

Ceremonies

Built in 1742, the elegant Georgian Town Hall in Rye is an ideal venue for your special day - whether it be a wedding, civil partnership, baby naming ceremony or vow renewal. A unique and historic setting in the heart of Rye, the Town Hall is within walking distance, over the cobbled streets, to a number of local reception venues.

Rye Town Hall provides a stunning back drop for the perfect photograph to remember your day. As well as being close to a number of beautiful settings, including the Gun Garden, which offers a delightful photo opportunity with views stretching out to the sea.



Rye Town Hall

Arriving at the Town Hall, you make your way up the steps and through the wrought-iron gates into the Buttermarket, the open area beneath the main Chamber. In days gone by this was used, as the name suggests, for the sale of butter and cheeses when the town market was held outside the Town Hall.



From here, you step through the ancient oak doors and upstairs to the Main Chamber. This is where ceremonies take place, surrounded by oak panels detailing in gold leaf the names of the past Mayors of Rye from 1289.

Once used as a courtroom, with the splendid Royal Coat of Arms looking down on you, the Main Chamber can accommodate up to 50 people seated, or up to 70 people sitting using the ledges around the room. The maximum capacity is 90 guests (including some standing).

For smaller, more intimate ceremonies, chairs can be placed around the marble fireplace with its tavern clock above, seating up to 26 people.

The Mayor's Parlour is also made available on the day for the registrar to talk to the couple privately before the ceremony. The layout of the Town Hall means this can be done without them seeing each other prior to the ceremony, if desired.



Make your day unique

In addition to this beautiful venue, Rye Town Council is pleased to offer you the services of the Town Crier. He will greet your guests on arrival and then escort the Bride to the Main Chamber.

After the ceremony, when everyone is gathered outside, he will deliver the wedding 'cry', announcing your marriage to the town. If your reception is being held within the town, he can also lead you and your wedding party to the venue.





Fees

*To hire Rye Town Hall for a ceremony including use of the Main Chamber and Mayor's Parlour, and the services of the Town Crier**

<i>Monday - Friday</i>	<i>£375</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>£400</i>
<i>Sunday and bank holidays</i>	<i>£425</i>

For ceremonies during the Christmas & New Year period - Price on Application

**The services of the Town Crier are optional, but no discount is made if declined.*

*Please contact us to arrange a viewing,
or to discuss your requirements.*

Tel: 01797 223902

*Email: townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk
www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk/weddings/*

How to Book

Rye Town Hall is offered only as a ceremony venue, and is not a Registry Office. To be married here you will need to book the Hastings Registrars to attend and officiate at your ceremony. There is a legal process that you must go through to be married, which is described in more detail in the attached document 'Booking your Registrars – next steps'. The Registrars fee is payable separately to our fee for the hire of the Town Hall (details of their fees are available on their website).

Hastings Registrars

Tel: 0345 60 80 198

www.ceremoniesineastsussex.co.uk

Once you have a date in mind, contact Rye Town Hall and we will advise on availability. If your chosen date is available we can reserve it for you provisionally until you have booked with Hastings Registrars and paid their deposit. Contact us once you have done this and we will then confirm your booking in writing. Along with your confirmation, you will receive an invoice for your booking. We require that £100 of this is paid immediately by way of a non-refundable deposit. We then ask that the balance is paid at least one month prior to your ceremony.



Frequently asked questions

How many guests can we have?

Up to 46 people seated on chairs, a further 20+ seated on the ledges around the room, with standing room at the back bringing the maximum number of guests we allow to 90. This excludes the couple and Registrars.

What disabled access do you have?

The Main Chamber, where ceremonies are held, is accessed via three short flights of eight steps. Due to the age of the building there is limited disabled access to the Main Chamber and Mayor's Parlour.

We have a Stairclimber device that can be made available. Please bear in mind that this is not suitable for everyone and there is a weight limit of 85kg (13 stone) for anyone using this. Please contact the Town Hall for more information, and to request a video of the stair climber being used. If you require this facility, we must have prior notice.

Can we have music?

Yes, however you will need to arrange for a guest to be responsible for the playing of the music (ie pressing play and pause at the appropriate moments.) We recommend that the nominated guest arrives around 45 minutes before the ceremony to have a practice.

{Note: Any reading, music, words or performance which form part of a ceremony of marriage celebrated on the premises must be secular in nature and discussed with the Registrars prior to the day.}

We have either a CD player with ipod/iphone connections and remote control, or a Sound-bar speaker that can be operated via Bluetooth from mobile devices, available for you to use. Alternatively, you are welcome to provide your own music system.

Some couples opt to have musicians playing live. Please bear in mind that any musicians present must be deducted from the number of guests, to adhere to the maximum capacity. Please contact us in advance if you are having musicians to let us know if they have any special seating arrangements. We recommend no more than a quartet, as space in the main chamber is limited.

Can we have the Town Crier?

The attendance of the Town Crier is included in the hire fee for Rye Town Hall. However, you are welcome to decline his services, but no discount is available if you do so.

What does the Town Crier do?

If you aren't sure what he does, please visit www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk/weddings/ to see a video of him in action. Aside from his 'wedding cry' the Town Crier can also greet your guests as they arrive, and announce the arrival of the bride before the ceremony. The Town Crier will telephone you in advance to discuss what you would like him to say and do on the day.

Can we have flowers?

We have silk flower arrangements in the Main Chamber and Ante-Chamber. These can be removed if required and you are welcome to provide your own arrangements. Please contact us to discuss delivery of any flower arrangements prior to the ceremony.

Can we throw confetti?

We ask that you remind your guests that they should avoid throwing confetti on the Town Hall premises. Confetti can be thrown outside the Buttermarket. We ask that, in consideration of our neighbours and our situation in a conservation area, this amount is limited, and is of the paper or rose petal variety. A popular and successful alternative to confetti has proved to be bubbles. These are available in small 'champagne bottles' and leave no mess!

Is parking available?

There is no designated parking at Rye Town Hall. There is some on-street parking, but of limited availability. Otherwise there are a number of pay-and-display car parks situated around the town. If you are holding your ceremony on a Thursday, it is worth noting that the main Cattle Market Car Park is unavailable due to the weekly market.



Rye Town Hall is a licensed wedding venue, approved for the solemnisation of marriages in pursuance of Section 26 (1)(bb) of the Marriage Act 1949 and as a venue for Civil Partnerships in pursuance of section 6(3A)(a) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004.



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www.ryetowncouncil.gov.uk

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