



# GREटना GREEN

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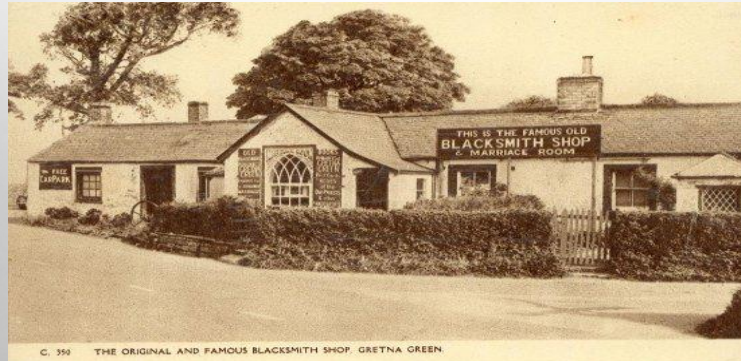
*The World's № 1 Marriage Venue*

Gretna Green has been a haven for romantic lovers for more than 250 years and this tradition is still going strong.



Traditionally, in Scotland, a man & a woman over the age of 16 could be married by declaring themselves spouses in front of witnesses.

The 1754 **Act of Parliament (introduced by Lord Hardwicke)** prohibited such marriages in England. As a result, eloping couples fled to Scotland



## THE 1754 ACT OF PARLIAMENT

1. Any marriages performed in a church would have to be recorded in the Parish Records which in turn would have to be signed by both Bride and Groom.
2. Weddings which were carried out in places or at times which were deemed illegal in the 1604 canons were not legal ceremonies.
3. All weddings should be performed in a church and would be recognised legally while non-church ceremonies would not be deemed legal.
4. Bride and Groom must both be 21 or over to marry without their parents or guardians consent.



## THE LAW

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✧ This law was introduced to prevent the thousands of marriages which were taking place illegally around the country, causing an outcry as these ceremonies were never properly recorded and led to many disputes where land-owners daughters had married against their fathers wishes.

✧ To be married in this way all the Bride and Groom had to do was appear before a parson and two witnesses and declare their wish to be married.

## THE CHANGES IN LAW

- ✧ in 1857 Lord Brougham brought in a bill changing the law which meant that a couple must be in residence in the area for a minimum of 21 days prior to the proposed date "the three week cooling-off period»
- ✧ 1977 saw yet another change in law which removed the three week cooling off period as there was no longer a residential qualification.
- ✧ The latest change in the law occurred in June 2002 whereby Registrars were allowed to perform civil ceremonies outwith the Registry offices, in approved venues.

# THE CEREMONY

The ceremonies were usually performed by one of the village blacksmiths who in those days were at the heart of the community and held in suitable regard. Even today, many of the Ministers refer, in their services, to the similarity of a blacksmith joining 2 metals over the anvil to



# ANVIL HALL

✦ **Gretna Green, the worlds most romantic wedding venue ...** Anvil Hall is set in its own grounds, away from other wedding parties and the many tourists that visit Gretna Green.

✦ All weddings are conducted by candlelight and a host of locations are available for photographs inside and





