



*Clapton Country Club
Weddings*

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Introduction

Housed in a former Victorian horse drawn tram depot in Clapton, East London, The Clapton Country Club as a wedding venue was born from the marriage of the owners in 2015.

Having struggled to find a venue befitting of their big day Hilary and Terence converted a section of the Tram Depot into a pop-up wedding venue. Such was the joy and ambience of their wedding day they continued to develop and roll out the venue for other couples to enjoy.

Clapton Country Club has now successfully hosted over 150 weddings.





With high ceilings, imposing steel columns and beams, distressed brickwork and an eco driven conversion with reclaimed architectural materials, Clapton Country Club oozes industrial charm, contemporary ethics and old-fashioned romance. Add into this an abundance of plants, you would be forgiven for thinking you were somewhere far from the urban maddening crowd and in a different era.

Embark on an adventure through various spaces, places, nooks and crannies that not only serve for functions, dining, drinking and ceremonies but provide many unique photo opportunities. The Main Hall, the Decking, the Courtyard, The Opium Room, The Loft Studio and The Department of Life all provide a kaleidoscope of fabulous imagery.

History

Whilst converted for Wedding use in 2015, the history of the Tram Depot buildings, land and location stretches back centuries to the early 1500's to where and when, a certain infamous monarch brutally ruled the country and made the area one of the most affluent areas in the UK. The east side of London was the epicentre of Tudor England.

King Henry VIII who was of course no stranger to a wedding or two, once owned the land on which Clapton Country Club is built as it formed part of the gardens and stables of Brooke House, a Tudor mansion sold to King Henry by the Earl of Northumberland Henry Percy and then passed to Thomas Cromwell. Cromwell then sold it back to Henry (Foxtons would have loved them as a customer!). Henry visited the estate a few times. His most notable visit in historical terms came in 1537. He chose this estate as neutral ground where he could meet with his eldest daughter, Mary (who later become Queen Mary of Scots). They reconciled here when she agreed to take the Oath of Supremacy. This effectively meant that she accepted that she was illegitimate and that her Father was the head of the Church of England.

Brooke House as a Tudor mansion sadly was burnt to the ground in the 1700's and rebuilt in a Georgian style of the times. Of course, Clapton seemed to play within a colourful history from day one and despite its historical affluence suffered mishaps along the way, including The Georgian re-built Brooke House eventually being converted into a 'lunatic' asylum.



Brooke House Clapton in Middlesex by South prospect



As the industrial revolution took hold the gardens of Brooke house were acquired and converted into one of London's first horse drawn Tram Depots. Clapton became an important last/first stop omnibus hub for London's first commuters. It is still today a hub for transport across most points of London with the iconic no 38 bus starting its early life as a tram pulled by horses.

The cobblestone mews offers the old stables on the right side (located here is our Department of Life building), on the left-hand side is the main building where the trams would be pulled into and where our main hall is sited. Under the floorboards and in other parts of the building you can find the steel tracks that the trams ran on.

Horse drawn trams did not last long as electrification changed the face of transport, followed quickly by diesel and the combustion engine revolution. The redundant Clapton Tram Depot then reinvented itself as industrial workshop spaces for manufacturing.

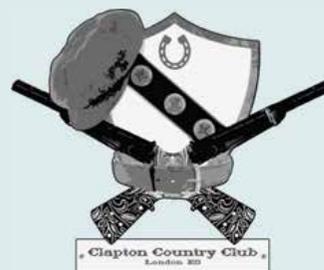
Increasingly the local migrant Orthodox Jewish community set up cabinet making and played a big part in developing the rag/fashion trade of 20th century East London.

In the 1920'2/30's came the depression and the Second World War. The Tram Depot did its bit for the war effort in a factory being commissioned into making wing parts for De Havilland whom were building military aircraft located nearby. Of course, such production of military parts drew its risks and the Luftwaffe scored a bombing hit on both the Tram Depot and Brooke House. You can see the rebuilt section of the Tram Depot at the front entrance. Inside the building, impromptu air shelters were built, one of which we have turned into a toilet! (Inside rear studio).

Earl of Northumberland Crest



Clapton Country Club 'Crest'!



