



DRAGON HALL

WEDDINGS





WELCOME TO DRAGON HALL

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding. We would love to host your special day at Dragon Hall — a jewel in the crown of Norwich's history with more than 1,000 years of stories within its walls.

Dragon Hall is the perfect city centre wedding venue, mixing modern design with rich traditional English heritage. Set within modest grounds on King Street, across from the River Wensum and a short walk from both the train station and Norwich Castle, we are here to help make your dreams come true.

Our venue dates back to 1427 and is rich with stories of merchants' symbols, international trade, secret tunnels and witches' marks. Whether it's a ceremony and wedding breakfast under the impressive beams of our medieval merchant's hall or al fresco catering, games or a reception in our beautiful courtyard garden, we will ensure your big day is everything you'd imagined, from start to finish.

Dragon Hall is fully licensed for weddings and civil partnerships, making it the perfect all-in-one venue for both your ceremony and reception. We're also conveniently located within walking distance of many of Norwich's other extraordinary, licensed ceremony venues, including St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich Cathedral, Norwich Castle and The Flint Rooms, should you wish us to host just your reception and evening party.

Our wedding team always say anything is possible. Dragon Hall has hosted hundreds of special events and celebrations in its history. I hope we can work with you on the next exciting chapter of your story too.

Best wishes

Chris Gribble
Chief Executive

DRAGON HALL WEDDINGS

THE VENUE



GREAT HALL

A breathtakingly unique and romantic space to make your own.

Guests will be wowed by the high ceilings and crown post roof of the magnificent medieval Great Hall.

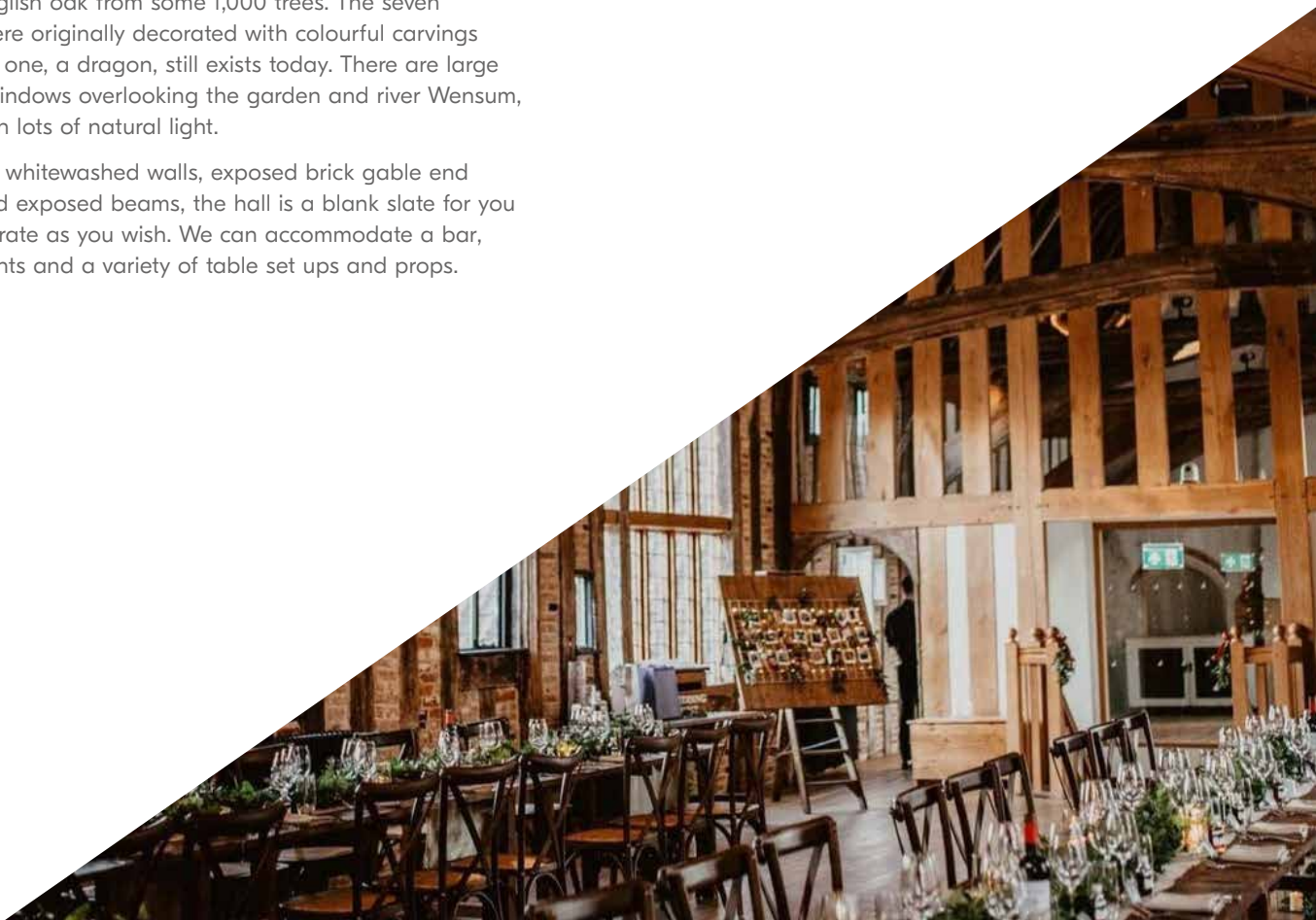
The Great Hall is the heart of Dragon Hall; a rare example of a medieval merchant's trading complex, built in about 1427 by a merchant, Robert Toppes. It was intended as a commercial building used to display, store and sell goods, and is unique in being the only trading hall in Northern Europe owned by one man. In the early 2000's it had a major refurbishment and was established as a venue for performances and events. It is licensed for civil ceremonies and was first used for a wedding reception in 2005.

