

A HISTORIC SETTING FOR A DAY YOU'LL REMEMBER FOREVER

600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Royalty and romance

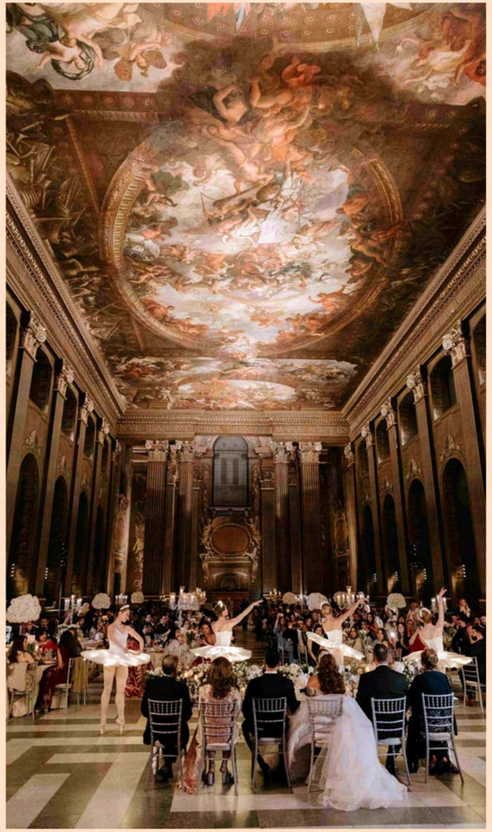
Royalty and romance go hand in hand at the Old Royal Naval College. You could be tying the knot close to the very spot where King Henry VIII married his first wife Catherine of Aragon in 1509, to whom he was married for 23 years. His daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth I, was christened here and Henry married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, in Greenwich Palace in 1540.







Front cover and opposite page: Paul Linkleman Photography. This page: top left: Barker Evans Photography; centre left: Ramsey Wallace Photography; right: bottom: Stacey Clarke Photography; right: Barker Evans



A DAY OF JOY AND MAGIC, CENTRED AROUND YOU

When hosting your wedding at the Old Royal Naval College, you will find yourselves immersed in history, dating as far back as the Tudors, where King Henry VIII once called his home.

The Painted Hall, created between 1708–27 by Sir James Thornhill, is often described as 'the Sistine Chapel of the UK'. It confers abundant prestige and elegance for your wedding celebration.

The fairy-tale opulence and grandeur of the Painted Hall provides a dramatic and magnificent setting for the most important day of your life, whilst the Admiral's House offers intimate charm and rare versatility in traditional town-house style.

Gracing the banks of the River Thames, the timeless elegance and striking symmetry of this architectural masterpiece will enchant you and your guests from the very moment you arrive, creating memories to treasure forever, whatever the time of year.

Your wedding is a one-of-a-kind experience that deserves a venue like no other.







Opposite page: Jodi Oliver Photography. This page: top and bottom left: Ellie Gillard Photography, bottom left: Cass and Seamus Photography, top right: Kezia Rogers Photography

THE GROUNDS: YOUR GRAND ENTRANCE

With views of the River Thames and iconic architecture throughout, the grounds act as the perfect wow factor arrival for your guests when arriving at your wedding.

Making an entrance can be elevated with transport for your guests such as a double-decker bus, London black cab for the couple's arrival, or even by boat!

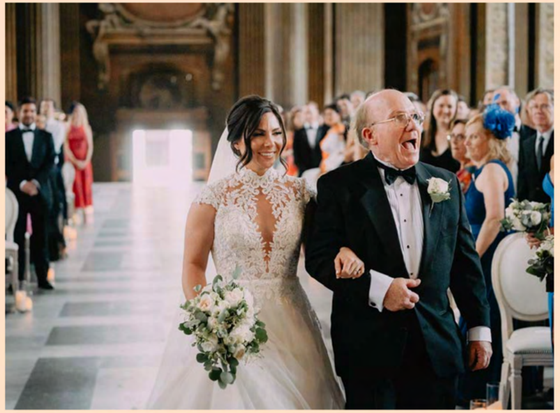
Guests can use the Colonnades and lawns to mingle before seating for the ceremony as well as using the Colonnades as a stunning backdrop for cocktail hour before the wedding breakfast.

The grounds provide a classic romantic backdrop for first looks, dramatic shots for post-ceremony and friends and family photos.



