

TOWN HALL 🏰 Hebden Bridge

# CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS & WEDDINGS



# The Town Hall, Hebden Bridge

*A venue with a difference*

Set in the picturesque heart of the town, right next to the iconic Packhorse Bridge, our building is owned and managed by the local community.

With a variety of different rooms and events spaces to choose from, we host wedding ceremonies and civil partnerships, as well as non-legal ceremonies like handfastings. As a self-sustaining Charity, we are a proudly independent enterprise, which means that unlike more conventional wedding venues, there is ample opportunity for you to run your event however you like and put your own unique stamp on your big day.

Being at the heart of Town's community, our building is open to everyone and fully accessible, with gender-neutral toilets, baby changing facilities and hearing induction loops throughout the building. If you have any special requirements, please just let us know - we'll certainly help if we can.

Nestled in the Calder Valley where two rivers meet, Hebden Bridge itself is a thriving Yorkshire Pennine town with a big reputation. It is famously quirky and full of creative people, as well as being widely celebrated for its independent businesses, vibrant cultural scene, LGBTQIA+ inclusive community and stunning natural beauty. There are plenty of bars, restaurants and cafés too, not to mention the legendary Trades Club and Picture House Cinema. Our town is a wonderful place to stay, and we'd hazard a guess that you'll want your visit to last a little longer, than just tying the knot here.



## *Our* Story

The Town Hall has always been at the heart of civic and community life in Hebden Bridge, and it is now held in trust by Hebden Bridge Community Association (HBCA) for all to enjoy - and we want to make sure it stays that way.

The Town Hall site is made up of two parts. The original and Grade II Listed portion affectionately labelled the 'Old Building' (1897) and its contemporary extension (2012) which includes a large events space and café. Our venue boasts the best of both worlds: beautiful Victorian features, including the gem of the Old Building - the Council Chamber, along with the convenience of accessible open spaces, and airy photogenic backdrops.

Before the arrival of the 2012 extension, the Old Building was used for generations throughout the 20th Century as a hub of local civic life. It was a site of local democracy and locally run services, as well as being the local fire station. It was where births were registered, where the community accessed council services, and where taxes were paid. It was also (and still is) an important meeting place for local Elected Councillors to debate and vote on public issues.



In the late 20th Century, some of these traditional functions disappeared. Changes in the building followed and many services were relocated. As a result, by the 1990s the Town Hall's civic role had significantly diminished, with the site becoming less community focused. Then, fuelled by community spirit, and perhaps just a pinch of true Northern grit, a grass-roots campaign was launched to save the Town Hall and things started to look brighter for the building's future.

HBCA was formed, and through asset transfer took over the management of the building. In the period that followed, the Association brought new life to the building, increasing its use by community organisations and, among other things, licensing it for the first time for weddings and civil partnerships. In 2012 the site reopened following a major £3.4m capital build project, bringing to life the Town Hall that we know and love today.

## **Booking your ceremony** *at Hebden Bridge Town Hall*

As with any venue, before you can get married or form a civil partnership, you'll need to give notice to your local register office. You can do this no more than 12 months (and no fewer than 28 days) before your chosen ceremony date. Because we're an independent venue, registrars from Calderdale Council will attend to perform the ceremony. To check the current fees for this, please visit [www.calderdale.gov.uk](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk)

We can work with the registrar timeslot you've been given, and our usual ceremony bookings last for up to three hours: including plenty of time for set up, the ceremony itself and a post-ceremony celebration. We also host larger evening receptions in our impressive Waterfront Hall, where you can celebrate in style until midnight, alongside family and friends.



## **On the big day** *before your ceremony*

Before your ceremony starts, you'll have the opportunity to decorate your chosen room, take photographs or bring flowers. Before you arrive, staff from HBCA will guide your guests to your ceremony and ensure they're comfortably seated. We'll also guide those with access needs through the step-free access routes to your chosen ceremony room. If you'd like to play music of your own, we'll be happy to help you arrange this too.