In the Great Hall, history and beauty surrounds you. It is 26 metres long and 8 metres tall, and constructed with English oak from some 1,000 trees. The seven bays were originally decorated with colourful carvings — only one, a dragon, still exists today. There are large tudor windows overlooking the garden and river Wensum, letting in lots of natural light.

With its whitewashed walls, exposed brick gable end wall and exposed beams, the hall is a blank slate for you to decorate as you wish. We can accommodate a bar, fairy lights and a variety of table set ups and props.

The Great Hall is the ideal setting for your ceremony, drinks reception and wedding breakfast. We can host **120 guests for your ceremony** or reception, and up to **90 dining guests**.

We only offer a limited number of dates for wedding bookings throughout the year. We usually host weddings on Fridays or Saturdays and offer a generous setup time of three hours the day before to make sure everything is absolutely perfect for your special day. We can also facilitate weekday weddings upon request.



OGEE ARCH ENTRANCE

As guests arrive at Dragon Hall, they will enter through the grand 14th century ogee arch doorway and into the Screens Passage. They can mingle in the glass Foyle Gallery or head up a short flight of stairs to the Old Barge Room; formerly the Old Barge Inn, a public house until 1969, it now provides the perfect spot for a bar.



FOYLE GALLERY

The downstairs Foyle Gallery is the perfect blend of historic and modern features: a bright glass gallery overlooking the garden and with an impressive brick arch as your backdrop. It is a versatile space, perfect for drinks, buffets and dancing.

Dragon Hall is licensed for music until 23:00. Due to the Grade I listing of the Great Hall, dancing must take place downstairs, in the Foyle Gallery.

GARDEN

Make a grand entrance to your special day by arriving by wedding car through the double gates and into Dragon Hall's beautiful courtyard garden. Bordered by a white flower bed, it is an elegant backdrop for photographs and a lovely spot for drinks and canapés, particularly in the evening sun.

We can offer a duo ceremony in the garden and Great Hall, with the ceremony taking place outside and the legal formalities inside.



