



Pembrokeshire **Celebration Guide** **Arweinlyfr Dathliadau** Sir Benfro



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Rydym yn cydnabod yn ddiolchgar gefnogaeth yr holl gwmnïau y mae eu hysbysebion yn ymddangos yn y tudalennau hyn. Ni fyddem yn gallu cynhyrchu'r arweiniad hwn heb eu cymorth nhw. I ddiolch iddynt, mae'n bleser gennym dynnu sylw ein darllenwyr at eu cyhoeddiadau, ond hoffem bwysleisio na all Cyngor Sir Benfro dderbyn unrhyw gyfrifoldeb dros eu cynhyrchion na'r gwasanaethau a hysbysebir.

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Photograph courtesy of Daniel Valla
Carew Castle, Pembrokeshire



Welcome to
**Pembrokeshire
Registration
District**

Leave behind the stresses of town and city life and allow your dreams of a perfect day to become a reality when you choose Pembrokeshire for your marriage, civil partnership, naming or re-affirmation of vows ceremony.

Pembrokeshire, the Land of Enchantment, and its Registration Service invite you to celebrate the most important events of your life in this magical County.

In Pembrokeshire all civil ceremonies can be conducted at the Pembrokeshire District Register Office in Haverfordwest (max capacity 40 all seated), The South Pembrokeshire Ceremony Suite, Argyle Street, Pembroke Dock (max capacity 50, not all seated) or at any one of a number of the currently approved premises (see page 21). The venues vary in size and location – small intimate guest houses, a tastefully converted barn, to larger hotels, mansions and country houses and even a couple of castles!

Photograph courtesy of Gareth Davies



Narberth Castle, Pembrokeshire



Bosherton Lily Ponds, Pembrokeshire

All situated in some of the most beautiful areas of Pembrokeshire – deep in the heart of the countryside in the north, along some breathtaking rugged coastline, to beach towns in the south. There is something for everyone, your biggest problem is deciding where!

Your ceremony will be tailored to your requirements, being as formal or informal as you wish – as few as just the two of you and two witnesses to larger gatherings depending on your choice of venue. Have a traditional or informal ceremony followed by a banquet, barbecue or simply take a walk on the beach and fly a kite!

Just leave the bustle behind you and enjoy a truly magical experience.

- *Italians cut up the groom's tie, then sell the pieces to help fund their honeymoon.*

Your Special Day

Many congratulations on your engagement and pending ceremony.

Planning your ceremony is a very important event, not only for yourselves, but also for us here at Pembrokeshire Registration Service, we want to make your special day a memorable and wonderful occasion.

This guide will take you through the legal formalities necessary for civil weddings and partnerships at a register office, approved venue or in a registered place of worship. It also provides you with a few handy hints and tips to help your day go as smoothly as possible.

Whatever you choose, whether it is an intimate ceremony with just yourselves and two witnesses, a small family gathering or a grand celebration we will be happy to help you make the day the one of your dreams.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions not answered in this booklet and we will be happy to discuss your plans with you. We will always do our very best to make your ceremony as personal as possible.

We look forward to meeting you.

Barbara Eynon, Superintendent Registrar



Photograph courtesy of Daniel Valla

From This Day Forward

From this day forward,
You shall not walk alone,
My heart will be your shelter,
And my arms will be your home.

Author Unknown

Choosing a Marriage Ceremony

You and your partner will need to decide whether you would like a civil or religious ceremony.

If you are planning a Church of England or Church in Wales wedding you need to speak to the vicar of the parish who will discuss your plans with you. The calling of banns and registration of your marriage will be the responsibility of the clergyman and should not normally involve the local register office.

If your wedding is to be held in another religious building, you will need to give notice to the

Superintendent Registrar in the same way as you would for a civil marriage. (See Getting Married in any other Religious Establishment for more information – page 14).

If you are considering marrying abroad you should ensure that you understand and follow all the regulations according to the laws of that country. You will almost certainly be required to provide certain documents and in some instances a certificate of no impediment, which is available from the Register Office. We advise that you contact the consul for the country in which you wish to get married.