600 YEARS OF HISTORY

The most famous Admiral
Designed by one of the world's finest architects, Sir Christopher Wren, the Admiral's House was commissioned by King Charles II in 1660 to rival the magnificence of Versailles. It became the official residence of the Governor of the Hospital where Admiral Lord Nelson came to recuperate after losing his arm in battle in 1797.









Top left: Paul Liddament Photography; bottom left: Barker Events; top right, Stacey Clarke Photography; bottom left Renny Walters

WEDDING CEREMONY: WHERE FOREVER BEGINS

PAINTED HALL

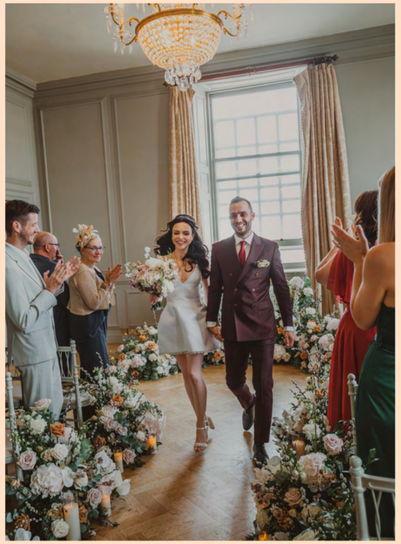
The awe-inspiring Painted Hall adds grandeur to your ceremony. Elevate
your ceremony with florals on the enchanting stairs into the lower hall, adorned with a baroque interior, adding a romantic aesthetic to your entrance.
We can accommodate live music or AV support for music during your ceremony, illuminate the hall with ambient ambers, adorning the aisle to create the perfect entrance for you.
Your ceremony will be followed by a drinks reception on the Colonnades during the summer months, or the Queen Mary Undercroft in the winter season.

Maximum capacity:
400 in Lower Painted Hall





Top left and bottom right: Jeff Oliver Photography; bottom left, Infinge Photo and Films; top right, The Wedstore Studio





ADMIRAL'S HOUSE

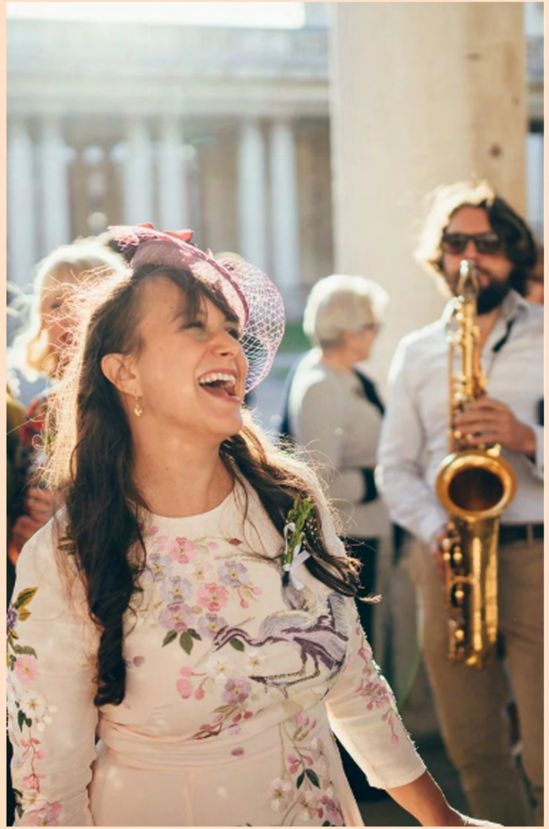
The Admiral's House can be your own romantic haven for the day; its special intimacy invites you to create your very own atmosphere, full of warmth and love.
This venue exudes a sense of peace and timeless continuity, embracing you as you start your journey of married life. A series of elegant rooms offer choice and flexibility - there is even a private retreat where you can enjoy precious moments together or a glass of champagne with your bridesmaids. Every moment of your wedding ceremony in Admiral's House, with fine wood panelling or river views, will become a cherished memory.

Wren Room max. 50
Hardwick Room max. 70
Webb Room max. 50









Opposite page: Chloe Lewis. Opposite page top left and bottom left: Mila Studio Photography; centre left: Chloe Lewis Photography; top right: Grosse Photography; bottom left: Jeff Oliver Photography; right: Michael Norton Gray Photography

DRINKS RECEPTION: A STEP INTO YOUR WEDDED BLISS

Once your vows have been exchanged, it's only right that you start the celebrations with a 'cheers' with your guests! A drinks reception is the perfect time for your loved ones to mingle and congratulate the newlyweds together, and what better way to do so than with your favourite tipples?