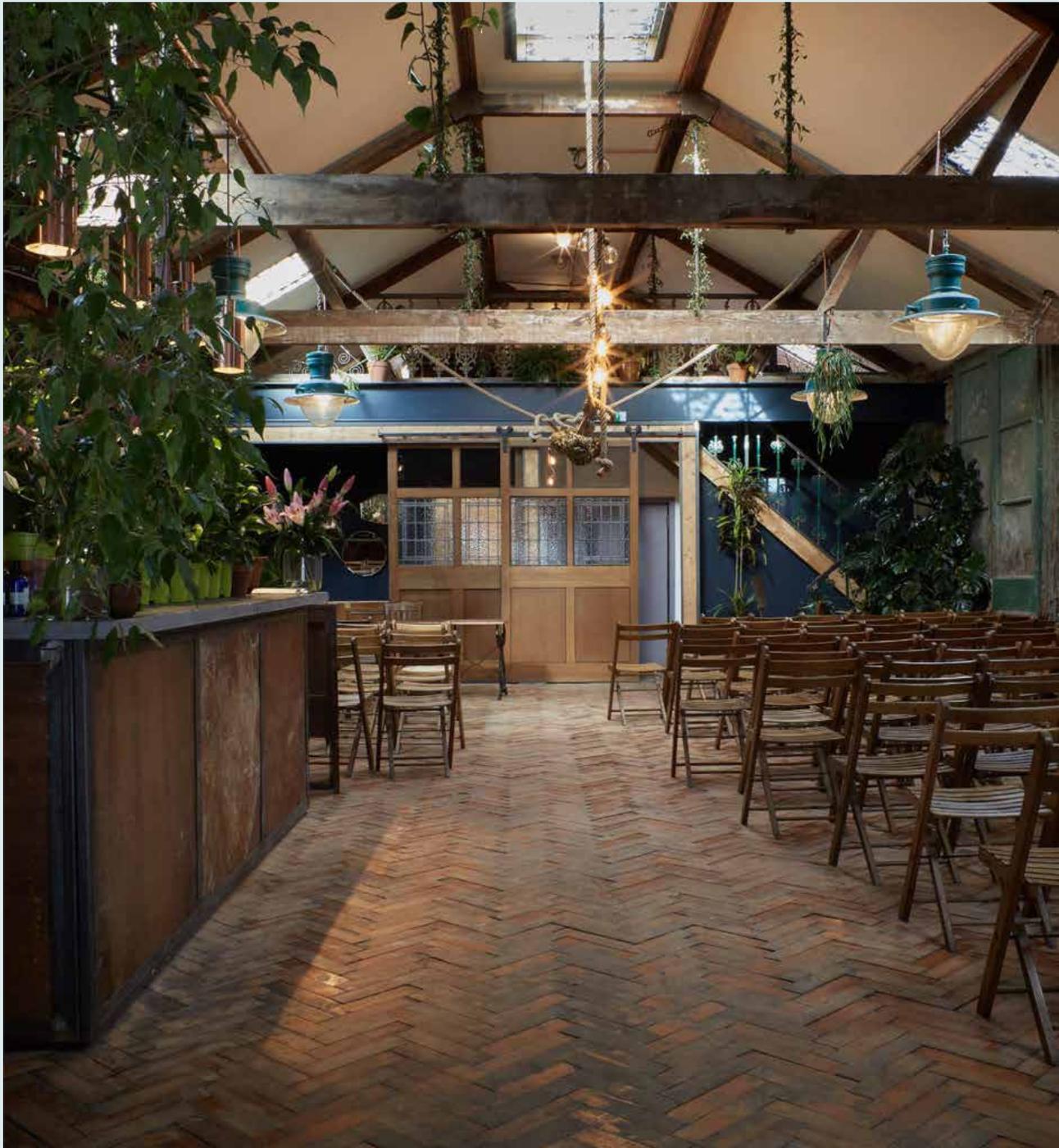


After the war The Tram depot returned to light manufacturing. Sadly, Brooke House mansion was controversially pulled down by Hackney council due to the WW2 bomb damage. Brooke house was rebuilt as a school in which in later years Sir Alan Sugar was a pupil of. It currently is a sixth form community college.

Beyond this, the area adjacent to the Tram Depot become notorious with gangster activity (Some might argue King Henry the VIII was the first East End Gangster!). The Kray Twins ran their 'manor' around this region living close by and one of their infamous murder scenes was also close by. Beyond the Krays, came the turf wars of Jamaican Yardies/Turkish mafia in the 80's and 90's that gave the area the unwanted tag/name of Murder Mile (Yes this is a wedding brochure!). This was stamped out by a concerted political effort of local people and the eventual re-gentrification of the area, coinciding with London's recent economic boom. One of those local people who campaigned regularly comes to eat here.

Well as they say, 'what goes around comes around' and the history of the site lent itself in the slightly satirical naming of our wedding venue as the Clapton Country Club.





The Present and the Future

From 2015 we have seen around 150 couples tie the knot and with many more booked in, the Clapton Country Club in this modern sense is forming a part of the rich historical tapestry of the area, whilst also improving its future. We provide local employment to over 30 people.

We also operate a Sunday Roast club with live Jazz that is garnering a great reputation for both food and entertainment. It was recently featured in Elle magazine UK as one of the top 14 places to go for Sunday Roast in London.

During the week, we host many film shoots. These have included a major scene from 'On Chesil Beach' and the recent 'Tomb Raider' film. We have shot pop videos, TV Programmes and hosted supper clubs for iconic musicians. We even had a surreal moment when Rod Stewart was on site shooting his latest video, interacting and taking selfies with wedding guests. The bride, groom and guests were stunned!

For the future we aim to host cinema nights showing eclectic films, launch our 'Curry Club' complete with Bollywood backdrop, as well as introduce Bhangra music/dancing in the spring. We also aim to do more community and charity projects giving back to the local community and raising money for great causes.

The biggest and most proud part of our business is when we host weddings. Nothing can trump the joy and occasion of a wedding, if people ask the owners what business we are in, it is always met with "We are in the business of joy!".
Because we are.

Welcome to the Clapton Country Club
Terence, Hilary and the Team



Places and Spaces



Main Hall

The Main Hall is the designated space for dinner and the after party. We are licensed until 1.00AM on Fridays and Saturdays, (last orders at 12.30AM and music off). As a licensed premise we have to comply with the rules.

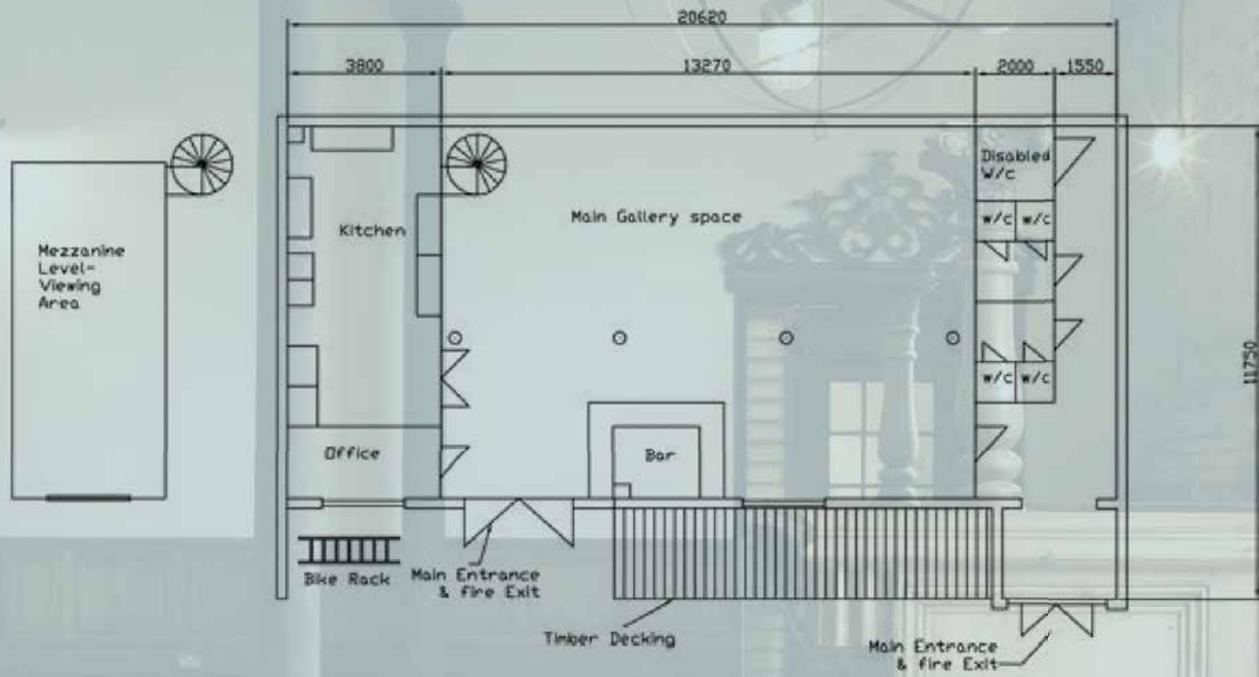
With a capacity for max 140 seated and up to 220 standing, this means you can invite additional guests for the evening. We will need a guest list for day and night guests. There is a bar that serves wine, champagne, prosecco, craft beers, spirits and cocktails as well as soft drinks. There is free filtered and sparkling water.

