HALL

18th *October*
WYCHWOOD PARK

18th *October*
THE CHURCHILL TREE

27th *October*
THE LION AND SWAN

15th *November*
RYLANDS FARMHOUSE

29th *November*
THE PLOUGH INN

YOUR GUIDE TO:
Changing your *name* after Marriage



The “I do’s” have been said, the celebrations have been had, and your Marriage Certificate has landed on your doorstep. If you're planning on changing your name after the big day, you might be a bit overwhelmed. Fear not; our helpful guide is here*!

Changing your name after Marriage

- ✓ Obtain a copy of your marriage certificate
  Your ceremony fee includes 1 certificate. Your certificates will then be posted out within 7 working days of your ceremony.
- ✓ Inform the relevant government departments (e.g. DVLA and HMRC)
- ✓ Tell your Bank and Building Societies
- ✓ Tell your employer
- ✓ Inform your landlord or mortgage provider.
- ✓ Update your utilities and other services
- ✓ Inform your GP/Dentist
- ✓ Update your passport
  Remember that your tickets/insurance must match the name of your passport

Following your ceremony, your Registrar will register your marriage on the online register within 7 working days. Your Marriage Certificate is a certified copy of this entry.

Your Marriage Certificate will show the name that you contracted your marriage in, so if you are changing your name, please don’t be alarmed that your Marriage Certificate shows your “old name”.

Your Marriage Certificate will allow you to take your partner’s surname (or vice versa), it will also allow you to double-barrel your surname too.

You will need to send a copy of your Marriage Certificate to all the relevant authorities (such as the DVLA, the Home Office, your bank, insurance companies etc).

It’s important to remember that different authorities will have wait times to process a name change and issue you with your new documentation, so it might be worth ordering a couple of copies of your Marriage certificate to speed up the Process.

After your ceremony, you can order duplicate certificates here.

Please note that this is a guide only. It is your responsibility to check that you have informed all the relevant agencies of your name change.

Happily Ever After at Mottram Hall



Ever wondered what really goes on behind-the-scenes of a picture-perfect wedding day?
In this feature, the team from ***Mottram Hall*** share how they bring your dream day to life, as well as some expert tips and planning insights to help you imagine your own celebration.

A Little About Mottram Hall

Mottram Hall is a beautiful 18th-century Georgian country house, set within 270 acres of Cheshire countryside, with picturesque rose gardens and a private lake. It has all the grandeur and character you would expect from a country house wedding venue, while still feeling warm, welcoming and contemporary.

One of the things that makes weddings here particularly special is that we host just one wedding per day. It means each couple really feels that it is their day, and our team can focus on bringing all the individual details they have planned to life.

We are also fortunate to have so many stunning backdrops across the estate, from the house and gardens to the lake and surrounding grounds, creating endless opportunities for memorable photographs throughout the day.



The Morning Begins

Wedding mornings begin much earlier behind the scenes than most guests would ever realise.

While our team is busy preparing the venue for the day ahead, the bride and her wedding party can settle into our dedicated Bridal Dressing Room to begin getting ready. It provides a lovely space for everyone to be together, with plenty of room for hair and make-up, dresses and all those final preparations, usually accompanied by music and a glass of fizz or two.

Behind the scenes, the ceremony and drinks reception spaces are being prepared and all the carefully planned details are brought together.

Throughout the morning, florists, venue dressers, cake suppliers, photographers and other suppliers begin arriving, creating a real sense of anticipation around the hotel as each element starts to fall into place.

It's always wonderful to see Mottram Hall transform throughout the morning, from the quiet first few hours of the day to a completely personalised wedding ready to welcome the couple and their guests.

Bringing the Vision to Life

A smooth wedding day really starts long before the wedding itself.

Our Weddings Team works closely with each couple throughout their planning journey, with detailed pre-wedding meetings covering everything from timings and menus to suppliers, table plans and personal touches.

All of this information is carefully documented and shared with our operational team so that everyone involved understands exactly what has been agreed. We also coordinate with external suppliers, ensuring we know who is attending, what they are providing and when they are due to arrive.

The goal is simple: by the time the wedding morning arrives, the couple can relax and enjoy their day, knowing every detail is already in hand.

Transforming the Space

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The Finishing Touches

As guests prepare to arrive, there is always a final round of checks.

That might mean straightening place cards, lighting candles at the perfect moment, checking welcome signage and the wedding cake, ensuring reserved ceremony seats are clearly marked, or confirming bouquets and buttonholes are exactly where they need to be.