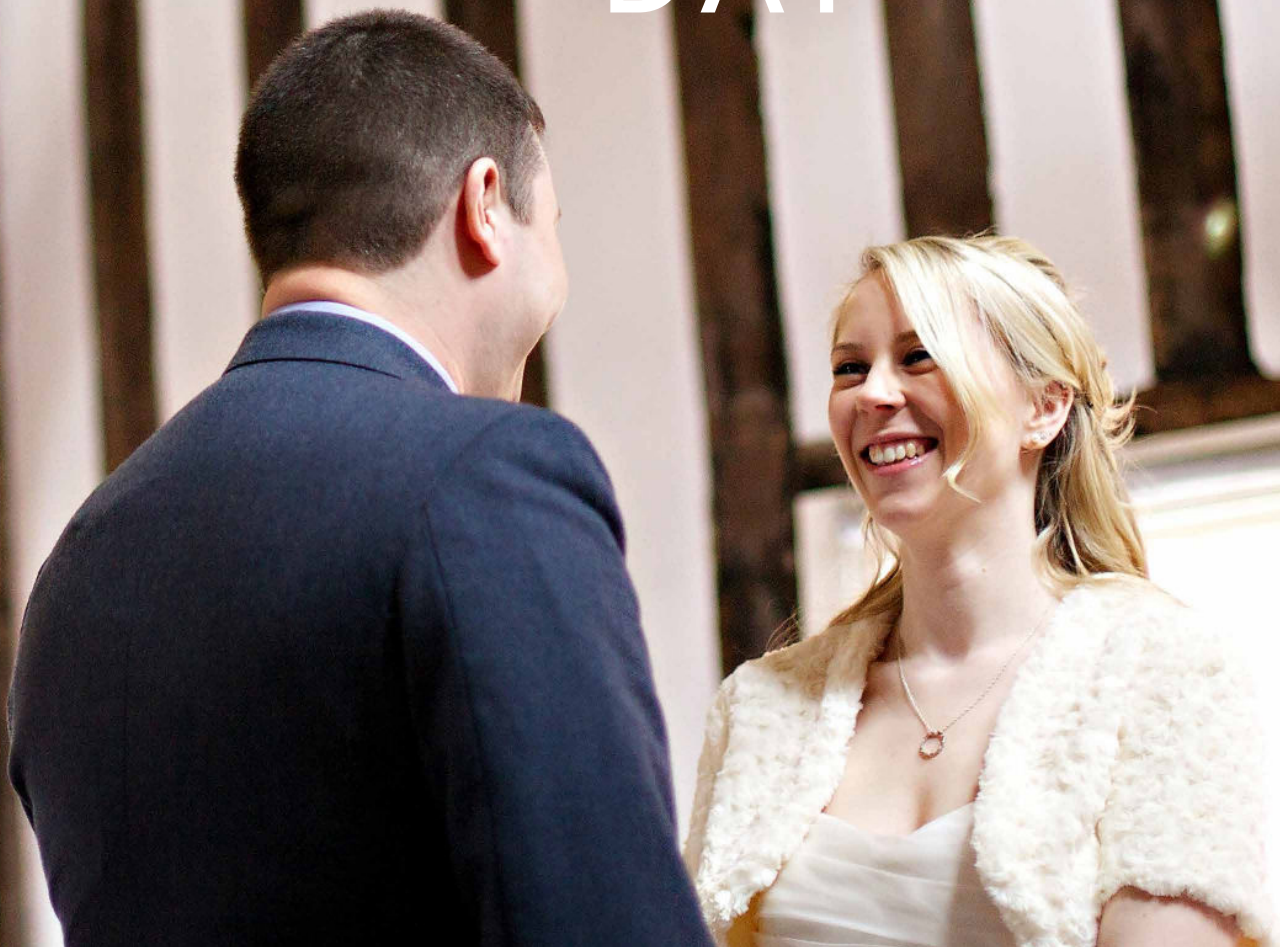


‘As soon as we stepped into Dragon Hall, we knew it was the venue for us. We were enchanted by the rich history and stunning original features of the building which made it even more special. We will treasure the memories we made here forever.’

