



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR YOUR WEDDING AT GOODNESTONE PARK



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

# CONTENTS

HIRING THE HOUSE	4
LEGAL CEREMONY	5
CHURCH CEREMONY	6
MAXIMUM NUMBERS	8
CATERING	9
PARKING	10
SUPPLIER & WHEELCHAIR ACCESS	11
ELECTRIC & WIFI	12
CHILDREN & PETS	13
MUSIC	16
CONFETTI, FIREWORKS, SECURITY, LICENSING & RECYCLING	18
HEATING/COOLING, SMOKING, TOILETS, FLOORING, WASTE DISPOSAL & FIREPIT	19
LINEN & CANDLES	20
THE BAR	23
STAFFING	24
TABLE PLANNING	25
FURNITURE & DROPPING OFF ITEMS	26
END OF THE NIGHT	27
COLLECTING YOUR ITEMS, TAXIS & TRAIN STATIONS	28
ACCOMMODATION	29
YOUR FINAL RUN THROUGH	30
CONTACT	30

## A LUXURIOUS SETTING

# HIRING THE HOUSE

You will find all the information you need regarding your booking of the house in your contract, however here is some further information you may find useful.

The house has 12 bedrooms and sleeps 24 (can sleep 26 with two small fold up beds for young children). The house has two fold up beds that can be allocated to any room. These are small fold ups and designed for small children only.

We can also provide 1 travel cot with linen, this can be allocated to any room in the house.

The house is paid for in full by you as part of your booking, however you can, if you choose apply a fee to each room for your guests to pay to you. The agreement and how you manage the payments on this is between you and your guests. Please inform your guests that check in is 2pm on the day your hire period commences and check out is 11am.

We are happy to advise that one dog is permitted to stay overnight in the house for a small fee of £50. For hygiene reasons and to protect the furniture and soft furnishings we kindly request that the dog is only given access to the kitchen / boot room and not given access to any other rooms in the house.

Please note that we will make a deduction to your holding deposit should your dog leave any mess inside or outside the house.

You are allocated 2 fobs for your stay and these will give you access to the front door. We kindly ask you to adhere to the contract and not permit access to the house for any of your wedding guests not staying in the house.

The kitchen has ample refrigeration space for 24 guests for the duration of your stay. It's a great idea to have a supermarket delivery arranged for after 2pm when you arrive. If you do this, we recommend you provide the driver with the post code for the Old Dairy, then they can drive through the gates and pull up right outside the kitchen which is situated at the back of the house.

We also recommend speaking with your catering company as they could arrange to cook you a wonderful meal the night before the wedding and please do speak to the House Manager as he can prepare a lovely breakfast the day of the wedding /day after.

## EXCHANGING OF THE RINGS

# LEGAL CEREMONY

We have three locations for your legal ceremony, the choice is yours; you can choose to marry on the steps to the front of the house, on the lawn to the back of the house or in the Coach House.

The Coach House accommodates a maximum of 100 people. Due to the maximum numbers for the indoor ceremony option, the outdoor numbers have been capped at 100, just incase you have to revert to a Plan B indoor option.

All related legal fees must be paid directly to Kent Ceremonies, we will place the initial booking after taking some details and send you the booking confirmation that outlines your next steps aswell as the relevant fees to pay.

Please refer to <https://www.akentishceremony.com/assets/Fees-2022-25.pdf> if you are not a UK citizen

On the day of the wedding and prior to the Legal Ceremony you will both have brief and separate interviews with the registrars.

The groom / party one would typically have their interview about 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. The bride / party two would typically have their interview just before the ceremony. The Wedding Dolls will support you with the logistics on the day. The interview usually takes no longer than 10 minutes.

