

Parklife

Spring
2024

All the
fun
from
Nene Park

What's on... March – May 2024



Peterborough Celebrates Festival

See page 6

Also inside:
**Park
developments**
.....
**Our holiday
clubs**

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Nene Park

Welcome to Spring Parklife 2024!

Although the Park is still very wet in places after February's flooding, the signs of spring are appearing at every turn.

Buds and blossom are bursting out and it won't be long before Bluebell Wood has a blue carpet just like the front cover of this magazine. We've even noticed the swans on Overton Lake starting to build their nests so keep an eye out for lots of new families in the Park soon.

For our staff too there's a sense of anticipation building in the air. Nene Outdoors has just opened its doors for the season and we're getting our eco passenger boat ready to relaunch and Longthorpe Tower ready to reopen.

There is lots of preparation for events over the Easter holidays including our brand new exciting

Easter Adventure Trail event down at Lakeside – find out more on our events pages.

Of course we're also gearing up for our 3rd Peterborough Celebrates Festival over the weekend of the 18th-19th May.

You can find out more about all our plans over the next few months in this edition of Parklife and we hope you can visit soon and spend time exploring our greenspaces - whatever the weather!

We look forward to welcoming you to the Park soon.

The Nene Park Trust team



Brimstone butterfly



Snakes head fritillary

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2024

Our ever-popular monthly photography competitions are back up and running for 2024, giving Park visitors once again the opportunity to share their photography talents.

Please join in if you can! You can enter photographs you have taken anywhere on the Nene Park estate - scenic views, recognisable landmarks, seasonal nature or the wonderful wildlife that makes its home here.

This year we're adding all our monthly winners into a final public vote to find our photo of the year! The winner will receive a hamper of amazing goodies from the Visitor Centre! All our monthly winners also enjoy their photograph being shared on our social media pages, displayed in our annual winter photography exhibition and featured in the 2025 Nene Park fundraising calendar.

So what are you waiting for? Dust off your cameras, fire up your smart phones and get snapping in the Park. Then email your photos to marketing.NPT@neneparktrust.org.uk. We look forward to seeing your entries!

Wildlife spotting

Here are a few wildlife highlights to look out for in the Park over the next few months...

As well as the stunning bluebells in Bluebell Wood, keep an eye out for snake's head fritillaries starting to come through in April/May. The best place to spot these is on the mound where the Pyramid sculpture is, on the north side of Gunwade Lake in Ferry Meadows.

Cowslips and primroses are also fairly early flowers and often show quite well along Ham Lane and around the Lakeside Road end of Oak Meadow.

Early butterflies will start emerging any time now. Keep an eye out for brimstone, orange tip, and any red admirals and small tortoiseshells that have overwintered as adults.



Sculpture Spotlight #NeneParkArt

In each Parklife issue we ask a member of the Nene Park staff team to talk about one of their favourite sculptures in the Peterborough Sculpture Collection. In this issue, Michelle, Business Services Officer, has chosen Visions of Nature by Jeni Cairns, located near Goldie Bridge in Ferry Meadows.

"I enjoy spending time in nature when I'm walking my dog, or riding my bike. When I cycle to work I pass one of my favourite sculptures in the Park, Visions of Nature. The sculpture is made from cut steel so you can see nature and the landscape in and through the artwork.

"I really like the silhouettes of leaves, flowers and dragonflies decorating the three sides and the colour of the metal changes depending on the season – matching the leaves and berries in autumn and the meadow grasses in summer."

Have you seen this sculpture? Share a photo of your favourite sculpture [#NeneParkArt](#) or email art@neneparktrust.org.uk.

You can also find lots more information on all the sculptures in our Sculpture Collection on our website www.nenepark.org.uk/sculptures

Have your say on nature recovery in your area!

Please fill in this survey from Natural Cambridgeshire on nature recovery in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

The survey closes on 5th April – thank you!
<https://forms.office.com/e/gz7th9AkkE>

If you would like to be added to our email mailing list or require this magazine in another format, please get in touch.

**Nene Park Trust, Ham Farm House,
Ham Lane, Peterborough, PE2 5UU
E: visitor.services@neneparktrust.org.uk
T: 01733 234193**

SPRING GIFTING IN THE VISITOR CENTRE

Easter is early this year, so we already have an egg-citing range of Easter goodies for you to come in and find. Pick up iced biscuits, chocolate lollies and hot chocolate spoons, as well as little packets of Easter cookies.

Check out new arrivals from Wrendale Design gifts and luxury bath bombs from Bomb Cosmetics. Come in and have a browse!

Don't forget that we also stock our very own Nene Park lamb in the shop now, in partnership with Grasmere butchers – from lambs born and reared on our Nene Park Rural Estate.



Nene Park Trust staff learn BSL

Three members of Nene Park Trust staff are currently learning British Sign Language! Abi and Emily are studying the 10-week Introduction to BSL course and Charley Genever (Peterborough Presents) is learning Level 1.

A huge thank you goes to Cambridgeshire Skills for funding the Introductory course and to Caron at Cambourne Village College for teaching!

As Deaf Awareness week runs 1-7th May, we are marking the week by hosting a social walk on 1st May at Ferry Meadows. Abi, Emily and Charley will be there to practice their BSL with those who would like to. All are welcome – it's free to attend!



