



Weddings at Gildredge Manor

Gildredge Manor is a magnificent grade II listed Georgian Manor House originally built for the Reverend of Eastbourne (on the site of a medieval inn) in 1776. Soon after, it became a family home with the title of the Lord of the Manor of Eastbourne. It was sold to the town in 1922 and became Eastbourne's Towner art gallery and museum until 2005. Sadly it stood empty for 6 years and fell into dereliction. The house was bought and restored by the current owners in 2011 and Gildredge Manor is now once again a beautiful house with the character and grandeur fit for a special occasion yet with a relaxed feel so you and your guests feel at home.

At Gildredge Manor we offer:

- Total exclusivity for weddings, receptions and ceremonies giving you a truly special and unique experience. From 9am on your wedding day right through to Midnight, the only people here are your invited guests, the caterer and our discreet staff, all focussed on getting every detail perfect for you.
- Beautiful furnished rooms for ceremonies, drinks reception, lounging, the bar, games, dining, entertainment and dancing with fabulous natural light and loads of gorgeous photo opportunities.
- Complimentary use of furniture, garden games, indoor games, lighting, candles, decorations, etc.
- A lovely garden for mingling and games although this venue is not weather-dependent with lots of space for drinks and mingling inside if the weather doesn't play ball! When it's dark we have lots of atmospheric candles and lighting.
- Privacy within the setting of a beautiful park with the convenience of being near the town centre, station and seafront with many B&Bs and hotels plus a pub with B&B rooms directly opposite.
- A choice of two rooms licensed for ceremonies: The Garden Room downstairs for up to 100 guests and the Long Gallery upstairs for up to 120 guests.
- A bride's dressing room and bathroom, as well as access to bring personal belongings/decorations from 9am on the day. (You can also drop off any decorations you'd like us to put out for you the day before.)
- Flexibility within the house for smaller more intimate or larger events. The ideal number here is between 50-100 in the day and 100-150 in the evening.
- A wide choice of catering through a selection of trusted caterers who will work with you to provide what your hearts and tummies desire.
- A choice of an excellent bespoke wine/drinks packages including glassware and service.
- A fully stocked, staffed bar providing a friendly service where the drinks are always perfectly served
- A long list of tried, tested and recommended suppliers for your flowers, cakes, entertainment, etc.
- Truly personal, caring advice with all your planning along the way.
- A Venue Manager and an experienced in-house team who will look after your every requirement on the day.
- A clear down and pack up service so you can conveniently collect your decorations, cards and presents the next day.

Flexible numbers:

For ceremonies, the Garden Room downstairs can seat up to 100 guests and the Long Gallery upstairs 120 guests.

Nb. The Garden Room is also perfect for smaller ceremonies and we can easily create a cosy, intimate feel.

For the seated meal, the Garden Room can accommodate max. 60 and Long Gallery 100-110 max.

You are welcome to have up to 150 guests in total in the evening.

Usually it's best to have your ceremony in the Garden Room and eat in the Long Gallery (so the Long Gallery can all be set up beforehand) but it's entirely up to you.

Yummy food:

We will give you the contact details for our approved caterers who offer a mouthwatering variety to suit your ideas and theme and who will provide staffing, linens, crockery, cutlery, glassware, rubbish removal, etc. They will be very happy to advise you on what works well for the size and style of wedding you have planned.

Perfectly served quality drinks:

One of Gildredge Manor's owners is a qualified wine expert and we are able to offer you a choice of fabulous yet good value wines, along with other drinks to put together a bespoke package for you.

Help with planning and preparation:

After your booking, you are welcome to come for another couple of planning meetings e.g. with photographers, florists, etc. and to run through things with us. We also hold a couple of wedding fairs during the year, which is an ideal opportunity to bring friends and family for a look round.

Shortly before your day we will go through our detailed wedding checklist with you to make sure nothing is forgotten and we know who is coming when with deliveries etc. If you would like us to set out your decorations for you, you can drop them off prior and check them over in the morning on your special day.

All the furniture & furnishings you need:

For the meal in the Long Gallery upstairs we have round tables (5', 5'6" or 6' seating up to 8, 10 or 12 respectively). Nb. You are of course welcome to hire in long tables if that is the look you're after.

We will also set up our elegant Chiavari chairs for the ceremony and meal.

We have garden furniture and umbrellas and in the evening put on festoon lights for a lovely atmosphere.

We include a PA system/amp for your ceremony and background music (just download a playlist and plug in an iPod or similar).

Flow through the house and gardens:

As you are getting ready your photographer can get some pre-wedding shots of you with your bridesmaids etc. in the bride's dressing room. The room will be at your personal disposal all day.

As your guests arrive, their coats will be taken and your gifts and cards will be put in a safe place or on your present table. We will look after all your belongings until the next morning (or next weekday by arrangement) when you can come and collect them.

The registrar will interview the bride and groom (separately or together!) in the comfort of the Gentlemen's Library. The bride can enter and exit this room unseen by guests.

Upon arrival your guests will be ushered to the ceremony room to wait for your ceremony to commence.

The Registrar will conduct your ceremony incorporating any special songs or readings, which will usually take about half an hour. After the ceremony the guests will proceed to the gardens to greet you for the confetti moment and enjoy canapés and welcome drinks. You can then go off around the house and to Manor Gardens for some wonderful shots in the beautiful setting and surroundings of the park including the Manor's former "Hermitage". Children (& grown-ups!) can head for the games room and enjoy a game of pool or Fussball on our vintage table football and we have a few outdoor games we can loan you. If the weather isn't kind or you're having a winter event, your guests can mingle in the Gentlemen's Library and Ladies' Morning Room.

You will then be called for 'The Wedding Breakfast' usually served in the Long Gallery. When the toasts and speeches have finished, you and your guests can filter to the garden and rooms downstairs for further festivities. When evening guests arrive, you may wish to cut your cake and proceed for your first dance. During the evening, treats and snacks can be served and the band or disco can play in the Garden Room. We politely ask that music be off by 11.30pm with guests departed by 12 midnight (nb. Half an hour earlier on weekdays). We will pack together your bits and pieces ready for a stress-free collection with no clearing up or cleaning!

A couple of points to note:

Like in National Trust properties, our floors can be irreparably damaged by stilettos so we ask guests to wear heel protectors if wearing stilettos. You can obviously provide them or we can issue them on the day.

Confetti should be natural please i.e. petals or biodegradable paper.

Disabled access is limited to the ground floor.

There is no guest parking here but parking is free and usually plentiful on nearby streets.

Nb. We'll give you a letter regarding the above, as well as venue map to include with your invites.

If you take a look at our website, there are lots of details and photos on there and also a room-by-room guide under Venue Guide. You can also see more photos & reviews on our Facebook & Instagram pages. We will of course be more than happy to arrange a personal viewing to discuss your individual plans in more detail and make sure you have a truly wonderful and unique occasion giving you a lifetime of happy memories!

For prices and availability or to book a personal show round please send an email to info@gildredgemanor.co.uk or give us a call on 01323 438 944.