

The Perfect Place

Can't decide where to hold your special occasion? *Place*
 Deborah Cicurel is full of bright ideas...

Allianz Park

Allianz Park, the home of Saracens Rugby Club, is not only a haven for sports fans, but can cater for any sort of party, from small intimate gatherings to whopping receptions fitting 2,000 people. A well-known entrepreneur – who must remain nameless – recently held a party at Allianz Park, going all out with 'A Midsummer's Night Dream' theme. All the staff dressed up as fairies and there was an impressive man-made tree as a centrepiece. That wasn't all there was to wow the guests, though – they could also play with driving and racing simulators and were sung to by the cast of London's *Mamma Mia*. Not too shabby! "We pride ourselves on our blank canvas space, giving clients the ability to completely theme the rooms," an Allianz Park representative declares, and with epic past themed events, from a Monopoly evening to a Wimbledon wedding, we can see why.

Institute of Directors

The Institute of Directors is well known for being a popular business venue, with thousands of members and their guests visiting every week – but it's also a brilliant place to hold a *simcha*, with the Grade I listed building holding from 10 to 400 people for your event. Situated in Pall Mall, the building is just a stone's throw from Trafalgar Square and the West End, and all its rooms reveal impressive Regency architecture and elaborate works of art, adding a touch of elegance to your event. You can even rent out the building exclusively for the whole weekend, something that can't be said of the majority of central London venues, and the Institute prides itself on providing a range of pricing options to suit all

budgets. It's not only a great place to hold your *simcha*, but it's also been used in the past to film movies including *The Dark Knight*, *Gandhi* and *Foyle's War* – cool or what?

Jewish Museum

The Jewish Museum is a truly unique place to hold a *simcha*, as Judith Vandervelde, its senior educator, will tell you. Her son, Sam, had his *barmitzvah* in the museum last year, and Judith compared the event to having a *barmitzvah* 'at home' as it has such an intimate feel – although it can still fit up to 150 people. The family, which has roots in Liverpool, organised a Beatles tribute band and gave their guests bagels to take home – but, best of all, their family and friends were free to roam the museum while the party was going on, meaning the event was not just confined to one room and had an educational dimension. Located in Camden, it's a new, exciting and unconventional place for your party.

Middle Temple Hall

This imposing venue, which can hold up to 300 people seated, has not only had its share of celebrity events (the blessing of Stanley Tucci and Felicity Blunt was held there in 2012), but has also served as the backdrop for famous movies, with the engagement scene in *Bridget Jones's Diary* taking places in one of its corridors, as well as scenes from *The Da Vinci Code*, *Mission: Impossible 5*, *Downton Abbey* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. But perhaps the hall's most impressive event was its *Harry Potter* themed party, where it was transformed to look uncannily like the Great Hall, with candles hanging from the ceiling, all guests dressed in Hogwarts robes, headless and monster waiters, a Quidditch room with a themed bar,





a palm reading/tea leaves room, a computer generated machine to pretend you are riding a broom and even a live owl brought in to fly around the room. Whatever your theme, Middle Temple can bring it to life like nowhere else.

The Montcalm

Have you ever dreamed of getting married in a beautiful, elegant synagogue and then seamlessly walking to your wedding hall without the hassle of buses, taxis and parking? If so, then The Montcalm is for you. Located seconds from Marble Arch Synagogue, the venue can fit up to 600 people, so there's no need to worry about leaving out your great-aunt's sister's husband's daughter. Situated just by Hyde Park Corner and serviced by two grand marble reception areas and an opulent marble staircase, The Montcalm is a space sure to impress and delight your guests.

Beales Hotel

Beales Hotel is a modern, unusual establishment in Hatfield with contemporary design and the capacity for large parties of 300 people. Established in 2004, the hotel is family-owned, with the Beales family running hotels through three generations since 1964 (so you know they know what they're doing!). Best of all, you can even sneak up to your bedroom in the middle of your party to change your shoes and top up your make-up, as the venue holds 53 stunning modern bedrooms. It's not too far from central London, either – so it's perfect if

you want a country wedding feel, but just a few miles from home.