There is no remedy for love than to love more. Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)



Getting Married in Any Other Religious Establishment



St Davids Cathedral



Courtesy of Daniel Valla

If you are getting married in any religious building, apart from a church belonging to the Church of England/Wales, you must give notice as if you were getting married in a registration office.

Usually, one or both of you should be resident in the district where you plan to marry or the building should be the 'usual place of worship' of one of you. You may also marry in another district if there is no building of your religion in your district(s) of residence.

A registrar from the district in which the building is situated must attend your ceremony unless the building has its own 'authorised person' who may register the marriage. It is advisable that you check this and confirm the availability of a registrar before you name your date. There is a fee for a registrar to attend and register your marriage.

- *Japanese brides change their outfit several times during the day. (The perfect excuse to hit the shops.)*

Civil Marriages and Partnerships in Approved Venues

Civil weddings and partnership ceremonies can now take place at a number of approved premises across the County.

Here in Pembrokeshire our venues range from our own register office to stately homes, beautiful hotels overlooking beaches and even castles. The choice is yours. A list of approved venues in Pembrokeshire can be found on page 21.

Once you have chosen a venue, check its availability and make a provisional booking. However before you confirm your booking with the venue, it is very important that you contact the local register office to ensure that registrars are available to conduct and register your event. Our dedicated registration staff are here to help you make your ceremony

day a memorable occasion. Please call 01437 775176 to speak with the Superintendent Registrar to discuss and make a provisional booking. This becomes a firm booking only once you have given your notices of marriage/civil partnership.



Lamphrey Court Hotel,
Pembroke, Pembrokeshire

Photograph courtesy of Gareth Davies



Grow old along with me, the best is yet to be. Robert Browning (1812-1889)

You can choose to marry or form a civil partnership in any registration district in England or Wales, irrespective of the district in which you reside. Each district can advise you of their venues. You can obtain a full list of licensed buildings from the General Register Office on payment of a fee of £5. Telephone 01514 714803.

Your notice of marriage/civil partnership can be given up to twelve months before the date of the ceremony and should be given in the registration district in which you each reside. Please contact the relevant office to make an appointment and for advice on what documents you need to produce.

Your formal giving of notice also acts as a confirmation to the district you have chosen to have your ceremony. If you are having your civil marriage/partnership in Pembrokeshire we will at this stage supply you with a 'ceremony pack'. This contains an official confirmation, details of any outstanding fees (fees are set by local authorities and will therefore vary throughout the country) and outlines the procedures on the day of the ceremony.

It also offers a number of suggestions regarding the content of your ceremony. Whilst there are some places where legal words must be used, there are ample opportunities for you to tailor the ceremony to your liking. You may add poetry, readings, musical items, soloists, and/or choirs, the choices are endless, (please remember that civil weddings and partnership ceremonies, by law cannot include any religious aspects). Or, if you wish, you may keep the ceremony to the bare minimum. Ours are merely suggestions. You may even wish to write your own words. This is your ceremony and it should be what you want it to be. Our staff are always happy to discuss and offer support if you need us.

Legal Preliminaries – Giving Notice

Before you can marry/form a civil partnership there are legal requirements to undertake:

- You will each need to attend the register office in the district in which you live to give a formal ‘Notice of Marriage/Civil Partnership’.
- This must be done by each party personally. It cannot be done by a relative or friend.
- Before giving your notice you should have made a provisional booking with the registration district in which you wish to marry/form your civil partnership.
- You are able to give your notice after you have lived for a minimum of seven consecutive days at one address (normally your home address). It does not matter if you move to another address after giving your notice, but you should advise us accordingly so that we know where to contact you.

Photographs courtesy of Daniel Valla



- If you are non UK/EEA (European Economic Area) national you may need to attend a *Designated Register Office* to give your notices. Your own registration district might not be designated, and may not be able to take your notices so it is advisable that you get advice about where you can attend. Pembrokeshire registration district has a designated register office.
 - If you both give your notices on different days, the minimum notice period is calculated from the date of the second notice. You must wait at least 16 days before your marriage/partnership can take place.
- *In Estonia, the classic tradition of whichever woman catches the bride’s bouquet being the next one to marry is adapted for men. The groom is blindfolded, then spun round. The single man whose head he puts his top hat on will be the next to get hitched.*



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