From a spiral staircase you can access a viewing and lounging gallery. This can be utilised into a lounge area or an improvised photobooth/gallery area.

Tables and chairs come with the venue hire. For in-house catered weddings there is free use of Festoon lighting, PA system, Projector, stage, all crockery, cutlery, glasses and table linen.

You can choose some of the in-house props including our giant glitter ball, an abundance of plants, antique blank picture frames, vases etc. You can add to the space with your own ideas, be it neon signs, giant letters, pictures, giant balloons, bunting or whatever your imagination leads you to.

We have optional rates for dressing with Italian soft Ruscus trailing ivy to add green to the columns, festoon light trails, spiral staircase and balcony ironwork.



Floor Plan of Main Hall



Department of Life

The Department of life can be hired as an add on space to the hire of Clapton Country Club Main Hall. Here we can conduct a civil/legal ceremony in association with registrar booked via Hackney Town Hall or you can stage a faux ceremony with a humanist or celebrant (See suppliers). You can also utilise the DOL for the drinks and canapé reception or you can combine for both.
(See ceremonies and price lists).

The Department of Life is created from one of the original stables with original high wooden beamed eaves, plant life writhing against a backdrop of disenfranchised brickwork, 160-year aged parquet flooring and giant gym knotted roped lights. The interior was inspired by a combination of nature and Orwellian vibe of dystopia where nature reclaims the world. The fit out is constructed or formed from subterranean materials of steel, iron, wood, slate, stone, marble, copper, glass and botany.... it's nature and industry forming a bond.





Opium Room

The Opium Room is set as a separate, enchanting area, a fusion of Edwardian Shanghai/Parisian, located at the back of the building.

If your party is small, we normally suggest closing this room early in order to keep party from diminishing. Due to its proximity we do not allow music to be played at a party level, however there is a speaker and amp system where you can plug in a device to create background music.

The Opium room can be served as a cocktail/gin bar.

Oversize and shrunken items add an ethereal feel; giant doors to nowhere, huge squat table with seating upholstered in genuine vintage art nouveau Liberty fabric, huge gothic iron chandelier and miniature ornaments the space plays on the imagination. The staircase offers an escape to a small gallery that overlooks the space.

Loft Studio

The Loft Studio is an optional extra to the main venue hire. In the past the studio has been used for both filming and as a green room for models to get ready in. From a wedding perspective the loft studio can be utilised in a number of ways.

For weddings the studio can be used for hair and make up for bride and bridesmaids and as the hideaway prior to a wedding ceremony. Later in the day it can be utilised as a break-out rest space for young children with babysitters or for the elderly that may want a break from the party. In the studio there are separate toilets, kitchen facilities and also use of a TV if needed.

Note: The Loft studio cannot be utilised as a party space or extension of the wedding party.





External Deck

Our external deck areas extends from the main building, It allows our guests to enjoy a moment outside. The deck is constructed with iron wood planks taken from a canal lock, steel columns salvaged from the Tram Depot, reclaimed industrial glass roof to provide shelter and an array of overflowing plants to create a small oasis in an urban setting.

Drinks can be served and consumed on decking up to 10PM. Thereafter deck serves as an outside space for smokers and those looking for a quick respite from the celebration party. Drinks must be left inside after 10pm.

Ceremony

Both the Clapton Country Club and The Department of Life can be utilised for wedding ceremonies. Whether legal civil marriage Ceremony or as a faux ceremony, these can both be set up and conducted here.
(See price list for costings)



Legal or Faux?

Legal:

Firstly, a legal or civil ceremony has to be held in licensed premises. Both the Clapton Country Club and the Department of Life are licensed for the purpose of conducting Civil marriage ceremonies under the relevant laws. Legal ceremonies have to be conducted by a registrar. The registrar is booked via Hackney Council ceremonies@hackney.gov.uk . It is important that the registrar is booked at the same time venue is booked so that space and timings can be synchronised. There are specific procedures for legally getting married. Hackney council wedding team will run through this with you, more can be found here

Lezma Allison

lezma.allison@hackney.gov.uk

The ceremony cannot be conducted within a religious context or artefacts, you will need to conduct such religious ceremony through a Church, Mosque, Synagogue or Temple.

It is advised you book ceremonies as far ahead as possible. We advise the ideal timing as between 2-5.00PM. Ceremonies take no longer than 1 hour, thereafter you can use time for photo shoots/ opportunities and then move on to Canapés and initially reception drinks.

Faux:

A faux ceremony has no legal meaning it is simply symbolic and theatrical. This means there is no time restrictions and you can conduct the ceremony utilising a humanist or a celebrant or even go full theatrical with a theme if you so desire. Some people get legally married at a registrar office earlier in the week or year even without fuss but then hold a faux ceremony for friends and family to create a sense of occasion.

Ultimately there is no right or wrong way to select a wedding ceremony, it is your choice to make.

Options

(A)

- Ceremony in Department of life
- Drinks Reception in Clapton Country Club on decking
- Dinner and Party in Clapton Country Club

(C)

- Ceremony in Clapton Country Club
- Drinks Reception in Department of life
- Dinner and Party in Clapton Country Club

(B)

- Ceremony in Department of life
- Drinks Reception in Department of life
- Dinner and Party in Clapton Country Club

(D)

- Ceremony in Clapton Country Club
- Drinks Reception in Clapton Country Club
- Dinner and Party in Clapton Country Club



Food Glorious Food!

We present our food choices in different menus and formats. Our talented professional chefs have worked in five star hotels and top restaurants.

Food formats

- a) Canapés, 3 courses formal
- b) Canapés, 3 course sharing platters
- c) Canapés and small bowl food tasting style
- d) Luxury buffet no canapés

Catered prices include ½ bottle of wine and ½ bottle of Prosecco per person for reception and toasting purposes.

Menus for options A-D

We have nine menus all of which can be adapted & mixed and matched into three different formats above;

Asian
Indian
Greek
Italian
Buffet
Modern British
Traditional British
Mediterranean
Vegetarian/Vegan

Optional Food Choices

We are not limited to our standard menus. We can also cater to suite your perfect menu and theme. We have successfully served themes such as Posh Pie n Mash, Indian style curry, Special Vegan/Veggie only menus and our famous Roast menu. If you are thinking of something different please tell us your ideas and we will be happy to discuss your options.

Please note all menus have Vegan and Vegetarian options.





Evening Snacks

In the evening you may want to consider offering your guests late-night snacks. It is a great idea to offer this to your day and additional evening guests once the party gets away! Pay particular attention to times, an earlier wedding means a longer duration of the day. The number one grumble at a wedding is having sufficient to eat, combine this with drinking all day and other issues could unfold. One of the ways around this is to have evening snacks. You could also substitute starter or dessert with an evening snack.