During the summer months, your reception will be hosted on the iconic Colonnades, where you'll find the signature columns and baroque design that create a romantic backdrop, and access to the lawns to host garden games.
Throughout the winter months, drink receptions will be held in Queen Mary's Undercroft. Similarly to the Colonnades, the Undercroft has limestone columns,high vaulted ceilings and lofty windows that let in the winter sun, giving your reception a regal feel.

Our coordinators can advise the best ways to entertain guests from flaring bartenders, roaming musicians to circus performers.



600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Shakespeare's footsteps
In 1594 during Queen Elizabeth I's colourful Christmas celebrations, Her Majesty was famously entertained by the Lord Chamberlain's Men at Greenwich Palace. William Shakespeare was one the actors and the play is thought to have been of his most enduring masterpieces, *A Comedy of Errors.*

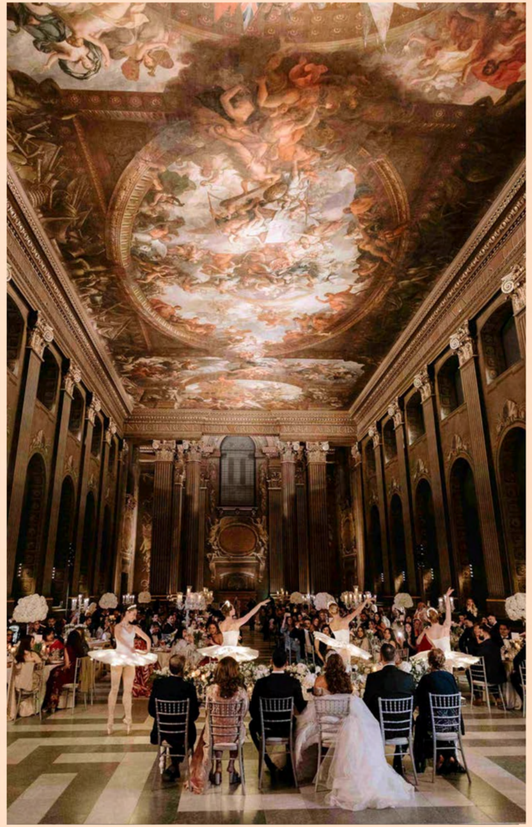
WEDDING BREAKFAST: A TOAST TO THE NEWLYWEDS

PAINTED HALL

Following your cocktail hour the Painted Hall will be transformed for your wedding breakfast, providing an idyllic setting to dine together for the first time as newlyweds.
The Painted Hall can be personalised with touches throughout, such as stunning floral centre pieces and luxurious table settings.
We have created a wedding package that includes almost everything you will need to make your day unforgettable.

Capacities

Painted Hall (min. 100)
Maximum 400









Top left, Buckles Events; top right, Barney Wilkins; centre right Katie Rogers; bottom right Kaiya Julia Photography





Top left, Wyndarra Studios; bottom left, top and bottom right, Jeff Oliver Photography





600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Thornhill's masterpiece
Sir James Thornhill (1675 - 1734) spent 19 years planning and painting the magnificent Painted Hall and was then commissioned to paint the dome of St Paul's Cathedral. These two awe-inspiring works established Thornhill as the foremost decorative painter in England. The Painted Hall has been now been restored to its full glory thanks to an £8.5million makeover completed in 2019.

ADMIRAL'S HOUSE

After your drinks reception overlooking the River Thames and take in the fabulous architecture, guests can enjoy your wedding breakfast.
Your intimate dinner can accommodate up to six round tables or a long table to celebrate with your loved ones.
Our wedding package for Admirals House will give a starting point to create an unforgettable day.

Capacities

Admiral's House (min. 30)
Hardwick Room
Maximum 60
Webb Room
Maximum 50
Wren Room
Maximum 50

600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Seen all over the world

The Old Royal Naval College has been described as "the most popular film location in the world". Its architectural magnificence has lit up the screen in numerous film and TV productions including The Crown, Skyfall, and Sense and Sensibility. It was also seen by audiences around the world as the stunning setting for Equestrian events in the 2012 London Olympics.