— Emily & Brad

DRAGON HALL WEDDINGS

YOUR SPECIAL DAY



Dragon Hall is fully licensed for weddings and civil partnerships, making it the perfect all-in-one wedding venue. We are also happy to host just your reception and evening party if you would like to hold your ceremony elsewhere.

Our wedding package gives you the time and flexibility to relax and enjoy your special day.

A HISTORIC BUILDING, BRIMMING WITH STORIES

You will have **exclusive use** of the stunning Great Hall for ceremonies, drink receptions and dining, the light glass gallery for drinks and dancing, and the courtyard and garden with a beautiful white border flower bed.

‘Dragon Hall was quite simply perfect for us. It’s a very special place and we felt a lot of history and stories surrounding us as we took our first steps on our lifelong journey together.’

— Mr & Mrs Ducker

SUPPORTING YOUR BIG DAY

From the moment you book with us to the big day itself, our in-house Weddings & Events Manager will be your dedicated point of contact, every step of the way. Venue management and door security will also be on hand on the day to handle questions and to provide reassurance.

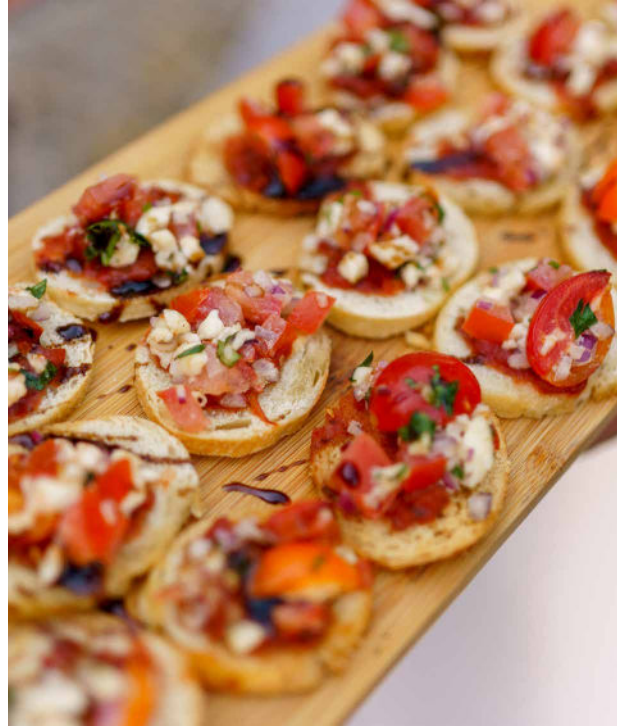
EARLY ACCESS

You will have access to Dragon Hall across three days, giving you plenty of time to set up and add your personal finishing touches to the building.



GREAT FOOD AND DRINK

Dragon Hall has a fully equipped catering kitchen on site. We have an approved list of suppliers we love to work with who are guaranteed to deliver a whole range of catering and hospitality options to suit your tastes and budget. From three-course fine dining to wood fired pizza, hampers and grazing boards to pop up street foods and barbecues, there are so many options to choose from to keep your guests satisfied.



CONVENIENCE AND INCLUSIVITY

Dragon Hall is conveniently located in the heart of Norwich, a short five-minute walk from Norwich train station and with car parks located nearby. Parking for blue badge holders is available on King St. The building is largely wheelchair accessible and is equipped with two raising platform lifts. There are accessible toilets and the Great Hall is fitted with a hearing loop.



DRAGON HALL WEDDINGS

FULL WEDDING PACKAGE



THE PACKAGE

- Exclusive use of the Great Hall, Foyle Gallery and courtyard garden
- Access to the venue across three days (usually Friday — Sunday), so you have plenty of time to set up and add your personal finishing touches
- An Events Manager as your dedicated point of contact leading up to, and during, your special day
- Venue management and door support on the day
- Use of a kitchen and an approved list of caterers
- On site bar provider
- A specially curated book bundle from the National Centre for Writing
- Disabled access and a hearing loop in the Great Hall
- Use of all audio-visual equipment

‘Dragon Hall was the perfect venue for us. We fell in love with the beauty of the building and the history in the beams, and our guests absolutely loved it too. The staff were lovely and helpful throughout the planning process and on the day itself. Everyone had a magical time.’