Our evening snacks include things like bacon rolls, cheese toasties, bagels etc. We are of course open to discuss options.

These are for events if we have catered. Please note VAT will be added.



Have your cake and eat it!

We can offer in house cake making of varying styles and sizes. Or we can put you in touch with recommended cake suppliers who have produced some fantastic looking and delicious cakes.

Bars

We have three bars, The main hall bar, The Department of Life and The Opium Room. Here you can sample fab award winning organic biodynamic wines, craft beers, premium spirits and cocktails.

Our bars vary in opening times:

Clapton Country Main Bar & Opium Room

Friday/Saturday: mid-day to 1.00AM

(Last orders 12.30AM)

Sunday Mid-day to 11 PM

(Last orders 10.30PM)

Monday-Thursday Mid-day to 11 PM

(Last orders 10.30PM)

Department of Life Bar

Friday/Saturday: mid-day to midnight

(Last orders 11.30AM)

Sunday Mid-day to 11 PM

(Last orders 10.30PM)

Monday-Thursday Mid-day to 11 PM

(Last orders 10.30PM)

Prices are similar to what one would expect from a decent pub.



Planning Your Wedding

Planning and organising your wedding can seem daunting and a stressful prospect. It really does not have to be.

Having hosted close to 150 Weddings in over three years, we have encountered just about everything you can think of. Our number one advice is to keep it as simple as possible. This day is mainly about you. Trying to please and accommodate everyone is an impossible task, however pleasing your guests is important. The main aspects to nail are food and drink, a sense of adventure and celebration. We also can take care most of the work, using our expert experience, high standards and relaxed approach.

We offer:

- Spaces for legal or Faux Ceremonies
- Spaces for separate arrival drinks
- Space to stage dinner and party
- Break out areas for relaxing and areas for separate drinks experience
- Great food, professionally produced by our in-house chefs with many options
- Super organic/biodynamic wines and fizz, along with craft beers, spirits and cocktails
- Supplier contacts (if you need them) for Bands, DJ's, Photographers, Florists, Photo Booths and more



Step-by-step

Step 1 - Get Brochure

If you're reading this you have already made first this step! Read our brochure get the feel of what we offer. Check your budget, check our available dates fit in with your plans. Any questions check our FAQ at rear of brochure, but also feel free to ask.

Step 2 - Come View

Come and see us! We love meeting couples who are planning the hitch. We normally do viewings on Sundays but can accommodate other times if this does not fit.

Email us on
weddings@claptoncountryclub.co.uk
or call on
07423 633517

We will give you a full tour and run through how it all works.

Step 3 - Hold the Date

Love the venue? Place a no obligation first option hold on the date. We will hold available dates for up to 3 weeks. If you choose not to proceed – no problem, we are not offended. We require no deposit at this stage. You can now give serious thought and begin the process to firm up the booking if need be.

Step 4 - Book the Venue

Ok so now you have decided to present us with the privilege of hosting your special day -Thank you- we will be honoured. It's important at this stage to ensure all the dates fit - legal ceremony has to be booked at same time as the dinner/party venue. We are now licensed for civil ceremonies so whilst we can co-ordinate ceremony and venue hire, you will still need to book and pay separately for the registrar at Hackney Council. The further ahead you book the better. Contact for Hackney to book Registrar is ceremonies@hackney.gov.uk They will charge you separately for this and have their own specific legal requirements (See our ceremony section).

In order to firm up the booking we require an advance payment of £2500. You will be required to enter into a contract with us (See contract section for details). We have to point out that this advance payment is non-refundable in the event of cancellation (unless we can refill date without financial loss). However, we also insist that you take out Wedding Insurance. We normally recommend someone like John Lewis <https://www.johnlewisfinance.com/insurance/wedding-insurance.html> . There are other Insurance companies of course, Price ranges from £100-200.

It is important to understand that no insurance company will cover for the euphemism 'Change of Heart'. However, they should cover for most other things. It is a condition of booking with us that you have wedding insurance in place. This is a separate transaction between you and insurance company. Insurance is a no-brainer.

At this booking stage you do not have to confirm every nuance of your wedding like food choices, is annoying Aunt Edna coming with her family of 12? Is Uncle Fred really going to be allowed to sing? Numbers, food choices and other idiosyncrasies/details can be ironed out along the way. The focus at this stage is to get venue and ceremony booked and synchronised.



Step 5 - Final Steps

Ok so venue booked, ceremony booked, registrar organised, contract signed, advance payment made, insurance in place. Now the fun bits begin.

You can unravel and organise your florist, your guest lists, photographer, big screen for the football! (Yes, that really did happen - in 2018 World Cup and bride and groom are still together!), band, DJ, playlists, photo booth, bar set up etc. You will also have met or spoken to one of our dedicated team who will run you all the way to your big day. At some point you will need to attend a food tasting to make final choices on food, this is normally done between 3-9 months before the wedding date.

We normally at this stage pick up on additional items like, food choices, cocktail packages, audio visual, equipment stage needs etc .

You will also be given details to software called Planning Pod. This is the software we use to plan and run weddings. On here you can organise floor layout and settings, to do lists and even set up a website if you so desire. We can run through final checklists and a run sheet for the day.

If you, your mum, best friend, a florist or photographer need to visit us, no problem, come as many times as you desire, but please organise in advance.

We supply all staff: cleaners, kitchen, bar, waiting, security and management. You are in safe and professional hands.

This is all organised and managed by us.

We will require final payment approx. 45 days before wedding date. You will be invoiced for this.

Approximately two weeks before the Wedding you will get final summary sheet from us. We require by this time, a guest list and a run sheet (This can be a simple step timing guide to the day - see Chapter: Useful Information).

Hooray! The big day is here...

So... everything is organised, and the big day is coming up, final numbers are agreed, menu sorted, food allergies and vegan guests identified, best man has perfected his speech about the hedgehog, the vicar and that weekend in a Devon pub and everyone is booked in and worked out their vacations to suit. What next?

Well, on the day we co-ordinate furniture, table layouts, menus and any table stationary you supply. You have use of our maintenance guy to fix any special items/pictures etc (we prefer not to see the bride climbing 4 metres ladders to hang a balloon!) The florist can get access from 6.00AM on the day if need be. Our same day set up timings work, so you do not need to access the day before, accessing on the day before is unlikely to be available.

If you are holding the ceremony in any of our spaces, we will co-ordinate registrar on the day.

We are ready and.... here comes the bride!

So, after ceremony, we move on to canapés, drinks reception, dinner and finally the big party. Naturally there will be finer details and every wedding is different. We will be there with you all the way. Any questions as always... just ask and check out our FAQ at end of brochure.





