

# The Judge's Lodging

## Weddings & Civil Partnership Ceremonies

Whether you are looking for a beautiful period setting for your special day, or a touch of the unusual, The Judge's Lodging has something to offer you. With three stunningly restored rooms registered for ceremonies, this award-winning museum will do all it can to give you and your guests a truly memorable day.

### Our Building

*'The most commodious and elegant apartments for a judge in all England and Wales'.*



That is how Lord Chief Justice Campbell saw The Judge's Lodging when staying here in the 1850s. Stepping into the building today, you may be mistaken in thinking that little has changed since his time. In fact it took three years of meticulous research and restoration to bring this Victorian 'fossil' back to life, to what has been called 'a fascinating social document – an amazing survival' by Country Life Magazine. The Judge's apartments themselves have been stunningly restored along with the gaslit servants' quarters and vast courtroom, where you are haunted by the echoes of trials long since concluded. Wandering through its labyrinth of rooms, by the light of gas, oil and candle, you are transported back into the lives of the Victorian judges, their servants and felonious guests.

### Rooms for your ceremony

#### The Dining Room

Used originally for Judge's Dinners, Militia Dinners and other official functions. Dining rooms like this were intended to convey sober masculine grandeur, and were often red. They were generally lit only by candles, since gas and oil lamps were believed to taint food. With the beautiful deep reds of the decoration and the solid yet elegant oak furniture, this room will hold up to 50 people for your ceremony. The room can be arranged as you wish and our collections of table linen, glasses, silverware and candelabras can be used to enhance the appearance of the room. This room can also be used for drinks & canapés afterwards if it is not your choice for the actual ceremony.



The Judge's Lodging  
Broad Street  
Presteigne  
Powys  
LD8 2AD

Phone: 01544 260650

E-mail: [info@judgeslodging.org.uk](mailto:info@judgeslodging.org.uk)

## *The Withdrawing Room*



Used originally as a retiring room by Judges between cases, and at other times as a 'gentleman's club' by magistrates and local dignitaries. Decorated in Georgian 'sugar bag blue' and a copy of early Victorian wallpaper, this room will hold up to 35 people for your ceremony. Again, the moveable furnishings can be arranged as you wish and silverware etc from our collections can enhance the atmosphere, as can the oil lamps that light the room.



In winter, you might like a real fire to warm your guests and December sees

a huge Christmas tree here, traditionally dressed.

Again, this room can be used for drinks & canapés afterwards if it is not your choice for the actual ceremony.

## *The Courtroom*

For a truly elegant setting, or for something a bit out of the ordinary, you can actually get married in court. This beautiful Georgian courtroom will seat 150 people or can be used for more intimate ceremonies centred around the main table area. Virtually unchanged since 1830, this must be among the most original 19th century court rooms in Britain. The colour scheme, restored from finishes surviving under later paint layers, is that of c.1860. The pine panelling is wood-grained to imitate oak, and the walls are distempered in a specially mixed greenish-blue, matched from samples 'fossilised' when gas piping was installed in 1860.



At the rear of the court are the public benches, which seat around 90 people.

For a further special touch, you might like us to light the gasolier - probably the only working example of an open-flame gasolier in Britain. Installed in 1860, it was fitted with 18 'Bray's Patent Ceramic Bats-wing Burners', many of which remained in position when it was roughly adapted for electricity in 1920.



## *Ceremony Hire Prices*

Dining Room £350

Withdrawing Room £250

Courtroom £400

Remember, that you will also have the fee of the registrar to pay, directly to them, in addition to this.

Hire of another room for refreshments £50

Use of building for official photography £20

If you wish to book with us, you will need to pay a deposit of £100. This will secure the use of your chosen rooms for the date you require. We regret that this deposit is non-refundable if you choose to cancel within one month of the ceremony date. Up until one month, £50 will be returned to you on cancellation. The remainder of the balance will be due before the ceremony day.

Please note that The Judge's Lodging is a museum and it is likely that it will be open to the public on the day of your wedding. We will, of course, not allow people just to wander into your ceremony, although you must be aware that *by law*, public access must be provided for all weddings, anywhere.

If you have decided that we are the place for your special day, please make sure you read the 'Guidance Notes For Those Who Wish To Marry On Approved Premises' contained in this pack. This will tell you how to contact the registrar and some basic regulations about civil wedding and civil partnership ceremonies.