## THESE INCLUDE

- ◆ **Booking Fee** – A booking confirmation fee (non-refundable) of £75 must be paid within 14 days of receiving the booking confirmation.
- ◆ **Legal Preliminaries** – Notice of marriage or civil partnership must be given in a Register Office (separate notice must be given by both parties) £35.00\* (each)
- ◆ **Approved Premises Ceremony Fee** – A Kentish Ceremony Fee (in addition to the above booking fee). For ceremonies taking place 01/04/2022 to 31/03/2025 Monday to Friday £520 Saturday/ Sunday/ Bank Holidays £710. These may increase after the 31st March so please do check this with Kent Ceremonies
- ◆ **Certificates (optional)** – Marriage or civil partnership certificate £11.00\* (each)

## HOLY VOWS

# CHURCH CEREMONY

The church is not managed by Goodnestone Park and while they will go to lengths to accommodate weddings for couples hiring Goodnestone Park we do encourage you to get your date confirmed with a contract and deposit.

By the time you receive this pack from us, you will have confirmed your booking with Goodnestone Park - if you have not received the contract and deposit from the church, please do chase this, sign a contract as soon as possible and confirm the ceremony time to The Wedding Dolls.

While we have never experienced any issues in the past, we do remind you that without a contract and deposit to the church your enquiry is not a secured booking and could be cancelled at any time . If you have to cancel your church ceremony for any reason we will endeavour to support you by booking a civil ceremony in the grounds but cannot guarantee this. Goodnestone Park is not able to change the date of the hire period of the house and gardens if the church date has to be moved. Please check your booking contract with Goodnestone Park for cancellation details.

The church is walkable from the house. On the day of the wedding The Wedding Dolls will support you, your guests and bridal party to leave the house on time and will walk through this with you at the final run through meeting.

Unfortunately we are not able to provide transport to take you to the church in the case of wet weather, however The Wedding Dolls will work with you to come up with a Plan B option at your final run through meeting.



YOU & YOUR GUESTS

## MAXIMUM NUMBERS



Legal indoor and outdoor ceremony

100 seated guests

Church Wedding

Up to 140 guests

The Orangery

140 seated guests



A FEAST TO REMEMBER

## CATERING

We ask that you choose your catering provider from our list of amazing suppliers. Goodnestone Park offers a luxury setting for your wedding day and we have carefully selected caterer's that will work with us to ensure the gardens and our reputation are kept to the highest standards. We've gone to great lengths to find the best in terms of quality and value. You can find the list of catering companies on the preferred supplier list.

Our select list of accredited caterers have been vetted and approved by both Goodnestone Park and The Wedding Dolls, we hold their necessary insurance and health and safety certificates on file. All of the catering companies on the list offer high quality food and service for wedding breakfasts, canapés and more, and you'll find that we've carefully chosen them to meet a wide range of tastes and budgets.

Your chosen catering company will include all the costs for the kitchen equipment they need for your package - this will be dependent on your guest numbers and the menu you choose.

We understand that in some cases you may have a family catering contact and wish to use someone you have hired before for other celebrations. We will be happy to meet with them and to discuss this option but please note that a fee of £500 will apply for using a catering company not on our preferred supplier list.

Please advise us as soon as you book your catering company so that we can liaise with them on their power requirements.

FROM A TO B

## PARKING

Our onsite carpark holds over 50 cars, if you think you may need a larger space we can extend the boundaries where required.

Please give this postcode to your guests; **Goodnestone Park House, Goodnestone, Kent CT3 1PE.** Saddlers Hill and from there they need to look out for the wedding parking sign.

Please **DO NOT** give this postcode to your guests Goodnestone Park Gardens, Goodnestone, Kent CT3 1PJ as it will take them to the Old Dairy Cafe and they cannot access the wedding from there.

There is no charge to leave cars overnight and it is encouraged to do so as we have a zero tolerance policy on drink driving.

Please advise your guests that vehicles left over night are at their own risk as security is not provided.

We ask that all vehicles are removed from the car park by 11am the day after the wedding please.

Any guests with disabled access needs should make themselves known to your nominated car park attendant / usher so they can be directed through the gate to drop off at the front of the house, with the drivers car then being returned to the car park after the drop off.

ACCESSIBILITY

## SUPPLIER ACCESS

It's very important to check that your suppliers are happy to abide by our venue access timings before you book them.