Testimonials

We can't believe it has now been a whole week since our wonderful wedding!

We wanted to send you a quick message to say thank you so much for making the weekend so spectacular! Everything went exactly as we had hoped (sorry we had some specific requests!). You absolutely nailed everything and our guests (and us) had the absolute BEST time. It was more than we could ever had hoped for.

A huge thank you to the staff on the night. They were AMAZING - they were so friendly and really helped make the night. It was lovely to see smiling friendly faces even from people we didn't know! The food was also incredible - so delicious, thank you very much to the chef.

We are so happy that we can pop by for a roast one Sunday and remember what a fantastic time we had :)

Thank you
Hayley and Jake



How are you doing? Keelan and I would like to say a huge thank you to you and all of the team at the Clapton Country Club. We absolutely loved our wedding day on 19th Sep and everything you did to make it so 'us'. I don't know how you and the team do it, but we can't thank you enough for catering to everything we asked for and working with us to make it so special.

We've had so many comments about the food being the best wedding food anyone has ever had, and we loved sharing the hidden part of London that is CCC with all of our friends and family.

Staying overnight beforehand was so special - thank you for letting us set up the afternoon before, this took some real pressure off our suppliers (who were also our guests the next day).

We'll certainly be booking in for a roast in the future, but wanted to take a moment to say a big, heartfelt thank you to you and all the team for helping to make our wedding day unforgettable.

All the best,
Ava and Keelan

We just wanted to send you our warmest thanks for hosting our wedding reception and providing an amazing service during the entire day. Right from the moment our guests first arrived till the very end, everything was just perfect. All of your team were incredibly friendly and welcoming. The service they provided was outstanding, especially with the attention to detail and care for the guests. Our guests thoroughly enjoyed and loved all the food, the wines and the evening snacks, and so did we. We are now a size up :). The venue is a special place and one of its kind with such ample space for partying and relaxing at the same time. The lighting on the day created such an intimate atmosphere. We have the most beautiful memory of the day and that will stay with us forever. We can't thank you enough for making our wedding day all so very special.

Lots of love,
Ankit & Finn



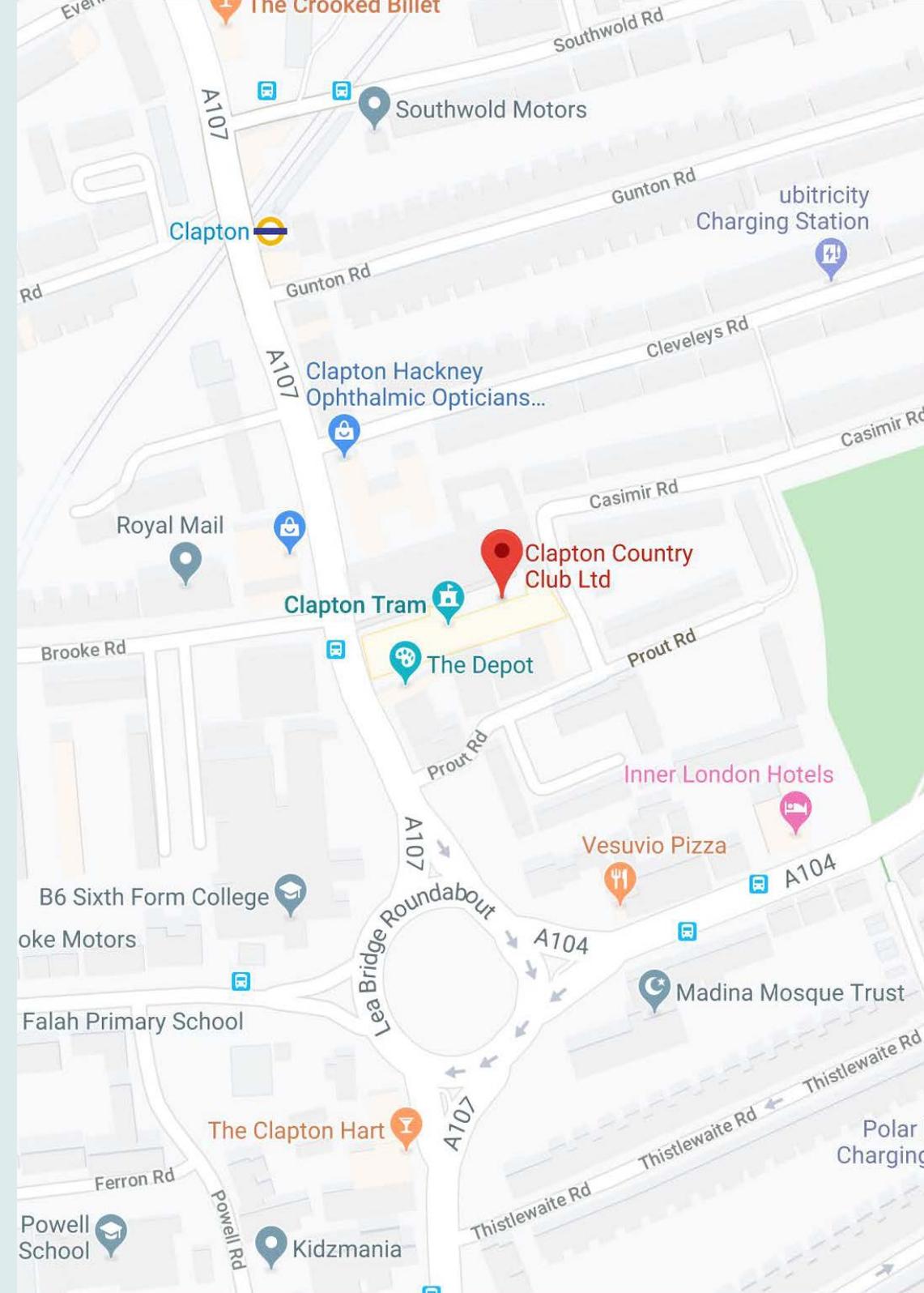
Location & Transport

Location Address:
The Tram Depot
Unit J2
38-40 Upper Clapton Road
London E5 8 BQ.