## *About the Area - Presteigne, "Simply Radnorshire"*

When writer George Borrow came to Presteigne in 1867 he asked where he was - the reply was 'Neither in England nor Wales, but simply in Radnorshire'. To take a glance now at Presteigne ('Llanandras' in Welsh), little seems to have changed since Borrow's time in this small border town where one step over a little stone bridge takes you into England. Do not be fooled though, for Presteigne is a thriving community. It was recently named as one of the top ten places to live in Britain by a Country Life survey, whilst its road from there to Aberystwyth is in the AA's top ten scenic routes in Europe. Even way back in the 1850s, Lord Chief Justice Campbell visited and called the town 'a sort of paradise'. We can provide you with more information and town trails to take you on a journey not only through the streets of this charming place, but also on a trip into the past, as it guides you by buildings such as The Duke's Arms, home to the last (and longest) mail coach in the UK; The Red House, home of Rear Admiral Puget, after whom Puget Sound on Vancouver Island

is named; The Radnorshire Arms Hotel, home of Sir Christopher Hatton, (a favourite of Elizabeth I) and St Andrew's Church, Broad Street, which is not only architecturally renowned, but also home to a superb 16<sup>th</sup> Century Flemish tapestry. Local archaeological treasures include standing stones (Whitton), holy wells (Pilleth) and the ruins of Stapleton Castle which look down over the town.

The inevitable turbulent past of a border town has created in Presteigne a charming and unique feel - neither truly Welsh nor English, it really is simply Radnorshire.

To find out more about the town, visit the local website [www.presteigne.org.uk](http://www.presteigne.org.uk) or if you are in the area, call in to the Tourist Information Centre which also happens to be located in the Judge's Lodging building.



## *Things you may like to consider*

### *Flowers*

Any of the three rooms can be adorned with flowers. The Judge's Lodging has some florists that we work with regularly. You will find more information on them in this pack. If an alternative florist is to be used they *must* make an appointment to visit the building and discuss the displays with the Manager or the flowers will not be allowed on the premises. This is because the furnishings of the building are important to us as a museum and we must make sure that no water or items that may scratch could damage them. Our chosen florists have worked in the building before and understands its historic nature.



### *Catering*



You may wish your guests to join you in a celebratory drink after the ceremony and for this you may hire a separate room to do so. The building is unlicensed, so if you would like us to organise the drinks for you, there will be a charge of £35 to cover the temporary licence for the day, plus the charge for the drinks we provide. Alternatively, you can bring your own drink to us – we can chill it for you, set it out and provide all the glasses you need free of charge. You may deliver the drink any time before the event and we will store it until it is needed. We can also provide coffee/tea for a small charge.

If you wish to give canapés to your guests, The Judge's Lodging works with a few local caterers who can provide food to suit all tastes and budgets. Again, we use firms that are familiar with the building and sympathetic to its historic nature. Just let us know if you would

like to see what these companies have to offer and we will send you their sample lists to choose from or give you contact details so you can talk to them about your requirements. You are also welcome to bring your own cold canapés, which, again, we can keep chilled for you.

### *Evening Dinners*

The Judge's Lodging can be hired privately for evening dinners. The cost is £400 for the room hire and the dining table seats 27 people. The building must be vacated by 10.30pm. Again, we can provide details from our approved caterers on request.



## *Information for Guests*

We can provide you with information leaflets on the building for your guests free of charge, plus a local accommodation list, should you need it to help find places for them to stay. Alternatively, we can provide 'Guest Packs' – with any information you require inside – information on The Judge's Lodging, on Presteigne, things to do whilst in the area and local accommodation. This will be presented in an A5 envelope, labelled 'Information for guests of (your names), for their wedding on (your ceremony date)', or however you choose. We will work with you to tailor the contents completely to your needs and ideas. The sort of information you may like to include could be details on golfing, family visits such as animal parks, historic properties, gardens, something quirky to do. The cost of these packs will be 50p per guest.

## *Some suggestions for you to help plan your day*

We take no commission from the services listed here. We just thought you might like to know what is available in the area.

## *Accommodation*

Local accommodation details can be provided for all your guests, but may we suggest a few exceptional places for yourselves and special guests to stay.