At the same time, we're checking all the practical details guests never need to think about, from timings and temperatures to lighting, music and supplier coordination.

Often, it's these smallest details that make everything feel effortless.

Teamwork Behind the Scenes

Communication is everything on a wedding day.
Long before the celebrations begin, we have a detailed schedule in place and know exactly which suppliers will be attending and when.



On the day itself, our team acts as the central point connecting everyone, from chefs and banqueting staff to florists, photographers, venue dressers, entertainers and the wider hotel team.

With so many people working towards the same goal, having an experienced team who understand both the venue and the flow of a wedding day makes all the difference.

Managing the Unexpected

No matter how carefully a wedding has been planned, there can occasionally be something unexpected, and that's where experience really matters.

Our team has delivered countless weddings and is very used to thinking on its feet and finding solutions quickly and calmly. Whether it's a supplier running

a change in the weather or timings shifting slightly during the day, we adapt behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly.

Very often, the couple never even knows there was an issue, which is exactly how we like it. Having an experienced team around you on your wedding day provides that extra reassurance that, whatever happens, there is always someone there who knows what to do.

During the Celebrations

While guests see a seamless journey from ceremony to drinks reception and into the wedding breakfast, there is a huge amount happening behind the scenes. Our teams are constantly communicating with the kitchen about timings, checking dietary requirements, liaising with photographers and entertainers, preparing rooms for their next use and coordinating key moments throughout the day, from speeches and food service to evening entertainment and guest arrivals.

Much of the work involved in delivering a successful wedding is making sure the couple doesn't notice what we're doing.

Keeping Everything on Track

Every wedding runs from a detailed schedule that brings together everything agreed during the planning process. However, weddings are also live events, so flexibility is important. If photographs take a little longer because the light is perfect, or speeches overrun because everyone is enjoying themselves, we can communicate with the relevant teams and adjust accordingly.

It's all about staying one step ahead, keeping everyone informed and knowing which elements can flex and which need to happen at a specific time.

The Most Rewarding Part

There is something incredibly special about being trusted with one of the biggest days in someone's life. Seeing months, sometimes years, of planning finally come together is always rewarding.

Top Tips for Couples

rstly, don't get too caught up in what you think a wedding should be. The weddings people remember most are usually the ones that genuinely reflect the couple.

Secondly, trust your suppliers. Choose people whose work you love, then allow them to do what they do best.

Give yourself plenty of time on the wedding morning too. Nobody wants to start their day feeling rushed, and having a little breathing room in the schedule can make all the difference.

Most importantly, enjoy it. After months, and sometimes years, of planning, the wedding day itself passes incredibly quickly. Trust the team around you, let go of the tiny details and take a moment together to look around the room and appreciate having all your favourite people in one place.

Because that, ultimately, is what the day is all about.





Hilltop Country House

The venue with a view, Hilltop Country House, located in Prestbury is home to a charming 17th century country house and marquee surrounded by gardens with flowers for all seasons.

Amidst the Cheshire countryside. Hilltop offers complete privacy and a tranquil haven of peace and quiet, with breath-taking views through every window and every corner you turn.

Hilltop has four magnificent ceremony areas to suit all weddings. Indoor ceremonies are help in the garden room or marquee. Choose the terrace or top lawn for your outdoor ceremony.
The marquee with magical lighting and glass bifold windows and doors presents a blank canvas for you to create a wedding style that completely fits your wishes.



The White *Lion* at Weston

In the quaint Cheshire countryside, The White Lion provides the best setting for your wedding. Boasting original features from the 17th century with charming décor, this intimate pub, restaurant and boutique hotel is available for exclusive use weddings and events.
Licenced for civil ceremonies, the elegant wedding room and outdoor area can accommodate up to 50 guests, with extra capacity outside if required.
It's 17 ensuite rooms, including two recently refurbished suites provide the perfect peaceful spot to get ready. From first looks to hair and makeup or a place to practise those speeches, your bridal party will benefit from a comfortable space.
Classically trained chefs will prepare a delicious wedding breakfast using locally sourced produce. Choose from a indulgent three course feast or a buffet to suit, as well as a carefully curated drinks package.
Whether you're looking for a small intimate celebration or something grander, the White Lion will ensure every part of your day exceeds your expectations.

Questions Nobody Thinks to Ask Their Venue (But *Definitely* Should!)

To help you stay one step ahead, we've rounded up a few venue questions that are often overlooked but can make a big difference to your wedding day.