Entrance is opposite Brooke Road

Clapton Country Club Ltd
www.claptoncountryclub.co.uk
weddings@claptoncountryclub.co.uk

Tel: 0203 669 3594
Mobile: 07423 633517



Service	Business/name	Telephone	Email /Website
Photography	Lee Allen Photography Lee	07588443437	info@leeallenphotography.com www.leeallenphotography.com
Photography	Farlie photography Charlie	07727039817	info@farliephotography.co.uk www.farliephotography.co.uk
Photography	Epic Love Story Emma	07770526034	emma@epiclovestory.co.uk https://epiclovestory.co.uk/
Photography	Bates and bates co. Meghan and Andy		info@meghanlorna.com http://www.batesandbates.co/
Photography	Lyndsey Goddard Photography		https://www.lyndseygoddard.com/
Photography	Andrew Brannen		andrew@andrewbrannanphotography.co.uk https://andrewbrannanphotography.co.uk/
Floristry	Fox & Thorn Paulla Ellis		foxandthorn@hotmail.com instagram - foxandthorn
Floristry	The Allotment Florist Helena Willcocks	+44 7964576715	theallotmentflorist@gmail.com https://www.theallotmentflorist.co.uk/
Floristry	Design by Nature Emily	07398153499	info@designbynature.co www.designbynature.co
Floristry	The Flower Appreciation Society Ellie	07980270658	https://www.theflowerappreciationsociety.co.uk/ ellie@theflowerappreciationsociety.co.uk
DJ's	Jason King	07798942398	Jason72king@gmail.com
DJ's	DJ Catfight	07974587970	catfightdecks@yahoo.co.uk
DJ's	Mighty Fine Entertainment	0800 288 8618	info@mfent.co.uk www.mfent.co.uk
DJ's	Wedding Smashers	0208 488 3284	info@weddingsmashers.com
DJ's	LL music DJ Hayley Roe		https://www.llmusic.org/
Bands	Groovylot	07710802410	info@groovylot.com
Bands	Solomon Dent	07883833641	solomondent@gmail.com
Bands	John Howells Jazz Duo (reception back ground music)	07779717794	hovellie@gmail.com
Bands	Jopin Parnell Piano/Accordion (reception music)	07870394883	www.joplinparnell.co.uk
Bands	Hackney Colliery Band	07740187362	steve@hackneycollieryband.co.uk
Videographer	Life Camera Reaction - Bespoke Documentaries Micci Bamford	07973450709	hello@lifecamerareaction.co.uk www.lifecamerareaction.co.uk
Balloons	Pop Pop Papier	07771604578	studio@poppoppapier.com
Photoboos	The Wedding Jar	07720 056375	hello@theweddingjar.co.uk
Lighting/Audio Equipment hire	Wedding Smashers	0208 488 3284	info@weddingsmashers.com
Wedding Cakes	Kat Bakes	07843 303 337	www.katbakeslondon.com
Wedding Cakes	Marnie Searchwell Cakes "free From" handmade cakes	0207 735 1444	www.marniesearchwell.com cakes@marniesearchwell.com

Suggested Supplier List

List of suppliers we have worked successfully with in the past.



Useful Information

WEDDING INSURANCE

Whether you use Clapton Country Club for your big day or not, it is essential to have wedding insurance.

Here is a guide on what is involved and out there. We have our own insurance, but any event where people are attending (Not just weddings) needs separate cover by those staging the event (Bride and Groom for example) who bring in guests or the general public. Most other venues seem to fail to acknowledge the need for wedding insurance to couples.

The earlier you get the cover the better. Some Insurers will not accept last minute insurance cover enquiries.

Disclaimer: This is a guide we have put together to help explain the basics of wedding insurance, we are not an endorsement of any insurance company or an expert on insurance, it is your responsibility to satisfy yourself on what is being offered by an insurance company in terms of cover, claims and their T&C's.

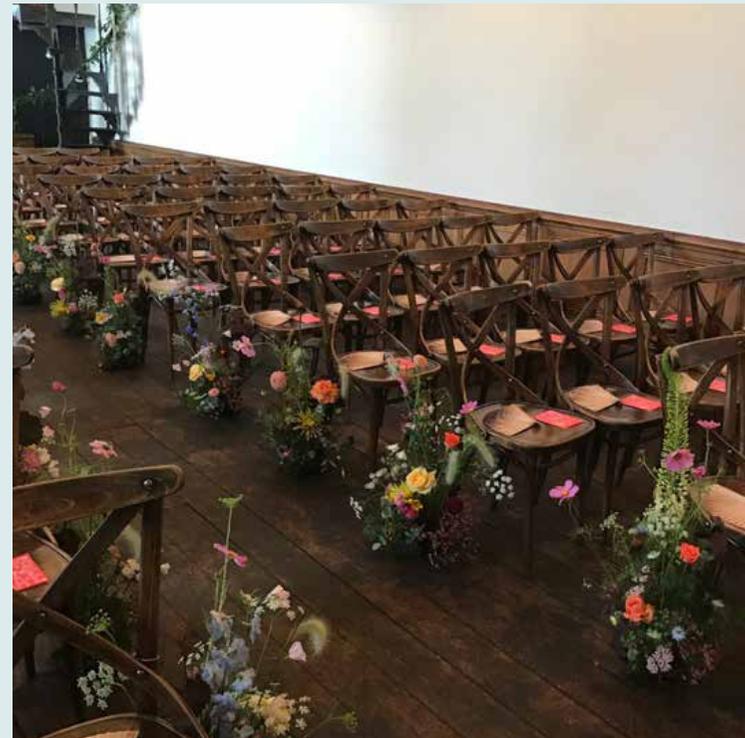
*Wedding insurance covers a problem with the venue or a supplier, or a key wedding party member falling ill.
It does NOT cover a change of heart.*

Wedding Insurance Companies.

The following are typical insurance/finance companies that will provide cover.

[*John Lewis Finance*](#)
[*Cover my Wedding*](#)
[*Dream Saver Wedding*](#)
[*Wedding Plan*](#)

These are suggestions and not endorsements. It is for you to decide which company to run with. There are other insurers out there, search on the internet. Always check policy and T&C's



FAQ

Organising a wedding event can be frustrating and stressful. At Clapton Country Club we understand this. Our directors married at the venue and went through all the processes that our customers go through including tears and tantrums!

We have put together a venue and management that alleviates as much of the organising for you as possible. However, there is still a lot to do! Here is a FAQ to help guide you. We are here to be asked any question no matter how silly that question might seem!



1. Why are wedding events more expensive than normal events?
We (the directors) asked this very question when getting married in 2015. The answer is quite loaded. The reality is a wedding is the biggest day of most couple's lives and they want it as perfect as possible. It involves a lot of additional organisation, staffing and consultation all around. We have constant streams of visitors, wedding planners, caterers, florists, DJ's and relatives of the bride/groom coming to the venue. Additionally, we have to have licences for alcohol, food, music/performance, wedding ceremonies. Then we need extensive insurance, pest control contracts, meet hygiene regulations, crowd dispersal policies, fire extinguishers, fire alarms and policies that satisfy Fire, Police and Environmental authorities. We have a total staff team of 24. You might consider someone offering up an empty space, the reality is they will be doing this illegally or unsafely, we have many couples come to us distressed after having the plug pulled on their party. You get what you pay for.

