

A romantic wedding scene by a lake under a dramatic sky. A bride in a white gown and a groom in a dark suit are kissing on a grassy bank. The lake is calm, reflecting the sky and surrounding greenery. In the distance, mountains are visible under a sky with large, dark clouds. The overall mood is serene and picturesque.

Civil Ceremonies

in WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

Photo courtesy of 1500 Photography

West
Dunbartonshire
COUNCIL



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Welcome to West Dunbartonshire...

From the banks of Loch Lomond to the shores of the River Clyde, West Dunbartonshire is not only rich in natural beauty, but is steeped in cultural heritage and includes many places of historical interest – some of which create the perfect setting for a Civil Ceremony.

Whether you're looking for a magical winter wedding in one of our iconic buildings or a romantic setting with Ben Lomond as your backdrop, West Dunbartonshire is the perfect location to fall in love with.

From large formal ceremonies, to small and intimate gatherings our expert team are here to help make your important occasion all the more special to you. We'll also take care of the whole end-to-end marriage process for you, leaving you with one less thing to worry about.

Civil ceremonies

Civil marriage has changed dramatically since the first civil marriage in 1941 and the first same sex marriage in 2015.

West Dunbartonshire's Registrars understand the diverse needs of people today and provide a service to match that allows you to personalise your ceremony to your own individual needs.

Our experienced Registrars can marry you in your location of choice across West Dunbartonshire, from five-star hotels to stunning civic spaces. However, we can also arrange for you to say your vows in a truly unique spot that means the world to you – such as the top of the Titan Crane for the thrill-seeker in you, on the banks of Loch Lomond or from the top of Duncryne Hill in Gartocharn with spectacular views across Loch Lomond and the Trossachs (you'll just need to remember your wellies!).

Don't worry if you don't know where to start, our team of Registrars are on hand to talk you through the whole process – simply call us on **01389 738350** or email dumbarton.registrars@west-dunbarton.gov.uk to find out more.

Why choose us?

When organising such an important day, it's crucial you have all the information required to make an informed decision. That's why when you choose a Registrar with West Dunbartonshire Council, you can be confident you will be guided you through the entire process, including the required legal documentation to get married in Scotland.

Our Registrars are fully qualified and experienced in carrying out civil ceremonies and will be able to personalise things to your style, this can include live music, readings, personal vows and ceremony enhancements such as hand-tying, remembrance candles and sand ceremonies plus much more.





Ceremony Enhancements

Although the legal requirements for Civil Ceremonies are the same, each ceremony is individual – so how you tailor your day is entirely up to you.

Ceremony Enhancements are what make ceremonies personal, therefore to make things easy we've detailed the different enhancements on offer overleaf, but don't worry if they're not quite what you're looking for – simply speak with your Registrar and we'll take your own ideas and make it unique to you.



Hand-tying

Hand-tying, also known as hand-fasting is an ancient Celtic/Medieval custom, which is popular in both Scotland and Ireland. The tradition uses cloth to bind the couple's hands together while they face one another – the couple join hands while the cloth is tied around their hands in a knot, this is where the term “tie the knot” came from. Couples can choose to select a particular tartan or colour that's important to them or simply ties in with their colour scheme.

This tradition increased in popularity following the 1995 hit film Braveheart where hero William Wallace married his sweetheart Murron in the forest, their hands were bound together with cloth with him declaring “I will love you my whole life; you and no other forever”.

Quaich

The Quaich (pronounced Kway-ch) is a Scottish two-handed cup, often referred to as ‘The Loving Cup’, or ‘The Cup of Welcome’. Steeped in Scottish tradition, it was typically used by families or clans to celebrate a strong bond, with each leader drinking from the offered cup. The Quaich symbolises love and trust between a couple, the two hands make it perfect for sharing.

What you choose to drink from it is up to you, but typically it would be whisky. Typically, the groom drinks from the Quaich first then offers it to his partner. The order in which it is then passed is purely a matter of choice although historically it would have been the leaders of each family or clan who would have passed the Quaich around – a tradition continued within ceremonies today.

Sand Ceremony

A Sand Ceremony requires three separate containers of coloured sand - one colour for each member of the marriage/civil partnership and one for the Registrar.

The three containers of sand are then poured into a fourth larger container at different points in the ceremony, each symbolising a different aspect of the couple, their relationship and their families. The sand then forms a pattern in the container, with the grains of sand never being separated again. The final container can then be kept by the couple as a keepsake of their day.

Remembrance Candles

Our grandparents and parents are often our biggest role models, helping shape who we become as adults. Losing someone close to you can be especially difficult knowing they would have been a huge part of your big day. If coming to terms with an empty seat at your top table is tough, then one way to ensure they aren't forgotten is by incorporating a Remembrance Candle within your ceremony.

A Remembrance Candle is lit at the start of the ceremony by the couple. You can also choose to include a picture of the deceased next to the candle or simply include them within your wedding programme – creating a personal touch on such an important day.