When touring wedding venues, it's easy to focus on the big things, the ceremony space, the food, the beautiful grounds and, of course, whether you can picture yourselves saying "I do" there. But some of the most important details are the questions couples don't think to ask until much later in the planning process.







How Many *Weddings* Will Be Taking Place That Day?

Some venues host multiple weddings on the same day, while others focus on just one celebration. Knowing this can help you understand how exclusive your experience will feel and how much attention you'll receive from the venue team.

What Happens if the *Weather* Doesn't Cooperate?

Dreaming of an outdoor ceremony or drinks reception? Be sure to ask about the back-up plan so you can ensure you have a wet-weather option that's just as lovely as Plan A.

How *Early* Can We Access the Venue?

If you're planning to have suppliers setting up decorations, centrepieces or entertainment, it's useful to know when access is available. This can help avoid any last-minute stress on the morning of the wedding.

Is There Somewhere to Get *Ready*?

Many venues offer a dedicated bridal suite or dressing room for those all-important wedding morning preparations. If getting ready on-site is important to you, make sure to ask what facilities are available.



Are There Any *Restrictions* on Decorations?

Before ordering hundreds of candles, confetti cannons or hanging decorations, check what's permitted. Every venue has different rules, particularly in historic buildings or listed properties.

What Are the *Photography* Opportunities Like?

Most venues will happily show off their favourite photo spots, but it's worth asking about indoor options too. If the weather turns, you'll still want beautiful backdrops for your photographs.



When Does the *Music* Have to Finish and are there any Sound Restrictions?

It's not the most glamorous question, but it's an important one. Find out the venue's finish times for music, entertainment and the bar so there are no surprises later on.

Is There *Accommodation* for Guests?



If guests are travelling from further afield, nearby accommodation can make a big difference. Ask whether rooms are available on-site or if the venue has recommended local hotels.

Who Will Be *Looking After* Us on the Day?

During the planning process, you may deal with a dedicated wedding coordinator, but it's useful to know who will be your point of contact on the wedding day itself.



What *Happens* Behind the Scenes?

A great venue team will be coordinating suppliers, managing timings, preparing spaces and solving any unexpected hiccups without you ever knowing. Asking how the team manages the day can give you extra confidence that you're in safe hands.

Perhaps the most important question of all is: "Can we really imagine ourselves celebrating here?



The *Lion* and *Swan*, Congelton

Located in the historic Cheshire town of Congleton, The Lion & Swan is a beautifully restored 17th-century property, blending original charm with contemporary style. Every space has been thoughtfully designed to create a unique atmosphere for your special day.

The Lion & Swan Lounge, set in the oldest part of the building, offers a quiet, characterful spot to relax and catch up with loved ones. Most of your celebration will take place in Ristorante Leone, our modern Italian restaurant, with ceremonies held in the adjoining indoor Terrace, accommodating up to 70 guests.

After saying “I do,” enjoy a seamless transition to dining in the restaurant. For evening festivities, Radley & Co, our live music cellar bar, is available (subject to availability), or the Terrace can be transformed into a vibrant party space.
Your stay includes one of our two luxurious Signature rooms, offered with our compliments to mark your unforgettable day.



The *Alderley Edge* Hotel

The Alderley Edge Hotel is a special hotel and perfect choice for weddings, from a small intimate gathering or a lavish event for up to 150 guests
From two smaller ceremony rooms to the Willoughby suite - a fully contained bar and event space leading out to a 'Secret Garden' and oasis of lushness and colour perfect for those reception drinks.
The team will ensure from start to finish a warm and welcoming personal experience, their food and beverage offerings are outstanding. Should you require something bespoke for your guests they are more than happy to accommodate.
Complimented with a fabulous selection of quirky rooms and amazing suites for you and your wedding party stay, enjoy and celebrate



Best Western Plus *Pinewood* on Wilmslow

Discover a dream wedding at Pinewood Hotel, a unique four-star retreat close to Manchester Airport
Their dedicated coordinators ensure personalised elegant celebrations with comfy accommodation. The beautiful suite, flooded with natural light and garden views, is ideal for your ceremony and reception. Complete with private bar and flexible layout, it guarantees a flawless, memorable day .

Happily Ever After at Swanley Meadows



Ever wondered what really goes on behind-the-scenes of a picture-perfect wedding day?
In this feature, Jenny, owner and found of Swanley Meadows shares how she brings your dream day to life, as well as some expert tips and planning insights to help you imagine your own celebration at this special venue.