On your wedding day, suppliers can have access to the venue from 10.00am. If suppliers need to access the venue any earlier than this, for any reason, this must be requested in writing and arranged in advance. While we endeavor to give earlier access where we can, please be aware that this may not always be possible.

We ask that all suppliers have removed all items from the venue by 11am the day after the wedding please.

## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

There is wheelchair access to the Round Room (in the house), The Coach House and The Orangery.

There are disabled toilet facilities in the house, wedding guests not staying in the house will need to be accompanied by a guest of the house as access to non staying guests is restricted.

We do not provide wheelchairs.

## STAY CONNECTED

# ELECTRIC

The hire of a generator from our preferred supplier 1st Setting, who has worked with Goodnestone Park for many years, is included. They are trustworthy, have the highest standard for service and generators, are local and treat the grounds with respect when they drop off and collect.

We will liaise directly with them on suitable equipment, necessary certifications and delivery and collection times, so you don't need to worry about anything during your wedding day.

# WIFI

Goodnestone Park is a relaxed country off-the-grid venue nestled in the heart of the Kentish countryside and does not have public wifi access and a limited phone signal on some networks.

There is wifi in the house for your guests and the password can be found in your welcome pack when you check in.

If you plan to provide any playlists we ask that they are fully downloaded before you check in.

## YOUR LITTLE GUESTS

# CHILDREN

Children are more than welcome on site however their safety is paramount and we ask that they are kept under close adult supervision.

If any of the little guests are staying in the house overnight, under no circumstances are they permitted to stay alone in the house.

Your catering company will be able to order highchairs from 1st setting for you. The Wedding Dolls can provide you with details for registered care providers.

Guests staying in the house are permitted access to the house on the day of the wedding. For non resident guests we advise you to set up a baby changing facility in the Coach House.

# PETS

If you have a beloved 4 legged friend that you would like to attend the venue we would ask that you don't extend the invitation to your guests and ensure a member of the party is allocated to look after them. Pets are not permitted to go inside the Orangery.

Please check your hire agreement for the house if you would like your dog to stay overnight with you



## DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY

# MUSIC

We are proud to belong to such a wonderful local community and have therefore installed a top of the range Sound Limiter Speaker System within the Orangery and have included a sound engineer to be on site for the duration of your celebration.

Clients of Goodnestone Park are required to book their evening band via our chosen entertainment agent Toby Boyle. Toby and his acts have experience of working with our new sound system and we have selected them as they also understand the strict license restrictions that have been placed on us by the local authority. The sound engineer will always have the final say on sound limits, while we won't stop you from having an amazing celebration we are experienced at ensuring a balance is met between keeping our neighbours and clients happy.

The venue does not stipulate decibel limits as depending on the number of guests, wind direction, air pressure, weather and other local noises the noise emissions from far away will change greatly.

Should you wish to have live music for your ceremony or afternoon drinks reception you may choose a supplier of your choice. They will be required to bring their own speakers and provide us with their PAT certificates and Public Liability Certificates.

Should you choose to play pre recorded music for your ceremony, we can provide a small portable speaker for your ceremony which you can connect your chosen device to. You can let us know which device you are providing at your final run through 4 weeks before the wedding and then we can advise if you will be required to supply a specific adapter.

We are happy to manage the music on the day and ask that you clearly label the playlists in the following order;

- ◆ Pre ceremony back ground music - we suggest 45 minutes for this
- ◆ Brides ceremony entrance
- ◆ Signing of the register - we suggest 3 songs for this
- ◆ Exit song

We do not provide microphones for the ceremony, should you wish to use microphone and satellite speakers you will need to hire these from a company that will set them up. We will be pleased to manage the music for you subject to the hire company testing them with us at the set up.

We cannot be responsible for packing away the PA system and ask that the hire company provide covers for the equipment so that we can cover the items until they are collected.

We do provide a microphone and speakers in the Orangery for your speeches and back ground music. We will require you to provide your background playlist on a device compatible with the system and will check your device at the final run approx 4 weeks before the wedding.

## ALL AREAS COVERED

### CONFETTI

You are permitted to throw confetti anywhere on the estate but we do ask that it is 100% biodegradable or genuine dried flower petals.