AFTER PARTY: THE SOIREE OF THE YEAR

Below the Painted Hall and a walk through the hidden Ripley Tunnel, you can hold your afterparty in the Queen Mary Undercroft or the second floor of Admiral's House can be opened.

The stunning space includes a private bar and a semi-sprung dance floor, for you and your guests to party until your carriages arrive.

You can dress the room with soft furnishings, guest entertainment such live musicians, DJ and create timeless memories through an audio guestbook and photobooth.

We work with award winning suppliers who can help to create the perfect after party atmosphere and our team of chefs can supply guests with late night bites throughout the evening.









Opposite page: Katie Rogers Photography. This page top left, Natasha Hurley Photographer; top right, Mia Studio; centre right Ed Pereira photography







This page: top right and bottom left CHECO; top right Milk Studios. Opposite page Two by Two Event Photography

VISUAL PERFECTION, SUBLIME TASTES

The renowned chefs at Company of Cooks are dedicated to creating innovative, mouth-watering and visually stunning dishes from the very finest local seasonal ingredients, designed to surpass your expectations and reflect the sophistication of this unique location.

Whether you opt for a lavish banquet, relaxed buffet or chic canapés and on-trend bowl food, we will work with you to create a highly personalised dining experience to remember. Our unrivalled attention to detail and first class service, will be delivered with love and understanding of the momentous significance of this most romantic of days.



600 YEARS OF HISTORY

Fit for a King

Famously extravagant, bon viveur and man of exotic taste, King Henry VIII hosted lavish parties, sumptuous banquets and thrilling jousting matches at Greenwich, said to have been his favourite royal palace. His Christmas party of 1516 has gone down in history as the first masquerade party ever seen in England.



Photo credit, Elena Pepa Photography

EXAMPLE PACKAGE

VENUE & CEREMONY

Our wedding catering package is designed to give you the essentials for your celebration. You have the freedom to add entertainment, floristry and production to make your wedding personal to you. Our package is the starting point and below, are some of the extras you may wish to discuss with your wedding co-ordinator.

DRINKS RECEPTION

- Upgrade your arrival drinks to our house
- English sparkling
- Upgrade your arrival drinks to our house champagne
- Three canape bites

WEDDING BREAKFAST

Inclusive of:

- Two glasses of French sparkling wine served on arrival or post ceremony
- Three course dining menu, followed by coffee and petit fours
- Half a bottle of house wine
- A glass of French sparkling wine to toast
- Unlimited still and sparkling mineral water
- PA System for speeches
- Security for your event
- A dedicated event manager and event staff
- Furniture including standard round tables, banqueting chairs for dining and high top tables for reception.
- Crisp white linen throughout, standard crockery, cutlery and glassware

Your wedding coodinator is available to assist you in upgrading and designing your tablescapes based on your moodboards.

EVENING RECEPTION

- Cheese station, with chutneys and crackers
- Add charcuterie for an additional
- Usherette service of late night burger and fries

Please advise us of any dietary requirements with your list of dietaries, our chef will set a separate option for these guests tailored to their needs.



Photo credit, Daniel James Photography

PAINTED HALL EXAMPLE TIMELINE

15.00 Florist sets up for wedding ceremony
15.30 Venue closes to public. Positioning of ceremony chairs and final details.
16.00 Guest arrival
16.30 Wedding ceremony begins within the Painted Hall
17.00 Drinks reception and photographs on the King William Colonnades or Queen Mary Undercroft weather dependent
18.30 Call to dinner. Guests take their seats
18.45 Wedding breakfast served followed by speeches
21.00 Wedding breakfast finishes
21.00 Evening reception begins in the Queen Mary Undercroft
22.30 Late night snacks served
23.45 Bar to close
23.55 Last song by DJ or band
00.00 Evening ends. Guests depart

Extensions can be granted at an additional cost subject to requirements.

Please note the Painted Hall is not available for all day hire as it is open to the public.
An earlier closure from 3.30pm is arranged for celebrations with a wedding ceremony.
For those without, we are available for guests to arrive from 5pm for the drinks reception.