— Alex & Lydia

All funds raised through weddings, parties and conference hires at Dragon Hall feed directly back into the National Centre for Writing’s charitable work and the upkeep of Dragon Hall.



DRAGON HALL WEDDINGS

FOOD & DRINK



We work with an exclusive list of caterers and suppliers to ensure you are served with the finest quality food and drink at your event. From fine dining to street food, there is something to suit every style of wedding on our list. They are businesses with whom we have a long-standing working relationship; who know our kitchen and our historic building very well; and who have provided excellent quality and reliability to our guests time and time again.

Our caterers can factor linens, tableware, crockery, cutlery, and equipment into your quotation, and will include all venue costs in your quote, so there are no hidden extras.

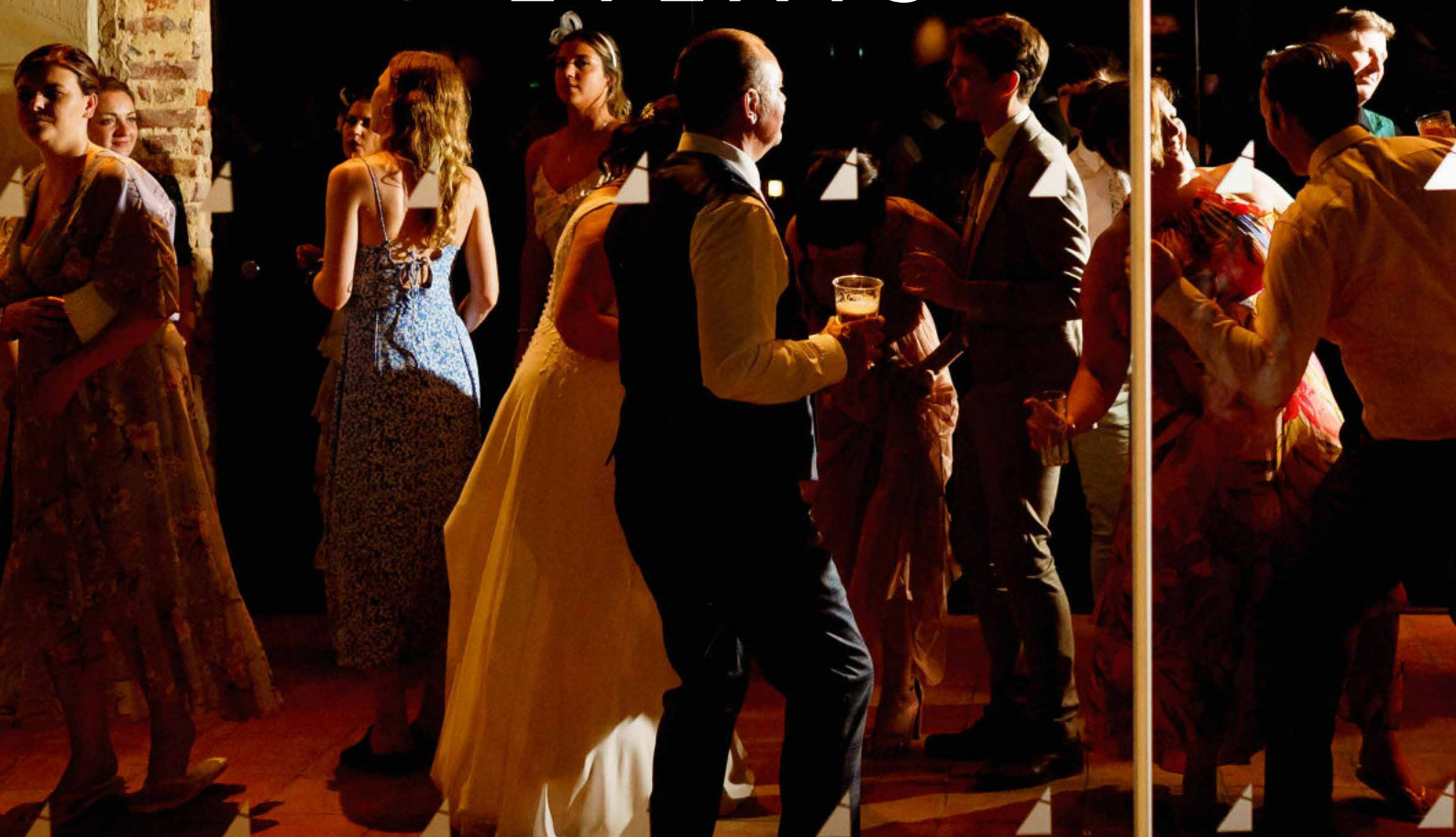
We also have an on-site bar provider that can offer a pay bar, arrival and reception drinks, and a wine list, as well as bespoke drink options.