### LICENSING

Music licensing comes under the same timings / restrictions as our sale of alcohol. The last orders for your bar will be at 11.45pm with the music finishing at midnight. We kindly ask that all guests have vacated the premises quietly by 12:30am.

As Goodnestone Park is situated in the middle of the village it is paramount that to keep our license we must respect our neighbours.

### FIREWORKS

We do allow fireworks at Goodnestone Park but only through our trusted supplier, Phoenix Fireworks. Setting off your own firework display is not allowed.

### RECYCLING

If you plan to take any left over food or cake please take it from the Orangery into the house when the wedding finishes. Although the Orangery will be sealed overnight wildlife can still find its way in and have a field day with leftover food.

This also applies to the catering company and their scraps - all the catering companies on our list know they have to take all food waste away with them at the end of the night.

We do have recycling bins for cardboard and bottles on site. It is the responsibility of your catering and bar company to dispose of all items in the correct bins before the end of the night.

### SECURITY

Goodnestone Park does not provide security for your wedding. If you wish to hire security we recommend you contact Star Protection. Any items left in the Orangery overnight are at your own risk.

### HEATING /COOLING

Our custom built Orangery has an integrated heater to keep guests toasty and warm on those colder early spring and autumnal nights. The marquee also features removable paneling to allow a cooling breeze in the heat of summer, adding to the indoor outdoor dining experience.

### TOILETS

Toilets can either be situated at the front, to the left-hand side of the house or on the lawn at the back, to the right-hand side of the house. The booking of your luxury toilet unit via Premier Flush is included and we will liaise directly with them on the delivery and collection times. Premier Flush are vetted, well respected, local and fair priced.

If you wish, you may place toiletry boxes in the toilets, however, if you have young children attending the wedding, we ask that you don't put paracetamol in your toiletry boxes.

### SMOKING

Smoking is permitted in the designated smoking areas either side of the house, next to the toilet unit.

We ask that all butts/ends are disposed of in the ash trays provided.

### FLOORING

The Orangery sits on top of a hard standing solid flooring,

### FIREPIT

Fire pits are permitted, they must be in a raised bowl that sits above the lawn to avoid any damage. Please do speak with us about what you plan to hire before confirming with any payment.

### WASTE DISPOSAL

There is a charge of £200 for disposal of waste from Goodnestone Park.

## LINEN

Linen will need to be hired via your catering company. We will provide either round 6ft tables that sit up between 8 - 10 guests or trestles that sit 6 guests.

The round tables require cloths however the trestles are a raw / rustic wood and look wonderful without cloths.

Your catering company will be able to order your linen via 1st Setting who have a large selection of colours in their range. You can see the range of colours in their online catalogue.

## CANDLES

Naked flames are not permitted anywhere in the house, candles are therefore not permitted.

You may use tea lights in the Orangery as long as they are covered by glass vases / lanterns.

Candelabras are only permitted when led/ battery operated candles are used.





## FOR THE PERFECT TOAST

# THE BAR

There is no corkage fee at Goodnestone Park. You are welcome to provide all the drinks you need for your celebration.

All of the catering companies on our preferred supplier list can offer a bar service. They can provide you with the bar, the glassware, the staff, ice and any special touches /garnishes you may need.

You are welcome to store the drinks you provide in the chiller van that you will hire from the catering company when you check into the house before the wedding. We will give you the keys and you will be responsible for loading the drinks and keeping the key overnight. While we have never experienced any issues with drinks being stored overnight we do advise that anything left in the chiller overnight will be at your own risk.

Alternatively, you are welcome to hire a separate bar company that can manage all the drinks for you. They can also provide the bar, the staff, the glassware etc. and they can either serve your drinks or provide you with details for other packages they offer. Please do contact only the suppliers on our preferred supplier list.

We insist that whoever manages your bar is responsible for taking the recycling away after the wedding. We also insist that they switch to plastics / paper cups after 10.30pm to enable them to collect up all the glasses before the end of the night. This reduces the risk of broken glass on the floor when many guests have kicked off their shoes and are enjoying dancing barefoot, it also reduces the amount of glass left lying around on the grounds surrounding the Orangery Marquee - which can also present issues the following day.