You and your partner will speak to the registrars, either separately or together. This usually takes place in our Greenwood Room. You'll then have the option of entering your ceremony together or separately, and HBCA staff will help this to happen however you want it to. We're very experienced in managing the entrances and keeping surprises!

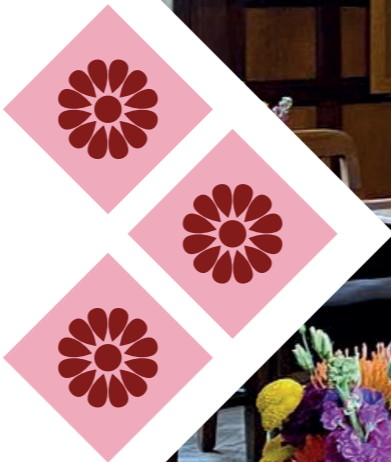
## *Your Ceremony* **The Council Chamber**

A beautiful, Grade II listed room with large windows on either side, and views to Hebden Bridge, The Council Chamber can accommodate 14 guests seated in the main circle, with up to 30 guests in chairs around the room.

It is a popular choice for intimate weddings, where couples can either stand for their vows surrounded by their friends and family, with lovely photo opportunities by the large bay windows, or sit in the grand wooden council chairs.

This extraordinary room doesn't take much for it to look beautiful: a few vases of flowers and petals will do, or let the historic space and atmosphere speak for itself. If you'd like to bring your own speakers with you, we'll play your chosen songs or special music.

When you book the Council Chamber for your ceremony, you may also use the Terrace Room afterwards for celebratory drinks and photos. We'll happily include the use of both in your three-hour ceremony booking.





## *Your Ceremony* **The Terrace room**

Overlooking the river, with one of the most spectacular views of the Hebden Bridge hillside, the Terrace Room is suitable for ceremonies of between 30-40 people.

The Terrace Room is also lovely for a small, combined ceremony and reception. The ceremony can take place first and the room can be rearranged while your guests are waiting on the gorgeous outdoor terrace, where we can then set the tables up and serve a buffet. For extra space and flexibility with the serving of refreshments, we can also add the adjoining Saltonstall Room to your booking.

The outside balcony terrace is perfect for toasting the happy couple with a glass of champagne and taking photographs with our unmistakable town as a stunning backdrop. Alternatively, your guests can wait here comfortably while you pose for pictures along the charming packhorse bridge. Plus, if weather permits, you may even hold your ceremony on the outside terrace.

The Terrace Room can be easily decorated with posies from the local florists, and we'll make sure tables are arranged according to your requirements. The terrace itself looks lovely when it's kept simple, decorated just using paper lanterns and fairy lights.





## *Your Ceremony* **The Waterfront Hall**

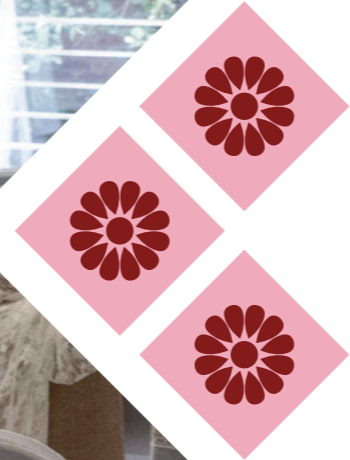
Our largest and most flexible room, the Waterfront Hall overlooks the river and is suitable for ceremonies up to a maximum of 120. It's an ideal space for weddings as it easily accommodates many guests, and we can even arrange its layout so you can walk down an aisle. Don't worry; for smaller and less formal ceremonies we can set the chairs in a circle, or around tables – the choice is entirely yours.

There's a fantastic view of the adjacent river from big wide windows, and when the sunshine streams in, it's breathtaking.

The Waterfront Hall is also perfect for a post-ceremony celebration; we can either serve fizz and canapes or completely revamp the room to host a full reception.

The Hall has an integrated speaker system, perfect for playing music as you enter your ceremony. There's adjustable lighting and a hanging system too, which makes decorating the room easy and impactful.

