



# GOODNESTONE PARK



## AN OUTSTANDING VENUE FOR THE QUINTESSENTIAL ENGLISH WEDDING WEEKEND

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*With a beautiful village church just a short walk away through idyllic gardens. Our weekend stay with houseguests for a family wedding in October was glorious, from beginning to end. We had a magical wedding with literally no stress, just joy and laughter, with everything taken care of by the wedding team.*

*A few guests said it was like attending a Hugh Grant wedding the setting and detailing were so beautiful.*

GIL MOB

Welcome to Goodnestone Park, let us walk you through our unique offering.

## WHY GOODNESTONE PARK IS THE IDEAL VENUE FOR YOUR HISTORIC KENT WEDDING

Goodnestone Park is truly a magical haven for the quintessential English wedding. Many of our guests describe it as a scene straight out of a fairy tale, where the blend of classic English charm and a welcoming home-away-from-home atmosphere creates a relaxed yet elegant wedding weekend.

The mansion, a stunning Grade II\* listed building, boasts exquisite Queen Anne architecture and is enveloped by acres of breathtaking gardens, ancient woodlands, and 2,000 acres of picturesque heritage farmland. Steeped in rich history, Goodnestone Park was a cherished retreat for Jane Austen, who found inspiration for her beloved novel, *Pride and Prejudice*, amidst its idyllic surroundings.





## THE PERFECT WEEKEND WEDDING VENUE

As a weekend wedding venue offering a magical two to three-day experience, our wedding party enjoys exclusive use of our 12-bedroom, exquisitely designed manor house, complemented by the charming 2-bedroom Bonnington Cottage. With ample private spaces for relaxation and preparation, it provides the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable celebration.

The Fitzwalter Bedroom Suite offers a spacious and enchanting setting, ideal for the wedding party to immerse themselves in the joy of the day. Meanwhile, the gentleman's club-styled library provides a sophisticated space for anyone who prefers a classic and elegant environment for preparation, ensuring everyone has the perfect spot to relax and get ready for the celebration ahead.

A MAGICAL DAY

## OUR ETHOS

The Goodnestone wedding ethos is rooted in a commitment to bespoke, personalised service. We cherish each wedding, lovingly tailoring every event to reflect the couple's unique tastes and ensuring that every detail unfolds seamlessly. Our dedicated wedding team—ranging from experienced coordinators to our attentive house manager—is present from the initial tour to the moment the last guest departs, ensuring a flawless experience.

Many of our couples and their guests find themselves returning to Goodnestone, drawn back by its enchanting charm and genuine, family-like atmosphere that makes every visit feel like coming home.





HOLY VOWS

## TRADITIONAL CHURCH CEREMONIES

The stunning gardens create a breathtaking backdrop for your wedding album and offer a romantic pathway just a few minutes' walk to the charming Norman village church—a beloved choice for many couples' ceremonies.

Imagine listening to the melodies of the church choir, followed by the jubilant ringing of bells, celebrating the union of your love. The unique beauty of Goodnestone Park lies in its ability to offer both civil and church ceremonies within the same beautiful grounds, allowing you to seamlessly blend your wedding traditions in a setting that feels truly magical.

EXCHANGING OF THE RINGS

## CIVIL CEREMONIES

For couples dreaming of a breathtaking on-site outdoor civil ceremony, you have three fantastic spots to choose from, each showcasing stunning vistas and ample space to accommodate your guests.

During the warmer months, your guests can mingle and sip champagne on the formal terrace gardens, where many couples choose to have live music, such as a jazz quartet or a violinist, enhancing the joyful atmosphere.

Should the weather turn, the charming Georgian coach house stands ready as a delightful backup, providing a cosy yet elegant option for a civil ceremony.

For intimate winter weddings, the exquisitely hand-painted Round Room—located within the manor house—offers a setting that feels like a scene straight out of Bridgerton, perfect for fans of timeless elegance and romance.