## HERE TO HELP

# STAFFING

When you check into the house you will meet with the House Manager who will show you around and settle you into the house.

The house is then completely dry hire, staff are not provided to look after any aspect of your stay. We do suggest speaking to the catering company that you hire about providing a wedding rehearsal the evening before as there is ample space in the kitchen and dining room for this. You can hire a separate catering company if you wish, please let us know who you intend to use so that we can speak with them prior to you paying them a deposit.

On the day of your wedding The Wedding Dolls will arrive from 9.00am to manage all the plans and suppliers. They will be on site looking after you, your guests and suppliers for 12.5 hours.

From 9.30pm until end of the evening The House Manager will be on call for any issues until all guests have departed the venue at 12.30am. The House Manager will not be responsible for clearing any items away at the end of the night, his role will be to ensure that your guests and suppliers safely leave the site within the agreed times and that the pavilion marquee is sealed.

On the morning after the wedding The House manager can provide a breakfast buffet at an additional cost or alternatively, you can go to the old dairy and preorder a brunch. Please speak to the house manager for more details. Please note that we do ask that you keep to the check out time of 11.00 am

Our cleaning team will enter the house after your departure, if you would like any of the rooms cleaned during your stay we can provide housekeeping service at an additional cost.

## THE FINER DETAILS

# TABLE PLANNING

You can either have round or rectangle tables in the Orangery.

The round tables are 6ft and seat 10 guests. The rectangle tables are xx and seat 6 guests.

We can create a Sweetheart table for the two of you, this is a 3ft round table.

All styling and preparations is handled by The Wedding Dolls on the day.

Once you have decided which layout you would like for your wedding day we will provide you with a floor plan that you can use to organise the table planning.

There is a table planning facility in your Aisle Planner Portal. This has been designed for you to tell us how many tables you require and how many chairs per table. This will enable us to lay the tables and chairs out in line with your plan. Your catering company will ask you for more in depth questions about guest names and dietary requirements.

## TAKE A SEAT

# FURNITURE

You have two options for your chairs. You can either include the oak cross back chairs or a lime wash chivari chair.

You are welcome to organise with a styling company to add sashes or flowers to the chairs. Should you decide to do this we will ask the company to collect these the day after the wedding before 11am as the chairs will need to be cleaned.

The Orangery comes with a complete lounge set comprising of a brown leather chesterfiled sofa and two armchairs, complete with side tables and a rug. The lounge furniture is available for weddings up to 120 guests. For weddings larger than 120 guests, the lounge is removed to allow more space for the dining tables.

You are also welcome to hire in additional furniture should you wish. You can see a list of amazing hire companies on our preferred supplier list

# DROPPING OFF ITEMS

Prior to checking into the house, we will ask you to complete an inventory of items you will be providing us with. We ask that these items are left in the boot room for The Wedding Dolls to collect when they arrive on the day of the wedding at 9.00am. Please ensure all items are in sealed boxes and clearly labelled with a full inventory list and explanation of where the items should go. While Goodnestone Park and The Wedding Dolls will take great care to look after all your items, please note we are not responsible for the damage or theft of any items brought to the venue.

## THE GRAND FINALE

# END OF THE NIGHT

Your catering company will clear the tables and pack away all the hired linens

There will be items left for you to either take back to the house after the wedding or to collect the following morning, these include items such as your guest book, floral displays, sweet treats, signs, displays etc.

Please take into account the flowers that will be left over. These will need to leave Goodnestone with you so please ensure you have sufficient space in your car (s).

The Orangery will be sealed by The House Manager once all your guests depart but it is not lockable.

You are welcome to leave items in the Orangery overnight but these will be left at your own risk.

Any lost property found during the day will be left with the bar, when they depart they will leave any unclaimed items in the Orangery for you and will send a photo of said items to The Wedding Dolls and the House Manager.