**The Old Vicarage, Norton:** Stay in a fine Victorian country house, designed by the great 19<sup>th</sup> century architect, Sir George Gilbert Scott. This astounding place is the perfect partner to The Judge's Lodging, continuing the Victorian theme with its stunning furnishings and working gas lights...superb food too. Stunning views and a lovely garden. Two miles from The Judge's Lodging in the little village of Norton.

The Old Vicarage, Norton, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2EN Tel: 01544 260038

[www.oldvicarage-nortonrads.co.uk](http://www.oldvicarage-nortonrads.co.uk)



**The Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne:** Once the country retreat of Sir Christopher Hatton, one of Elizabeth I's favourites, this hotel in Presteigne's High Street has a variety of accommodation from the stunning luxury Whitton Suite to garden lodges sleeping up to 4 guests.

High Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2BE Tel: 01544 267406

**The Old Vicarage, Titley:** Owned by the renowned Stag Inn & Restaurant, this Georgian Vicarage has the huge advantage of a Michelin starred chef to cook your breakfast. It overlooks Titley church and has lovely gardens. Four miles from Presteigne.

The Stag Inn & Restaurant, Titley, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3RL

Tel: 01544 230221 [www.thestagg.co.uk](http://www.thestagg.co.uk)



**Milebrook House Hotel, Knighton:** Set amidst the wooded rolling Marches landscape, this family-run hotel has attractive gardens and beautiful views. Once the home of the explorer Sir Wilfred Thesiger and visited by Emperor Haile Selassie.

Milebrook House, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1LT Tel: 01547 528632

[www.milebrookhouse.co.uk](http://www.milebrookhouse.co.uk)

## *Local Reception Venues*

**The Stag Inn & Restaurant, Titley:** Superlative food, comfortable surroundings, a friendly welcome and amazing value at this outstanding venue run by Steve & Nicola Reynolds. Steve began his training at La Gavroche under Michel Roux before moving back home to Herefordshire. The first British pub to receive a Michelin Star, it excels at using high quality local produce.

The Stag Inn & Restaurant, Titley, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3RL Tel: 01544 230221

[www.thestagg.co.uk](http://www.thestagg.co.uk)

**The Radnorshire Arms Hotel, Presteigne:** Once the country retreat of Sir Christopher Hatton, one of Elizabeth I's favourites, this hotel in Presteigne's High Street has stunningly furnished wood-panelled rooms, restaurant and bar area.

High Street, Presteigne, Powys, LD8 2BE Tel: 01544 267406

**Milebrook House Hotel, Knighton:** Set amidst the wooded rolling marches landscape, this family-run hotel can provide a superb selection of food, all prepared with imagination and skill by talented chef David Martin and his team.

Milebrook House, Knighton, Powys, LD7 1LT Tel: 01547 528632 [www.milebrookhouse.co.uk](http://www.milebrookhouse.co.uk)

**The Knighton Hotel, Knighton:** With the magnificent Powys Hall, with original beams, which holds up to 120 people, and the mezzanine floor which can hold up to 30 people. The hotel can offer a variety of buffet menus for up to 300 people; it also has the only free standing cantalibra stair case in Europe which would be ideal for your wedding photographs.

The Knighton Hotel, Broad Street, Knighton, Powys LD7 1BL Tel: 01547 520530 [www.theknighton.com](http://www.theknighton.com)

## *Halls for Hire*

**St Andrew's Hall, Presteigne:** Newly renovated Victorian school with a carpeted main hall, kitchen and toilets and disabled facilities. For information or to book please telephone Mary Corbett on 01544 262106

**Presteigne Memorial Hall:** Large hall in Presteigne with stage and separate bar area. Car-parking, kitchen, toilets and disabled access. Contact Judy Charlton on 01544 267420

**Lingen Community Hall:** Capacity of 140 people, kitchen, toilets, car park and disabled access. Contact Christine Moore on 01544 260865

**Arkwright Hall, Kinsham:** Licensed for 120 people, with parking. Just outside of Presteigne. Contact Jan Oldershaw on 01544 260469 for booking.