The Rose Ceremony

The Rose flower is iconic when dealing in the business of love, that's why unsurprisingly many choose the Rose Ceremony - symbolising their love for one another and the joining in love of two families.

The couple share two roses and can choose a family member, friend or witness to bring the roses forward and welcome them with a reading. A fitting example being Robert Burns 'My Luve is like a Red, Red Rose' before handing them to the couple who will then exchange roses during the ceremony.

Some couples prefer to opt for a straightforward exchange of the roses during the ceremony and others choose to involve their children in the ceremony, binding the whole family together.

Unity Candle Ceremony

This ceremony involves the couple using individual candles which they in turn use to light one unity candle. Family and friends are then invited forward to light their own candles from the unity candle flame in a symbolic act of togetherness and the merging of both families.

Oathing Stone Ceremony

The Oathing Stone is one of the best ways to express your solemn promise to one another. The old Scottish tradition asks the couple to place their hands upon a stone whilst saying their wedding vows. You'll often hear people say 'you're my rock', well this is where the term comes from. The rock symbolises strength and endurance and by holding it whilst promising your vows to one another, is believed to set it in stone – a solid promise to one another.

Where can my ceremony take place?

Selecting the right venue or location to say your vows is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Our team of Registrars are here to take care of the ceremony part of your big day, wherever you decide to say I do.

You can have your wedding at one of two civic buildings in Dumbarton and Clydebank, or a venue of your choice within the local area – there's plenty to choose from. And, if you're looking for something a bit different like a local landmark or quirky outdoor space we can also accommodate this too. We'd just need to do a quick risk assessment and advise you of any public liability insurance you may require for us to facilitate your wishes. Your ceremony can take place almost anywhere in West Dunbartonshire and at times including Sundays and Bank Holidays and we'd love to speak to you about your plans.

Call us for more information on **01389 738350**.

What's included?

What's included in the cost?

The role of the Registrar is unique - our experienced team of Registrars will look after your needs throughout the entire marriage process end-to-end, which includes:

- **Choosing a venue**
- **Submitting marriage/civil partnership notices**
- **Checking all the required documentation**
- **Tailoring the ceremony to you**
- **Registering the marriage/civil partnership**
- **Issuing a marriage/civil partnership certificate**

What paperwork do I need to complete?

In order to submit notice to marry or enter into a civil partnership we require your Marriage Notice Papers (M10 forms) or Civil Partnership Papers (CP10 forms) completed in full and signed by each party of the marriage. You will also be required to complete a Witness Form that includes the full names and addresses of the two people witnessing and signing on the day. Both forms can be obtained from either your local Registration Office or by downloading via our website:

www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/birth-marriage-death/marriage-and-civil-partnership/

Along with your completed forms, there are a number of formal documents we require – which must be the original documents and not photocopies.

- **Birth certificates for each party**
- **If you are born in the UK after the 1st January 1983 - a valid UK Passport is required. If you do not have a valid UK passport, then please contact the Registration Office for more information.**

If either party has ever been married or in a civil partnership before, an original Divorce Document or Death Certificate must be provided along with your paperwork.

We will also require proof of address (again these will need to be the original documents), which can be one of the following:

- **Current year Council Tax Bill**
- **Full UK photo driving licence**
- **Bank statement (dated within one month of submitting notice)**
- **Utility bill (dated within three months of submitting notice)**
- **Current mortgage statement (no older than twelve months)**
- **Current residency agreement**
- **A letter from the owner or proprietor of the address which is the party's usual address (no older than one month)**

If either party to the Marriage/Civil Partnership is subject to the laws and immigration control of another country please ask for advice from the Registration Office.

For weddings and civil partnerships, you must submit your notice papers and supporting documentation at least 29 days before your ceremony. All paperwork should be submitted to:

**The Registration Office, Municipal Buildings
College Street, Dumbarton G82 1NR.**

You can submit notice no more than 3 months before the date of your marriage, but ideally should aim to do this 8 – 10 weeks prior.

When will I meet my Registrar?

The Registrar who will conduct your ceremony will contact you a couple of weeks prior to arrange your face-to-face appointment. At this appointment you can discuss in detail your requirements, personalise your ceremony and discuss exactly what will happen on the day.

What happens on the day?

Your Registrar will arrive 45 minutes before the ceremony is due to start and will be there to greet your guests and wedding party upon their arrival. The Registrar has responsibility for the Marriage or Civil Partnership Schedule and will return your official documents to the office following the ceremony and register your Marriage/Civil Partnership for you.



Contact Details

**Registration Office for Births, Deaths and Marriages
Municipal Buildings
College Street
Dumbarton
G82 1NR**

Tel: 01389 738350

**Email:
dumbarton.registrars@west-dunbarton.gov.uk**

**Website:
www.west-dunbarton.gov.uk/birth-marriage-death/marriage-and-civil-partnership/**