ADMIRAL'S HOUSE EXAMPLE TIMELINE

12.00 Suppliers arrive to set up
14.00 Venue ready. Guests arrive to the house prior to the ceremony
14.30 Wedding ceremony
15.00 Drinks reception and photographs on the lower floor
16.00 Call to dinner. Guests take their seats
16.30 Wedding breakfast served followed by speeches.
19.00 Wedding breakfast finishes.
19.15 Evening reception begins
21.30 Late night snacks served
22.45 Bar to close
22.55 Last song by DJ or Band
23.00 Evening ends. Guests depart
Extensions can be granted at an additional cost subject to requirements

Please note, additional security costs may apply for your evening reception should you have more guests in attendance.



Photo credit, Jeff O'Brien Photography

PERSONAL TOUCHES & SUPPLIERS

Personalising your wedding to reflect your unique style is one of the most meaningful aspects of the day.

Our coordinators will help you to bring your ideas to life using our recommended suppliers. Below, you'll find our most trusted floristry and production experts, who specialise in creating unforgettable weddings at the Old Royal Naval College

PRODUCTION

Event Concept
eventconcept.co.uk

Perception Live
perceptionlive.com

Storm
stormltd.co.uk

Vibration Group
vibrationproduction.com

Velvet Entertainment
velvetentertainment.net

Velvet Living
velvetliving.co.uk

Wise Productions
wiseproductions.co.uk

FLORISTRY

All for Love
allforlovelondon.com

Chic Weddings
chicweddings.co.uk

Floral Hues
floralhues.co.uk

Lavender Green
lavendergreen.co.uk

Pinstripes and Peonies
pinstripesandpeonies.com

Samantha Davis Flowers
samanthadavisflowers.co.uk

Wild About
wildabout.co.uk

Speak with our team for a complete list of a trusted suppliers for stationery, cakes, planners, entertainment, photography, and event styling.









Top left, Two by Two; Rosie Photography; bottom left Katie Rogers Photography; top right, Jeff Olivier; bottom right Stacey Clarke

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who books the registrar?
Due to legal reasons we are unable to book the registrar for you. Please find below the contact details for Greenwich Council who you will need to contact directly to book the registrar for your special day. They will be happy to advise you on availability, fees and the process for booking the wedding ceremony.

Royal Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, 39 Wellington Street, Woolwich, London, SE18 6PW | 020 8921 5015 I registrar@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Can I have my ceremony in the Chapel of St Peter & St Paul?
For all Chapel enquiries, please contact the Chapel Manager on 0208 269 4788 or email drobson@ornc.org

Who is the on-site caterer?
Award winning caterers Company of Cooks are the contracted caterer onsite. They are experts in crafting delicious dishes for prestigious events and use local, sustainable ingredients wherever possible. The team have created a wedding package, especially for the Old Royal Naval College, but Company of Cooks are equally happy to work with you to create a bespoke menu. The venue is not available for dry hire but Company of Cooks are able to create a fusion menu to suit your requirements.

Can I bring my own wine?
We recognise that sometimes you have a particular wine that you want to enjoy on your special day and we are more than happy to prepare and serve it for you. Corkage rates are dependent on the types of alcohol supplied by the client – please enquire for further details. Wine service charge/corkage covers wine waiters, glassware, ice, ice buckets, logistics and refrigeration prior to your day and disposal of bottles at the end of the event

Are all your prices inclusive of VAT?
All costs are inclusive of VAT in all of our wedding quotations but will ensure we note where this does not apply.

Should I have an evening buffet?
Evening food is an excellent way to keep guests' energy and spirits up – it's also a responsible idea, when guests are consuming alcohol in the evening. We recommend to cater for around 75% of the overall number of attendees for the evening reception – this ensures that the risk of food wastage is lowered and everyone can still get some light snacks to provide energy in dancing the night away.

Is there a bar available?
We are a fully licensed venue and can offer a bar facility in addition to serving drinks with your meal. We are happy to provide a cash bar or an account bar. We can also provide a credit card facility behind the bar. Our wedding package includes a bar until 11.45pm. To discuss potential bar extensions, please speak to your wedding coordinator.

Can I invite extra evening guests?
Yes, you can invite more evening guests as long as it fits in with the capacities of your chosen venue. Please note that your package includes security for daytime guests, so additional security charges may apply if extra evening guests are in attendance. Please speak to your wedding coordinator to discuss this element.

Do you provide any changing facilities or bedrooms?
The Admirals House is the only space that provides a dressing room which is available to hire in addition to your venue hire and package. There are no bedrooms onsite but please liaise with your wedding coordinator to discuss options for changing rooms.

OLD ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE | COMPANY OF COOKS

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