Please note: This option is designed for small weddings within the manor house, accommodating up to 35 guests, and does not include the Orangery.





THE PERFECT PLACE TO CELEBRATE

## THE ORANGERY

For grand and unforgettable weddings, our Orangery marquee at Goodnestone offers a stunning setting from March to October. Perfect for a sit-down wedding breakfast for up to 120 guests, it also provides plenty of space for dancing the night away to a DJ or live music.

The Orangery can be tailored to your vision, with four dining layout options, including round tables or banquet-style arrangements. It comes fully equipped with chairs, a stocked bar, a PA system for speeches and background music, heating for chilly evenings, and uplighters to set the mood.

Overlooking our beautiful gardens, the Orangery includes garden furniture, so your guests can relax and enjoy the views. With all essentials provided, you won't need to hire extra items, making your planning easier. Our team will ensure every detail is handled, leaving you free to celebrate.

For a cosy and intimate alternative, consider a winter wedding in the historic Goodnestone Park House. Available year-round, the house offers a warm, romantic setting ideal for smaller gatherings. Please note: This option is perfect for smaller weddings within the manor house, accommodating up to 35 guests, and does not include the Orangery.

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A WEEKEND WE  
WILL NEVER FORGET

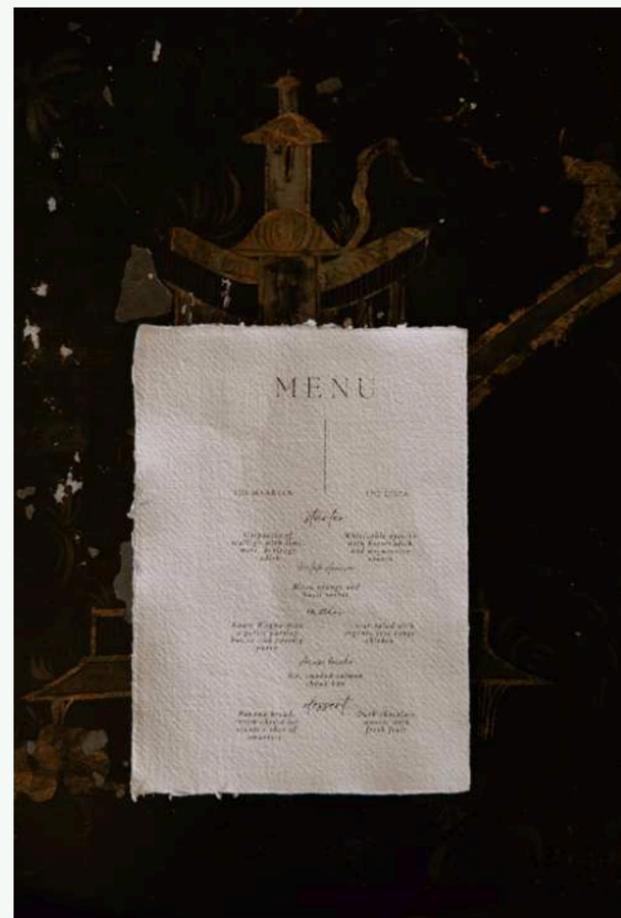


*“Thank you to Ronald and all the wonderful staff for  
making our wedding weekend one to remember.”*

*“Lucinda and I woke up in the most beautiful of settings to  
start our married lives. A weekend we will never forget and  
always treasure.”*

KURT & LUCINDA





#### THE FINISHING TOUCHES

## BESPOKE CATERING FOR THE WEDDING BREAKFAST

At Goodnestone Park, flexibility and choice are everything. We take pride in offering an exquisite selection of trusted local wedding suppliers for you to choose from, featuring five exceptional caterers for your wedding breakfast.

As an added touch of magic, we proudly offer a no corkage policy for the wedding reception and breakfast, allowing couples to bring in their favourite beverages without incurring extra costs. This unique offering means our guests can raise a toast with the drinks that best reflect their love story, adding a personal touch to an unforgettable day.