Our popular public café closes at 3pm, and from 4pm onwards you'll have access to the café space and the lovely outside courtyard overlooking the river. This makes the perfect setting for enjoying photos and confetti while your friends and family toast the happy couple, and if the timing and weather permit, you can even hold your ceremony outside.





## After your ceremony

After your ceremony, why not have a small celebration, starting with a toast? Our catering team can pour and serve special fizz, or there are a number of options for a self-serve bar, pre-paid drinks or full bar service, depending on which room you're using. Our catering team can also organise canapés, light refreshments or even a full buffet, and you're also free to bring your own food or use an external caterer.

There are many excellent spots for couple and group photos. Why not take some private pictures on St George's bridge, or the packhorse bridge whilst the rest of your party relaxes on the terrace or in the courtyard?

Your three-hour ceremony booking gives plenty of time for a lovely smaller gathering, and we'll happily extend your room booking by an extra hour or two for an additional fee.

Don't want the hassle of taking your decorations down on the day? Can't say we blame you. Just ask us about arranging pick-up the next day.

## Receptions in the Waterfront Hall

Ready to party? We can host an unforgettable evening in our Waterfront Hall, and you're free to use the café area and riverside courtyard after 4pm – perfect in the summer months with that beautiful view!

Our maximum capacity in the Hall varies according to what you have planned: for a formal gathering around tables we recommend 80 people, while for dinner and dancing we can accommodate many more. Just let us know what you'd like to do, and we'll give you advice in advance as well as help on the day.

At night, our café area transforms into a full bottle bar with spirits, wine, locally brewed beer, soft drinks and prosecco available to your guests. We can run this on a tab, or guests can buy their own drinks – whichever suits your event and requirements. We can also provide a buffet for up to 120 people, and we have a range of different options to suit all tastes.

Want to dance the night away? Our integrated music system can play your favourite tunes, though we recommend that live bands and DJs bring their own PA equipment. You're free to use our projector system and coloured uplighters to create the right ambience, and we have a stage and specialized lighting available for hire too.





## Catering options

Our experienced and imaginative catering team can work with your requirements to provide special food and drink for your celebration.

We can provide post-ceremony celebration toasts, with a range of special drinks, canapés, light refreshments and baking. For small and intimate events we can offer a formal wedding breakfast, while for larger celebrations we can cater for up to 120 buffet-style in our Hall. When you book the Hall for your reception, you also have access to the courtyard and café seating too, giving you plenty of options for relaxed and alfresco dining.

Our buffet menus range from traditional Yorkshire favourites and high-quality charcuterie to warming one-pot winners like curries and chili. We can also provide freshly-baked homemade cakes and deserts, and we can even make your wedding cake! Our talented catering team have years of experience running our inhouse café, and they'll be more than happy to provide options to suit most tastes, budgets and dietary requirements. We can also provide equipment for cutting and serving your cake to guests, or letting them take it away.

In the evening, our café space transforms into an airy and modern bar where we have a wide range of alcoholic and soft drinks available. Our bottled beer selection showcases local brewers, and we have a full range of wines and spirits available too. Of course, if there's a favourite tippie that we don't already stock, we'll be happy to talk about supplying it on the big day or night.

Want to cater for yourself? We can help with that and while we can't lend out equipment, we can give you advice and let you into our kitchenette. We can also give advice to external caterers who want to use our building, and we can even host food stalls outside.

To talk to our catering team about your ideas, please call 01422 417300, or email: [cafe@hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk](mailto:cafe@hebdenbridgetownhall.org.uk)

## *Celebrations for all of life* **at the Town Hall**

With a building this beautiful it would be a shame only to use it for weddings. We also host all types of celebrations: birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions are well suited to our spacious Waterfront Hall, where there's plenty of room for a dance floor and more. Our Terrace Room overlooks the river and is perfect for a smaller celebration or event. To find out more about our special rates for parties and family celebrations, please contact us.

It's never easy to mark or celebrate the life of a loved one who's passed away. Our dedicated and sensitive team can talk you through the process and provide a sympathetic all-in-one service for your event. This can include catering, bar and drinks, with simple room decoration if you need it. We can also work with your requirements for an event tailored to you. Please contact us to find out more.





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