‘We couldn't have asked for a more pleasant team to work with. Nothing was too much trouble. Thank you so much for being part of our special day, and making it the best day of our lives.’

— Marcus & Meg

DRAGON HALL WEDDINGS

OTHER GATHERINGS, PARTIES & EVENTS



MARRY. CELEBRATE. MEET.

Dragon Hall is also available to hire for parties, birthdays, celebrations and all kinds of meetings and corporate events.

CELEBRATIONS & BIRTHDAYS

Celebrate your special occasion and forget the outside world! We are delighted to host all kinds of celebrations, birthdays and special events at Dragon Hall. Host your dinner, drinks or dance floor in the glass gallery or relax outside into our traditional, walled medieval courtyard and garden.

Our **Gallery and Garden party package** grants you exclusive use of the Foyle Gallery and courtyard garden.

Plus:

- Use of bar (minimum bar spend will apply)
- 2× Event Duty Managers (First Aid, Safeguarding, Health & Safety, Fire Marshal)
- 1× Security Staff



CORPORATE EVENTS

Dragon Hall has four versatile spaces on offer for all manner of corporate events — from large conferences to smaller workshops, or casual drinks receptions. Find inspiration, build strategies and connect as a team within a quiet and creative setting.

We provide a flexible pricing structure of full or half day delegate packages and hourly rates and can adapt rooms for **10-120 guests**.

‘Your staff were helpful, pleasant and approachable. Many of our guests were over awed by the setting which made it rather special. A fantastic venue, we would certainly recommend it to anyone.’

— John Allen

For any enquiries or to book a viewing please contact hires@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk or call **01603 877177**.

DRAGON HALL WEDDINGS

1,000 YEARS OF HISTORY



People have lived, worked and celebrated on the site of Dragon Hall for more than 1,000 years. There is evidence of Saxon dwellings built around 1000 AD in the undercroft and the Old Hall House was built in 1330.

The Great Hall is a rare example of a medieval merchant's trading complex, built in about 1430 by Robert Toppes. With its proximity to the River Wensum, Dragon Hall was the perfect location for Norfolk goods and imports from Europe and beyond including cloth and fine textiles, ironware, wines and spices to be stored and sold.

Over the centuries, Dragon Hall has been home to many families, and the middle section of the site was the rectory for the nearby churches of St Peter Parmentergate and St Julian. Walking around the site you'll spot many fascinating details, including the 50 or so witches marks in the Great Hall and Weston Hall which were painted, scratched or burnt into the fabric of the building to protect residents from evil spirits and demons.

A major period of restoration began in the 1980's and the site became a heritage and education attraction and a resource for the local community. In 2015 National Centre for Writing (then Writers' Centre Norwich) took over the lease of Dragon Hall, helping to secure its future and upkeep for years to come.

A CENTRE FOR STORYTELLING

Once a site for displaying, storing and selling Norfolk goods and imports from Europe, Dragon Hall is now an international centre for the trade of stories and words.