Our beautiful Orangery boasts a spacious, purpose-built catering tent, perfectly designed to discreetly accommodate all catering needs.

RELAXED DINING

## IN-HOUSE DINING

At Goodnestone Park, we understand that the wedding weekend is not just about the big day but also the cherished moments shared with family and friends. That's why we are thrilled to feature Judith's Kitchen, our in-house catering partner, who can provide an exceptional dining experience throughout your stay.

Whether it is a relaxed rehearsal dinner the night before the wedding, or a leisurely breakfast the morning after, you and your guests can enjoy delicious, thoughtfully prepared dishes that set the tone for the celebrations ahead or end the weekend celebrations with a bang, reminiscing about the magical moments shared while sharing a meal together.

With Judith's Kitchen, guests can truly relax and enjoy every moment of the wedding weekend, knowing that the dining experience is taken care of with exceptional care and attention to detail.





AT YOUR SERVICE

## THE WEDDING DOLLS

The Wedding Dolls are a local and popular company dedicated to helping you create the fabulous day of your dreams. With a wealth of experience in planning weddings and events, they manage every detail to perfection, ensuring a seamless experience. Often referred to as the Wedding Angels, you can plan your big day with confidence, knowing you're in the best hands.

Their intuitive Planning Portal simplifies wedding planning, allowing couples to manage details like table arrangements, food choices, and dietary requirements. It ensures smooth communication between couples, coordinators, and caterers, making the entire process effortless. Coordinators stay connected through regular virtual check-ins, conducting an on-site run-through four weeks before the wedding and meeting the day before to finalise details. Additionally, they ensure all suppliers have the necessary insurance and documentation for full compliance, leaving nothing to chance. The Wedding Dolls have helped conceptualise, plan, implement, and manage hundreds of personalised weddings, turning each couple's vision into reality.



## SPECIAL TOUCHES

As a home away from home, we also welcome up to two well behaved dogs and have a recommended nanny available to care for small children, allowing parents to fully enjoy their special day.

In our commitment to creating a comfortable environment, our sound system has been designed to minimise noise pollution, ensuring that celebrations can be enjoyed without disturbing neighbours. We also allow low-level silent fireworks to not disturb natural habitats, adding a touch of magic to the evening while respecting the tranquility of the surroundings.

At Goodnestone Park, every detail is carefully considered to provide an exceptional experience for couples and their guests.

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**WOW WOW WOW!**



*We got the opportunity to celebrate our wedding weekend here and it was like a dream. Literally nothing was amiss. Ronald thought of everything and was equally friendly and professional. The entire house was well cared for and felt so luxurious to our guests. Ronald and Judith created a gorgeous meal and breakfast for us. Loved staying here and wish we could enjoy the house many more days ♥*

EVITA



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### DO YOU CHARGE A CORKAGE FEE?

Goodnestone Park charges no corkage for reception drinks or wine/beer during the wedding breakfast, as long as your caterer provides the glassware. Once the bar opens, your caterer should stop serving drinks, and we offer a fully staffed bar with a pre-selected drinks menu. You can set a spending limit or opt for a paid bar for guests.

After 10:30 pm, we require guests to switch to plastic/paper cups to reduce the risk of broken glass on the dance floor and around the grounds, helping with clean-up and safety.

### CAN I CHOOSE MY OWN CATERING COMPANY FOR MY WEDDING?

We recommend choosing a catering provider from our preferred supplier list, as they've been vetted and approved by Goodnestone Park and The Wedding Dolls. Our selected caterers offer high-quality food and service, meeting a range of tastes and budgets. If you prefer to use a caterer not on the list, a £500 fee will apply. Please inform us as soon as you book your caterer so we can discuss power requirements and ensure everything runs smoothly.

### WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY FOR A WEDDING?

- Orangery: Up to 120 guests (120 seated)
- Church Wedding: 120 seated guests
- Both indoor and outdoor ceremonies are available, with a maximum of 120 guests.