A Little About Swanley Meadows

Swanley Meadows is a seasonal tipi wedding venue on our family farm in the Cheshire countryside. We have four giant tipis and host relaxed, personal weddings for up to 150 day guests.

For me, what makes Swanley special is that couples have lots of freedom to make the day their own, but they're not just handed a field and left to figure everything out. I get to know our couples and their plans really well, and alongside our brilliant coordination team, Florence & Vera Events, we're there to make it all happen.



The Morning Begins

I'm normally the first one down before suppliers start arriving, working through my opening checklist: generator on, solar lights on, toilets and facilities checked, a walk around the site and a sound test. Thanks to my little girl, Pink Pony Club has become my sound-check song, so that blasting through four completely empty tipis is now a fairly standard Swanley Meadows wedding morning! Then suppliers start arriving and within a couple of hours the whole place comes alive.

Bringing the Vision to Life

For us, a smooth wedding day is really won in the weeks beforehand. Every wedding has a detailed 'Masterplan' covering timings, suppliers, layouts, ceremony details, catering, entertainment and all the little things that could otherwise get missed. Around eight weeks before the wedding, Florence & Vera become much more involved, and we check in with suppliers beforehand too. By the time the wedding morning arrives, nobody is learning the plan - we already know who is coming, when they're arriving and what they need.

Transforming Swanley

This is one of my favourite things to watch, but it usually starts the afternoon before. Florists arrive, tables are set, stationery and candles appear, cakes are delivered and all those personal details start popping up. Outside, we might have lawn games, food trucks, photobooths or even bouncy castles being set up too. There's usually a point where I walk back into the tipis and they've stopped looking like Swanley Meadows and started looking like that couple's wedding. No two ever look quite the same.





The Finishing Touches

There's lots of little things that go into making everything "just right": straightening chairs, checking microphones, putting out signs, lighting candles and doing one final sweep before guests arrive.

We're also checking things nobody would necessarily think about - power, toilets, weather, ground conditions and sound. And there's nearly always something unexpected to find, fix or move at the last minute. Ideally, the couple never even knows about those bits!

Teamwork makes the dream work

You can never be too prepared. Good communication beforehand means suppliers aren't arriving on the morning wondering where to go, what power is available or who they need to speak to. Florence & Vera oversee the wedding timeline and coordination, while I tend to concentrate on the venue and infrastructure.

We're lucky to work with lots of brilliant suppliers, many of whom know Swanley Meadows really well now. Everyone has their job, but equally nobody is above grabbing a chair or carrying a box when something needs doing!

When the Unexpected Happens

We're basically professional troubleshooters! Outdoor weddings teach you very quickly that you can't control everything. Weather changes, suppliers get stuck in traffic, things go missing and plans sometimes need changing at the last minute. The important thing is having an experienced team who stay calm and find a solution. We often ask ourselves whether the couple actually needs to know there's a problem. If we can quietly fix it without interrupting their day, we will.

Behind-the-Scenes Magic

While guests are enjoying themselves, somebody is checking power and facilities, talking to caterers, checking microphones, monitoring sound, watching the weather, moving furniture, lighting fire pits or helping the next supplier get set up. There's also lots of resetting throughout the day. The ceremony finishes and things need moving; dinner finishes and then the space needs tidying and preparing for the evening. Hopefully, from a guest's perspective, everything just seems to happen.





Keeping On Track

The Masterplan is our bible - but we also know when not to follow it to the minute. Florence & Vera keep an eye on the overall timeline and communicate with suppliers, while I'm generally looking after the wider venue and thinking about what we'll need next.

A timeline should support the wedding, not control it. If everyone is outside having a brilliant time and dinner can comfortably move by ten minutes, we're not going to start herding people inside just because a piece of paper says so.

The Most Rewarding Part

I think it's the moment just before the ceremony. I've normally known the couple for months, sometimes years, and watched their wedding go from an initial viewing and lots of ideas to an actual celebration happening on our family farm.

There's a moment when everyone is seated, the music starts and one of our couples is about to walk down the aisle where I think, we actually helped make this happen. It's exhausting and occasionally chaotic behind the scenes, but it's pretty special.

Top Tips for Couples

Don't plan the wedding you think you're supposed to have. Think about how you actually want the day to feel and prioritise the things that matter to you. Choose suppliers you trust, tell them what's important to you and then let them do what they're good at. And don't fill every minute. Some of the best bits happen in the gaps - when nobody is being photographed, called somewhere or told what happens next. Give yourselves time to actually enjoy your wedding day.