**Whitton Community Hall:** Large modern hall with bar, kitchen and toilets. 4 miles from Presteigne. Contact Jill Powell on 01547 560367

**Titley Village Hall:** Capacity of 250 people. In-house sound system available. Contact Dee Middleton on 01544 231383

## *Flowers*

Here are some suggestions for local florists who offer a range of options from the traditional to the more informal. We are happy to work with your chosen florist to make sure that your choice fits in with our historic building; do please arrange for them to come over to discuss the options with us.



### **Blooms & Bees**

Parsonage Farm  
Kyre  
Near Tenbury Wells  
Worcestershire  
WR15 8RW  
Telephone: 01584 711916 Mobile: 07958 293725  
Email: [lucinda@bloomsandbees.co.uk](mailto:lucinda@bloomsandbees.co.uk)  
<http://bloomsandbees.co.uk/weddingservice.html>

### **Morgans Florist**

51 High Street  
Kington  
HR5 3BJ  
Telephone: 01544 230234 Mobile: 07909106801

### **Wild Bunch**

Marlow Farm  
Leintwardine  
Craven Arms  
Shropshire, SY7 0JP  
Telephone: 07759 550252  
Email:  
[tammy@wildbunchflowersfromthegarden.co.uk](mailto:tammy@wildbunchflowersfromthegarden.co.uk)  
<http://wildbunchflowersfromthegarden.co.uk/>

### **The Flower Box**

21 Broad St Knighton, Powys LD7 1BL  
01547 528786

<https://www.facebook.com/theflowerboxknighton>

## *Activities*

Fancy something a bit different? Here are some suggestions to get the blood pumping nearby!

Hot Air Ballooning with Espiritu Balloon Flights  
Plox Green, Minsterley, Shropshire, SY5 0HT Tel: 01743 790100  
[www.flyespiritu.co.uk](http://www.flyespiritu.co.uk)



Rally Driving at the Phil Price Rally School  
Coed Harbour, Llangunllo, Powys, LD7 1TD  
[www.philprice.co.uk](http://www.philprice.co.uk)

Helicopter Rides with Tiger Helicopters  
Shobdon Aerodrome, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 9NR  
Tel: 01568 708028  
[www.tigerhelicopters.co.uk](http://www.tigerhelicopters.co.uk)



Clay Pigeon Shooting at the Griffin-Lloyd Shooting Ground  
Llangunllo, Powys, LD7 1SL Tel: 01547 550634  
[www.griffinlloyd.co.uk](http://www.griffinlloyd.co.uk)

Karting at Border Kart Racing/Kinsham Raceway, Lower Kinsham,  
Near Presteigne, Herefordshire, LD8 2HN Tel: 01544 267006  
[http://www.kinshamraceway.co.uk/kinsham\\_racing.php](http://www.kinshamraceway.co.uk/kinsham_racing.php)



## *Legal Information*

### *Guidance for those who wish to marry on approved premises*

This is information you must read and understand. It is your responsibility to make all necessary arrangements listed here.

1. As soon as a couple have made provisional arrangements for their marriage on approved premises they should be advised to contact the superintendent registrar for the district which the premises are situated.
2. Without the presence of this superintendent registrar and a registrar there can be no marriage and any arrangements for the use of the premises depend entirely on their availability. It is, therefore, essential that the couple make an advance booking with the superintendent registrar for his attendance at their proposed marriage as soon as a booking can be accepted. A fee for this attendance will be payable one month before the ceremony.
3. The couple will also have to give a notice of marriage to the superintendent registrar of the district(s) in which they live. This notice must be given in person by each person but is valid for only twelve months.
4. The couple should be warned that any arrangements made for a marriage to take place on the approved premises are dependent on:
  - a. the attendance of the superintendent registrar (or their deputy) and a registrar for the district which the premises are situated; and,
  - b. the issue of the authority or authorities for marriage by the superintendent registrar(s) to whom notice of marriage was given.
5. When notice is given in a different registration district from the one where the marriage is taking place, the couple will have to collect the authority before the ceremony and ensure that it is delivered to the registrar who is to attend the ceremony.
6. The couple should be advised that only a civil, non-religious ceremony can be permitted by the superintendent registrar. Any music, reading, words or performance which form any part of the ceremony must be secular. The content of the ceremony must be agreed in advance with the superintendent registrar who will be attending the ceremony.
7. Any rights of copyright for music, readings etc permitted at the ceremony are a matter for the couple and the holder of the approval.
8. To ensure registrars are available to attend the ceremony, please telephone the Powys register office on 01597 826782. The opening hours are: Monday to Thursday 0900 – 1700; Friday 0900 – 1630. You can also email [registrars@powys.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@powys.gov.uk) – staff at this office can also advise regarding the ceremony and giving Notice of Marriage.