One Whitehall Place

Located on the Thames, the imposing One Whitehall Place is straight out of a glitzy movie, with doormen in top hats, an elaborate marble staircase, sparkling chandeliers and grand floor to ceiling windows. The building is a living history book, its first stone having been laid by William Gladstone in 1884, and then served as home ever since to foreign embassies, the Ministry of Defence and even the secret

services during the Second World War. Part of the five-star Royal Horseguards Hotel, One Whitehall Place can hold wedding ceremonies in four rooms, whether the historic Whitehall Suite with its double-height ceilings or the more intimate River Room. And there's no need to worry about anything going awry, as the venue provides you with your very own dedicated wedding planner to take care of every minuscule detail.

The Chelsea Harbour Hotel

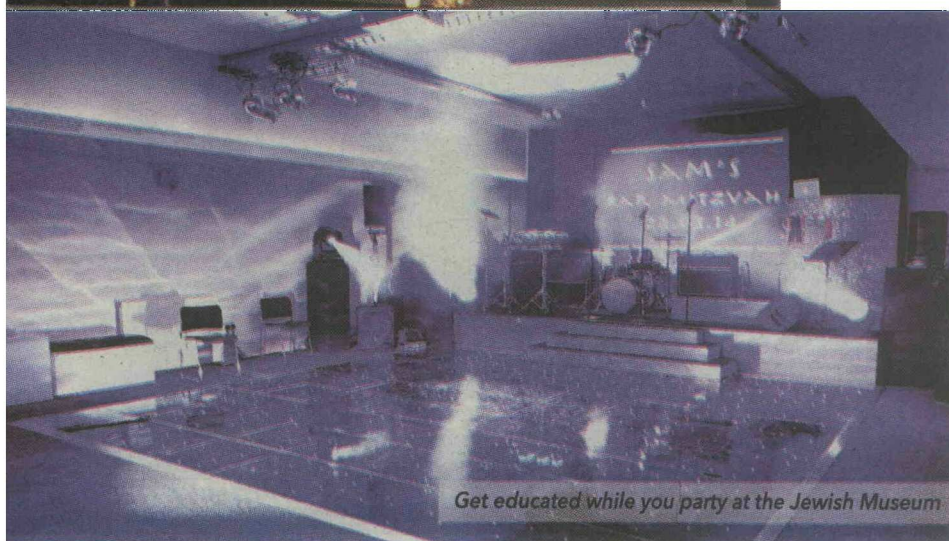
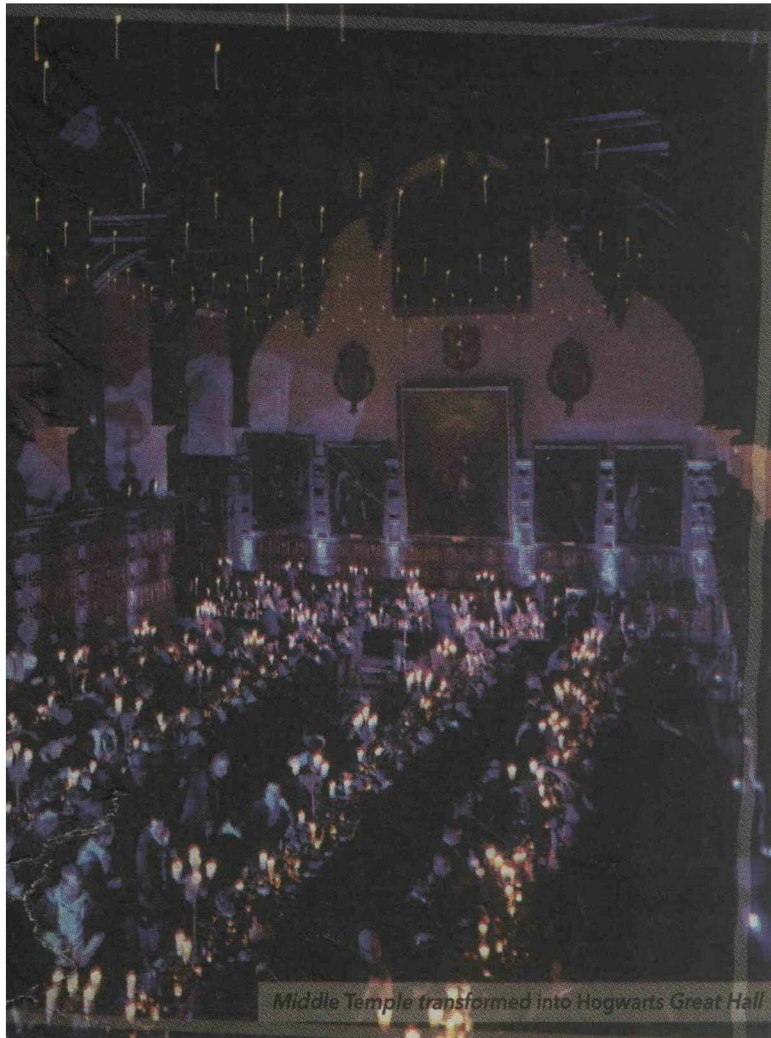
The five star Chelsea Harbour Hotel is a swanky place to hold a simcha by anyone's standards. With views of the River Thames and Chelsea Harbour, it's a picturesque and luxurious location for a party. If you're looking for an intimate place in which to hold an event, there are several small rooms available, but you can also go all out, with the hotel able to cater for weddings of up to 600 guests. We all know how important those perfect wedding photos are, so it's a good thing you've got the penthouse floor