The National Centre for Writing uses the site on a year-round basis for events and workshops with writers, translators, young people, and communities. There are lots of opportunities for lovers of writing and reading from around the world to visit, as well as members of the public who wish to admire the history of the building or celebrate a special day within its walls. The old Brewer's Cottage located at the rear of the grounds has even been renovated into a two-bed house for writers and artists to use for residencies!

All funds raised through weddings, parties and conference hires at Dragon Hall feeds directly back into the National Centre for Writing's work and the upkeep of Dragon Hall.

To find out more visit nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk

Image credits

Camilla Andrea Photography
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Luke Witcomb

Styling

Authentic Charm
Gingerlily Catering
Ophelia Weddings

Design

designbyark.co.uk

VISIT US

We'd love for you to book a viewing with us to discuss your wedding plans. A member of our team would be happy to show you around the venue and even share a few of the building's secret stories going back hundreds of years!

**National Centre for Writing
Dragon Hall
115- 123 King St
Norwich
NR1 1QE**

Dragon Hall is a short five-minute walk from Norwich train station – cut through Riverside and over the bridge. The nearest car park is Rouen Road Car Park, NR1 1QU or Rose Lane Car Park, Mountergate, NR1 1PY.

Parking for blue badge holders is available on King St.

CONTACT US

Telephone: **+44 (0)1603 877177**

Email: **weddings@nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk**

Website: **weddingsdragonhall.co.uk**

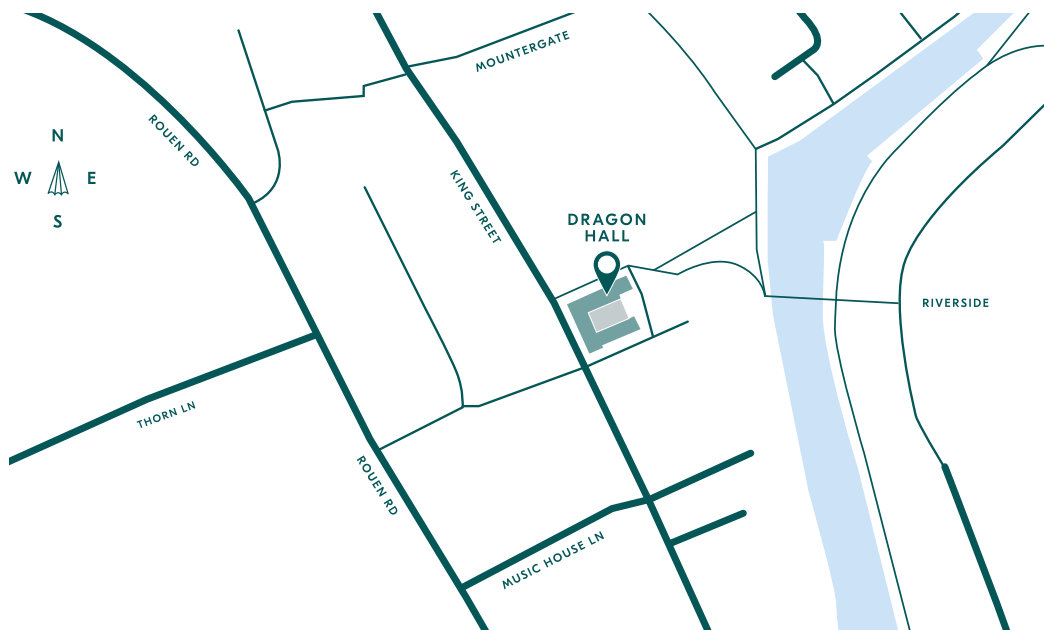
Instagram: **[@dragonhallweddings](https://www.instagram.com/dragonhallweddings)**

Office hours are between

09:00 – 12:00 and 14:00 – 17:00

Monday to Friday for queries
by telephone or email.

National Centre for Writing is a registered charity.
Our charity number is 1110725.



‘Dragon Hall was the perfect venue for our civil partnership. A beautiful historic building, it is at the same time modern and accessible, but retains its history, charm and sense of occasion.’

— Jan Robertson



Home to the

National Centre
for Writing