### WHAT ARE THE RULES FOR CONFETTI, FIREWORKS, AND SECURITY?

Confetti is permitted anywhere on the estate, but it must be 100% biodegradable or dried flower petals. Fireworks are allowed only through our trusted supplier, Phoenix Fireworks—self-arranged displays are not permitted. Goodnestone Park does not provide security; if needed, we recommend Star Protection. Items left in the Orangery overnight are at your own risk.

### CAN WE HAVE LIVE MUSIC OR PLAY PRE-RECORDED MUSIC?

Live music is welcome for your ceremony or drinks reception. Your supplier must provide their own speakers and submit their PAT and Public Liability Certificates. While we don't set specific decibel limits, noise levels may vary due to weather and local factors. For pre-recorded music, we can provide a portable speaker for your ceremony, and we'll let you know if any adapters are needed. For evening bands, we recommend booking through our entertainment agent, Toby Boyle, who is familiar with our sound system and local licensing restrictions.

## WHAT ARE THE DETAILS FOR HIRING GOODNESTONE PARK HOUSE?

The house has 12 bedrooms, sleeping 24 guests (26 with two fold-up beds for children). One dog is allowed for a £50 fee, but must stay in the kitchen/boot room. You can charge guests for rooms, but this is between you and them. Check-in is at 2pm, check-out by 11am. A £50 deposit deduction may apply for any mess caused by the dog. The kitchen has ample refrigeration for 24 guests, and we recommend arranging a supermarket delivery. You'll receive 2 fobs for access, and only house guests should have entry. For meals, consult with your caterer or the House Manager for breakfast options.

## WHAT ARE THE DETAILS FOR A CHURCH CEREMONY?

The church is not managed by Goodnestone Park, so you must secure your date with a contract and deposit directly with the church. In case of bad weather, Goodnestone Park does not provide transport, but The Wedding Dolls will assist with a Plan B. The church is within walking distance, and The Wedding Dolls will help with timing and logistics. Ensure your church booking is confirmed, as without a signed contract and deposit, the booking isn't guaranteed. If you cancel the church ceremony, we will try to arrange a civil ceremony but can't guarantee availability.

## WHAT ARE THE DETAILS FOR A LEGAL CEREMONY?

Before the ceremony, both parties will have brief separate interviews with the registrars. You can choose from three ceremony locations: the front steps, back lawn, or Coach House. All legal fees are paid to Kent Ceremonies. A £75 non-refundable booking fee is due within 14 days. Notice of marriage (£35 each) must be given at a Register Office. Kent Ceremonies fees are £520 Monday-Friday, £710 on weekends/holidays, with potential price increases after March 31, 2025. Marriage certificates are £11 each. The Coach House accommodates up to 100 guests, and outdoor ceremonies are capped at 100. The Wedding Dolls will assist with the logistics.

## WHAT ARE THE PARKING ARRANGEMENTS?

All vehicles must be removed from the car park by 11am the day after the wedding. Cars left overnight are at the owner's risk, though it's encouraged to prevent drink driving. The car park accommodates over 50 cars, and larger spaces can be arranged if needed. Guests should use the postcode Goodnestone Park House, Goodnestone, Kent CT3 1PE for directions. Please avoid using the postcode for the Old Dairy Cafe. Guests with disabilities should inform the car park attendant for special access to drop off at the house.

## THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING GOODNESTONE PARK

We're delighted that you're considering our historic estate for your special day. Goodnestone Park offers a truly unique setting, combining elegance, natural beauty, and dedicated support to ensure your wedding is everything you've dreamed of and more.

If you have any further questions or would like to book a viewing, please don't hesitate to contact us at [enquiries@goodnestone.com](mailto:enquiries@goodnestone.com) We look forward to helping you create unforgettable memories at Goodnestone Park.

Warm regards,  
The Goodnestone Park Weddings Team