## *The Judge's Lodging's Responsibilities*

These are the things that we will undertake – you do not need to worry about these things, but it may be useful for you to read through them.

1. The holder of the approval must ensure that there is at all times an individual with responsibility for ensuring compliance with these conditions ("the responsible person") and that the responsible person's occupation, seniority, position of responsibility in relation to the premises, or other factors (his "qualification"), indicate that he is in a position to ensure compliance with these conditions.
2. The responsible person or, in his absence, an appropriately qualified deputy appointed by him, shall be available on the premises for a minimum of one hour prior to each marriage ceremony and throughout each marriage ceremony.
3. The holder must notify the authority -
  - (a) of his name and address immediately upon him becoming the holder of approval under regulation 7(2), and
  - (b) of the name, address and qualification of the responsible person immediately upon the appointment of a new responsible person.
4. The holder must also notify the authority immediately of any change to any the following:-
  - (a) the layout of the premises, as shown in the plan submitted with the approved application, or in the use of the premises,
  - (b) the name or full postal address of the approved premises,
  - (c) the description of the room or rooms in which marriages are to solemnized,
  - (d) the name or address of the holder of the approval, and
  - (e) the name, address or qualification of the responsible person.
5. The approved premises must be available at all reasonable times for inspection by the authority.
6. A suitable notice stating that the premises have been approved for solemnization of marriages in pursuance of section 26(1)(bb) of the Marriage 1949 and identifying and giving directions to the room in which a marriage ceremony is to take place must be displayed at each public entrance to premises for one hour prior to the ceremony and throughout the ceremony.
7. No food or drink may be sold or consumed in the room in which a marriage ceremony takes place for one hour prior to that ceremony or during that ceremony
8. All marriage ceremonies must take place in a room which was identified as one to be used for the solemnization of marriages on the plan submitted with approved application.

The room in which a marriage is solemnized must be separate from any other activity on the premises at the time of the ceremony.

10. The arrangements for and content of each marriage ceremony must meet with the prior approval of the superintendent registrar of the district in which the approved premises are situated.
11. Any reading, music, words or performance which forms part of a ceremony of marriage must be secular in nature; for this purpose any such material used by way of introduction to, in any interval between parts of, or by way of conclusion to the ceremony shall be treated as forming part of the ceremony.
12. Public access to any ceremony of marriage solemnized in approved premises must be permitted without charge.
13. Any reference to the approval of premises on any sign or notice, or on any stationery or publication, or within any advertisement may state that the premises have been approved by the authority as a venue for marriage in pursuance a section 26(1)(bb) of the Act, but shall not state or imply any recommendation of the premises or its facilities by the authority, the Registrar General or any of the officers or employees of either of them.

#### Conditions & Requirements

The Act allows the Council to impose its own local conditions in addition to the national conditions. The Council have agreed that there should be three additional local conditions namely:

- (a) That table and chairs be provided for the Superintendent Registrar and the Registrar and the provision of chairs for the parties being married.
- (b) That there be provided seating for the majority of the guests present.
- (c) An additional room be provided for the interview of the parties prior to the wedding.



## *What Happens Next?*

Why not come and see us? Have a wander around the rooms for yourself, chat to staff about what you would like.

Once you have decided you would like your wedding or civil partnership ceremony here and have agreed a date and time with The Judge's Lodging, this will form a provisional booking. You must then contact the Superintendent Registrar to book the service itself. If the time you want is not available, get back to us immediately and we will see what we can do to help you arrange a suitable time for everyone. To confirm your booking, fill in the form in this pack and send it to Gabrielle Rivers at The Judge's Lodging, along with your deposit of £100. This will secure the date and time agreed for your ceremony. We will then send you a confirmation note, so you know all is going to plan. We will work with you to create the most perfect day we can for you. Don't be put off by us being a historic house! We are friendly, knowledgeable about the building and area, and will help you wherever we can.

*We look forward to being able to be part of your special day.*