2. Can we pay by Credit card?
The answer is yes, although payments by American Express will carry a surcharge of 2%.

3. What time can we arrive at venue?
Access for a wedding venue is from 6.00 AM on the day.

4. Can we access the day before?
This is possible if we have no event on that day before and we will not know this until 2 days before the event. If available we are more than happy to accommodate an early start.

5. Can we extend the wedding party to beyond 1.00AM?
The answer is technically yes, but we are not wholly keen on this, because we are quite contrived on how we run a venue with our neighbours in mind. The costs of course would go up by around £600 per hour, we would need to get a special license from the local authority and of course pay the staff additional hours. Everything would cost more from DJ to catering. From our experience 1.00AM is a good time. The day of the wedding is taxing and exhausting for all especially the bride and groom, weddings normally involve older relatives and children, they will also be flaked out, it is a long day, so make it perfect... end on a high is our thoughts. We know from our observations of weddings these timings work.

6. *Why is there a cancellation charge/no refund of deposit?*

At first glance it seems unfair, if I put a deposit on a car I won't lose it etc. Well the reality is that the Wedding business is a long term booking process, many of our couples' book over a year in advance. We as a business invest into a long-term marketing strategy. So, a wedding booked, then cancelled even 6 months before the event may not get refilled, it is not a car or a TV, it often misses the chance to be resold. Yet we still have rent, rates and staff to pay and we fill up every year. A date cancelled is a financial loss that exceeds the deposit. Prime dates often have many people interested who could have been sold the date early in their search. There is a part remedy to this.

We insist you take out insurance, it is not expensive, John Lewis offer insurance and many other companies are out there with a similar service. John Lewis insurance can be found here:

<https://www.johnlewisfinance.com/insurance/wedding-insurance.html>

John Lewis provide comprehensive insurance for not just your venue but your whole wedding even including the honeymoon all for as little as a £100-150. This is money well spent. *However, we should point out that no policy will cover you for what is termed 'Change of Heart'. If you break up or have a change of mind, insurance will not cover you.*

7. *Can we get married at the venue?*

The answer is yes! – see brochure for details on wedding ceremonies.

8. *What happens about furniture and clearing space for dancing?*

We use fold up tables that can be whisked away in moments. We take care of this although it is often a joint effort with everyone mucking in.

9. *Can we have a catering van in the yard?*

Unfortunately, no the decking area is ours, the cobbled stone area is shared with our neighbours, we must respect them by leaving it clear.

10. *When will we have to take down decorations etc?*

We were quite mortified to find that most other venues insist you dismantle your party the minute the music ends and the lights go on. What an anti-climax. When the event ends, we will have a team of cleaners to come in under supervision, clean the venue and take down any additional lighting/decorating etc. We then pack and store it all up for you to collect at your convenience. This helps you and us. Because on Sundays for example, we aim to be open for business. We can discuss any expensive/special items or specifics with you during the lead up to the wedding.

11. *Is there parking?*

Parking on site is limited to the front section of the cobbled stone area and is on a first come first served basis. We can possibly wrangle a space for special car of bride and groom or anyone with special needs/wheelchair dependent but would need to discuss and organise this. There is parking on surrounding roads much is free and we have a plentiful supply of public transport and a great local cab service.

12. *My Aunt Edna is a great cook and makes a mean Lasagna can she cook the food?*

We no longer offer dry hire or outside catering. Catering comes with a responsibility of safety and understanding food hygiene, as well as proficient understanding of specialist ovens and cooking implements .

13. *Can Uncle Bill an expert on drinking beer run the bar?*

Again, in short no. The bar is to be staffed and supervised by those with experience and in the case of supervisor with relevant qualification and personal license. We as a venue are ultimately responsible for safe drinking and preventing for example underage drinking. It's a condition of booking that we provide the staff for running the bar. We do not offer dry hire.

14. *You have a PA system; can we use this?*

We have a PA system that is available for hire it has a mixer/amp combo and we have four speakers sited in the corners of the room. It is made by Yamaha and is professional, it provides a good level of sound an iPhone/laptop can simply be plugged in. We would however suggest you consult with your DJ to see if this is ok with them as some DJ's can be a little precious on sound systems:) And similarly any musicians/bands should consult on this.

15. *Do you have sound limiters?*

The answer is at the moment no. We like to speak to the DJ and or band to run through expectations on sound levels. Sound limiters are annoying to everyone and are known to ruin a gig. Equally excessive noise has been known to ruin neighbours peace and sleep and close venues. To keep everyone happy, we will on occasions (especially towards later hours) ask DJ to tweak sound. We like to meet DJ's bands to brief them. Common sense needs to prevail.

16. *How can we layout the room?*

Largely the choice is yours, but on larger numbers the space will dictate how it can be laid out. You will be asked to sign up to Planning Pod a software platform we are using to run our events. Here you can play around with floor layouts and upload guest lists and manage to do lists etc.

17. *Can we use the cobble area to party on?*

The answer is no. Our license extends up to the decking area, anyone caught drinking on the cobbled area will be asked to move onto decking area.

18. *Why do you need a guest list?*

Safety and security both yours and ours. It means gate-crashers can be kept out for example. Trust us, there are people out there who get a kick out of gate-crashing weddings!

19. *Can we put things on the walls?*

Direct mechanical fixings can only be drilled into structure if making good is paid for. We have an array of hooks fixed into the ceiling/walls to hang from and have a relatively open mind on decoration. We also supply a maintenance man for the daytime. Any specialist requests, just ask.

20. *What do we do about ice?*

We supply all ice and ancillary things like lemons/limes etc.

21. *Can the bar be paid for by guests*

We can also run the bar with an agreed limit (tab) that you are prepared to cover and then switch. As always a bar must be run with experienced and qualified staff.

22. *Can children attend?*

Yes. We love kids here, however it is very important to understand that safety is of paramount and that the parents or carer's take full responsibility for children whilst at the venue. We suggest that under 5's leave before 9.30pm. Any child who is deemed at risk in a safety sense will result in our security staff asking the parents to leave with the children. No one under 18 is allowed to consume alcohol.

23. *Can we hold a booking date with you?*

We are willing to hold a date as a first option for you for up to 3 weeks without any financial commitment. To truly secure an absolute booking we would need an advance payment of £2500 to be paid.

24. *When do we have to fully pay for our Wedding?*

You will be invoiced at the beginning of the month before the month of your wedding. For example a wedding for the 16th July will be invoiced by the first week of June. You will be expected to pay this by return. It is important that by this time all options for your wedding have been established so that we can finalise your final invoice. Bar tabs if not fully spent will have unspent amount refunded.

25. *We have special food or dietary requirements can you accommodate this?*

Yes, whether vegan, vegetarian, a specific cuisine, gluten free etc., just present us with your needs and we will look at this and adjust menu where needed.