The House Manager will make sure all external guest have departed and all remaining guests go back into the house. Should you and your house guests wish to continue the night, we ask that all shutters and windows are closed to prevent any complaints of noise from the village.

Please note that only registered guests of the house are permitted access. The House Manager will ask for a guest list prior to check in.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR GIFTS

# COLLECTING YOUR ITEMS

Some items will be returned to the boot room before the end of the wedding.

Where other items will be in use until the end of the night they will be packed into a corner in the Orangery once guests have departed and will be ready for you to collect before you check out the following day.

The Wedding Dolls will not be responsible for taking your cards and gifts to the house. Please nominate someone to do this. Any items to be collected by hire companies must be taken by 11am

## PLAN AHEAD

# LOCAL TAXIS

Please note that Uber is not an option in the vicinity of Goodnestone. We strongly recommend you ask your guests to pre book taxi's and can recommend both Longleys 01227 710777 or Macs Cars 07594 998468 for this service.

# NEAREST TRAIN STATIONS

The nearest train station is three miles away at Adisham. The station is not staffed and you wont find a taxi rank so please advise guests to pre book a taxi to collect them. Please also ask guests to check the train times as Adisham is not on a main line and services will be reduced.

## REST THOSE DANCING FEET

# NEARBY ACCOMMODATION

Bonnington Cottage is a two bedroom cottage situated on the Goodnestone Estate and is available to book via The House Manager. Please note that this property has a very steep staircase and stone floors and so is not suitable for children under 5 including babies.

## HOTELS

- ◆ The Fitzwalter pub is in the village and offers three rooms on a B & B basis.
  - ◆ One family room sleeps four
  - ◆ One double
  - ◆ Two single bedsPlease contact the pub to book 01304 784503  
The Street, Goodnestone, CT3 1PJ, England
- ◆ Travelodge Sandwich (9.2miles – 18mins)
- ◆ Premier Inn Canterbury City Centre (8.1 miles -17mins)
- ◆ Hampton by Hilton, Canterbury (8.8 miles – 22mins)
- ◆ The Falstaff Hotel, Canterbury (9.3 miles – 22mins)
- ◆ The Blazing Donkey, Sandwich (4.8 miles – 15mins)
- ◆ The Pig at Bridge Place, Bridge (4.6 miles - 12 mins)

## AIR BNB'S:

- ◆ Myrtle's Barn (Sleeps four – for families) (Around 2.7 miles – 9mins)
- ◆ Cosy granary conversion on a working farm (Sleeps four – for families) (Around 2 miles – 6 mins)
- ◆ Bramble Lodge (Sleeps up to five – for families) (Around 5 miles – 12 mins)
- ◆ 2 Chillenden Court Stables (Sleeps four – adult only) (Around 2 miles – 6mins)
- ◆ Magnolia Cottage in the Heart of Kent (Sleeps four – adults only) (Around 3 miles – 8 mins)
- ◆ The Roost (Sleeps two – adult only) (Around 3 miles – 8mins)
- ◆ Chillenden Court Stable No. 1 (Sleeps two – adult only) (Around 2 miles – 6mins)



MAKING YOUR DAY PERFECT

## YOUR FINAL RUN THROUGH

A full run through of the day will take place at your final meeting approx 3 / 4 weeks before the wedding day. The Wedding Dolls will book this in with you. All run throughs have to take place on a week day and we ask you to allow around 2 hours for this.

Prior to the run through meeting The Dolls will ask you to submit their in depth questionnaire to enable them to write a bespoke schedule that will include all your timings, finishing touches and special requests. Following the final run through The Dolls will contact your suppliers to finalise details and assist with any questions they may have.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

## CONTACT US

### PAYMENT

For payments contact Sally Lewis  
office@goodnestone.com

### THE HOUSE

For questions about the house or your stay contact  
Ronnie house@goodnestone.com

### EVERYTHING ELSE

For everything else: [hello@theweddingdolls.co.uk](mailto:hello@theweddingdolls.co.uk)





## GOODNESTONE PARK

T: 01304 695097 E: [enquiries@goodnestone.com](mailto:enquiries@goodnestone.com)