to provide a panoramic background for those family snaps over London. There's a dedicated function team to help you with everything from the decoration to the music, and you can be sure that your guests will be comfortable and chic in one of the hotel's 158 luxury suites – each of which have an espresso machine to help you recove from your all-night party!

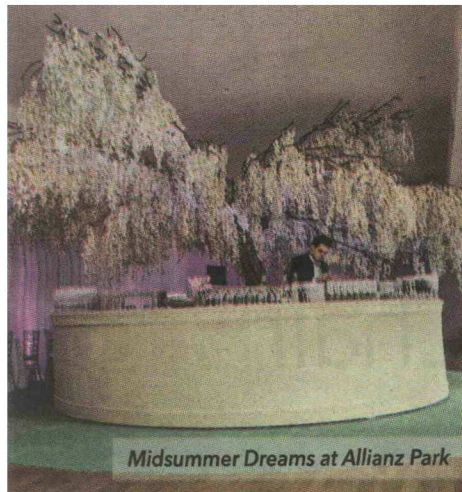
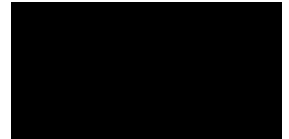
Sheraton Skyline Hotel

Minutes from Heathrow airport, the Sheraton Skyline Hotel can accommodate up to 320 guests and prides itself on helping with everything, from the choice of flowers to discounted accommodation rates for wedding guests. It's a perfect choice of venue if you've got many foreign visitors – there's no need for them to hop on the Heathrow Express or wait eons for a taxi! The venue will even roll out the red carpet for your guests' arrival, so it's glamorous from the word go.

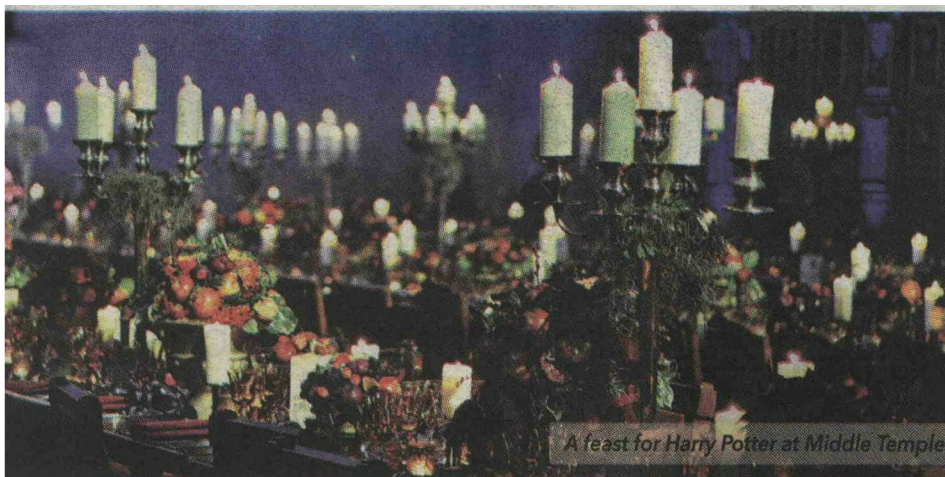
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A feast for Harry Potter at Middle Temple



A historical setting at One Whitehall Place



Beales Hotel in Hatfield for a country affair