And finally ... Can we use the big sparkly Glitter Ball? Yes of course!

Transport

By Car

Driving in and to London is, well let's be honest can be a nightmare, so leave plenty of time for your journey. We are sited in North East London.

From the East: Dependent of course where you are coming from, The Lea Bridge road is a main route towards us from Essex, The East, Hertfordshire, Cambridge/Anglia via the major roads and motorways M11/A12/A13/A11.

From the North: The M1 enters onto the North Circular near Archway/Finchley/Holloway. Here you can either navigate via Holloway Road and back road routes towards Tottenham/Stamford Hill.

From the West: The M4 and M40 will either connect onto North circular (A406) or take you via the A4 by Hammersmith and onto the Marylebone Road/Euston road.

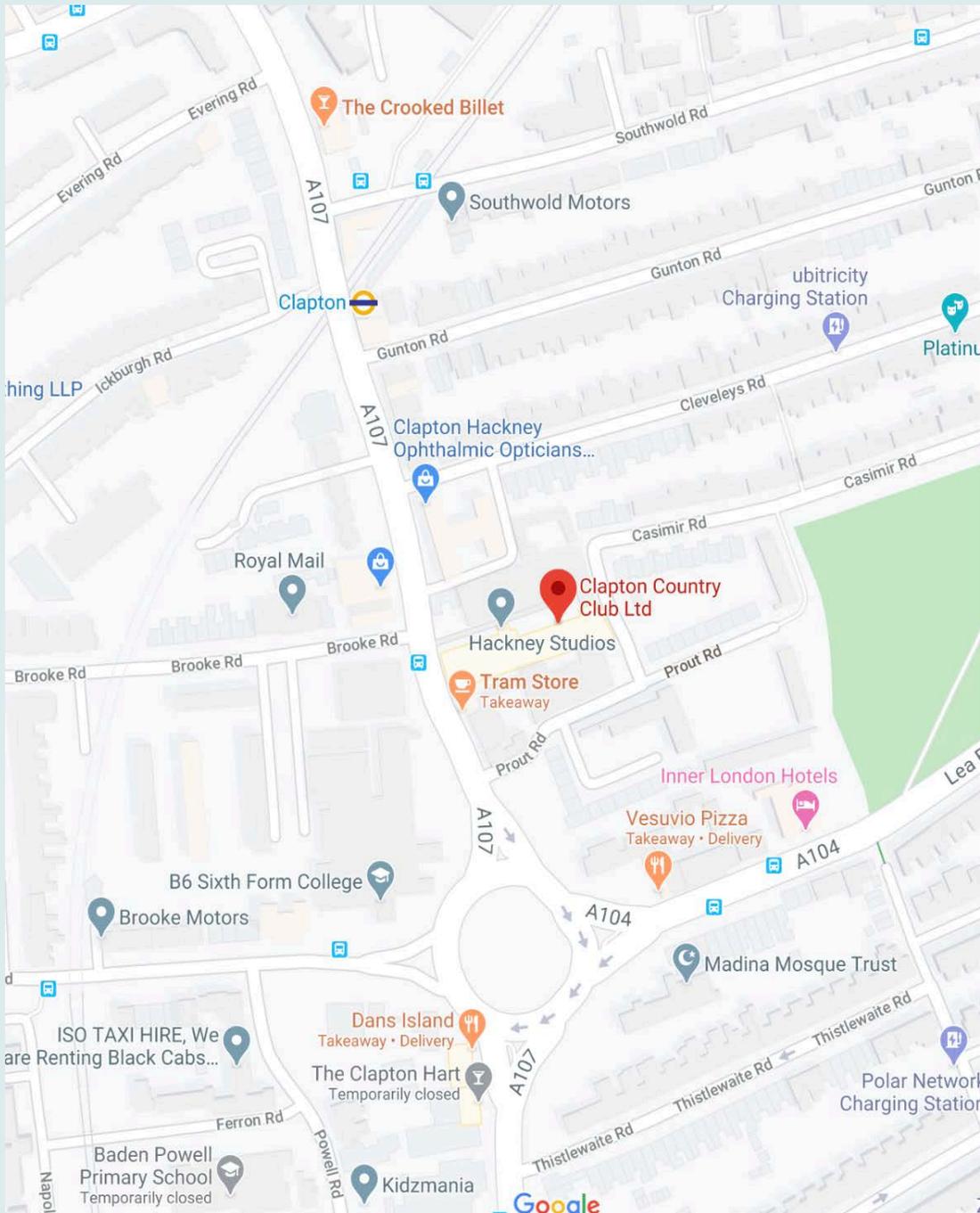
The South West: Major routes into London are the M3 these tend to then lead towards the west of London and the A4 via Hammersmith and onto the Marylebone Road/Euston road.

The South: This will offer routes that tie into the M25/M23/A23 giving you options of Tower Bridge, Blackwall Tunnel or Dartford Tunnel.

Notes on Driving: Saturdays and Sundays are naturally easier than Fridays/Thursdays. Be aware of the Football curse, Tottenham Hotspurs and Arsenal who apparently both hate each other, conspire to bring misery on matchday afternoons on Saturdays! The M1 route into London will be affected around those areas close to Holloway, Tottenham and Stamford Hill if game is on. Best to check Travel reports/Sat Nav. And on the subject of Sat Nav for some bizarre reason some systems will once you enter our postcode, navigate you around the back of the building into residential streets. Now whilst you may be able to park there (check signs always – and see Car Parking section) our entrance is via Upper Clapton Road -opposite Brooke Road.

Car Parking: The dread bane of all cities. Well actually it isn't that bad. The road opposite our entrance (Brooke Road) Currently has free parking after 11.00AM. You will need to check signs as one section does not offer this facility. As parking goes in London Clapton is reasonable. On-site parking is small and limited to first come first served and is usually filled by the time guests arrive. There might be a possibility we can wrangle 1 space for an emergency situation i.e. disabled or heavily pregnant – Call to enquire.





By bike

There are bike racks outside the club to secure bikes to.

By Train

Option A. There is an Overground Station 300 metres from our entrance (Clapton Overground). Trains here connect to the underground via Liverpool Street. Travel time from Liverpool Street is around 15 minutes.

Option B. Another Overground Station is on Lea Bridge Road (Lea Bridge Overground). This is a good 20 minutes' walk along Lea Bridge Road, or you can cut across to the park section towards the back street of Prout Road as a short cut. This is a new station and part of the redevelopment of the area, Trains here connect to Stratford in the east and travels in the direction towards the north to Bishops Stortford/Hertfordshire.

Option C. The nearest actual Underground Station is Manor House on the Piccadilly Line. You would need to hop on a bus (254/253) to finalise route.



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