Park Developments

OUR WELCOME AREA TRANSFORMED

Our new welcome area development is coming on and on track to be completed by the end of April.

The toilets are currently being refurbished and the new Changing Places toilet block is being built. Visitors will see that our new feature tree has arrived and been planted in the centre of the welcome area.



This tree is an elm tree (Ulmus New Horizon which has been bred to be 100% Dutch elm disease resistant!) and will be a wonderful focal point for the space. Look out for new seating arriving to go around it soon!

Other new features to keep an eye out for are the new canopy over the car park payment machines which will give shelter and space for visitor information, timber cladding to the buildings, an archway leading into the wildlife garden, giving a clear visitor route into Park, new visitor signage and plenty of new biodiversity-rich planting.

These works have been made possible by funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund as part of our 5-year Your Community Greenspace project.

Find out more about the project at www.nenepark.org.uk/welcome-area-improvements



Artist's impression of the new welcome area



EV chargers in Lakeside car park

Recharge!

Have you seen our EV chargers? We now have 26 EV chargers at our new Lakeside car park.

Electric vehicle drivers can charge their vehicles at a rate of 40p per kw hour, either through using the Monta app or by scanning a QR code. It's the perfect opportunity to combine car charging with spending time in our greenspaces.

Thorpe Meadows café

As we write, ground works have begun in preparation for our new café and toilets next to the car park at Thorpe Meadows.

We are hoping the café will finally be installed over the Easter holidays. It will be a great addition to this part of the Park and with facilities for loos and brews, you'll be able to start or end your explorations of the Sculpture Trail here.



Keep an eye on our website and social media for updates on this.



Artist's impression of the new café at Thorpe Meadows



Creating new wildlife habitats

Work has been progressing well over the last couple of months, with the huge mound of earth left over from the creation of the new Lakeside car park being moved into the south east corner of Gunwade Lake.

This is the first part of our project to create a new reed bed habitat for fish, birds, amphibians and invertebrates. 'Burying' this soil in Gunwade Lake has created a large underwater soil bed that will then be planted with common reed, which thrives in shallow water.

Over time, the reed will establish itself to create a large reed bed, currently a scarce habitat in the Park. This will improve the biodiversity of the lake as well as helping filter the water. Once established, this new reed bed habitat will support a wide variety of species. The dense tangle of submerged reed stems and roots will provide secure spawning sites for fish as well as a refuge for small fish, keeping them safe from predatory fish and birds.

This project is all thanks to funding from Valencia Communities Fund through the Landfill Communities Fund and from the Environment Agency Fisheries Improvement Programme and in partnership with the Environment Agency and Peterborough and District Angling Association (PDAA).

The area on Poppy Meadow where the mound of earth has been sitting for the past year is now being sown with wildflower seed to create a new wildlife flower meadow and bee and butterfly bank in the Park.

This element of the project is being kindly funded by Big Motoring World. Thank you!



Reed bed creation project from the air



Fen Group contractors move the soil mound into Gunwade Lake



PETERBOROUGH CELEBRATES FESTIVAL

AT FERRY MEADOWS
Hosted by Nene Park Trust



Peterborough Celebrates is our love letter to Peterborough

Peterborough Celebrates Festival is back at Ferry Meadows again for the 3rd year running and promises to be another fabulous celebration of our city - free to attend and filled with community, performances and fun for all the family.

The festival will run over the weekend of the 18th-19th May at Ferry Meadows and will celebrate everything we love about the city – our culture, our diversity and our talented communities, all bringing the city together.

The weekend will host a community festival, with something for everyone and the chance to enjoy and try a wide range of different experiences. From music, food and drink, performances, theatre, crafts, arts and culture, poetry and literature, health and wellbeing and sports, there will be a packed, eclectic, and diverse schedule of activities and entertainment across the weekend.

The Festival weekend will be free-to-attend, but we are planning some ticketed cinema showings in the Big Top on the Thursday and Friday evenings leading up to the festival weekend. We'll be announcing details of this as soon as we can.

Please get involved!



We would love to hear from:

- **Corporate groups who can sponsor an element of the Festival**
Sponsorship is more important than ever to our festival this year. If you are part of a company who would like to support Peterborough Celebrates, whilst also showcasing your brand and building your reputation and awareness across the city, we would love to have you as a sponsor for this event.
- **People or groups** who would like to be our Festival Maker volunteers – there are lots of roles available.
- **Performers or organisations** who have an activity to offer

Go to www.peterboroughcelebratesfestival.co.uk to find out more and get in touch.

Creating our community love heart bunting

A number of different schools and community groups are already involved in our community love heart bunting project and we'd love you to get involved too!

Please get in touch at festivals@neneparktrust.org.uk if you'd like to take part.

We are also holding two drop in workshops at Ferry Meadows on Thursday 4th and Friday 12th April. Come along and join in!

Your decorated hearts will be displayed as bunting in an installation at the heart of the festival site. Why don't you try and spot your decorated hearts when you come to the festival.

To find out more about the festival programme as it is announced and our detailed list of FAQs please go to www.peterboroughcelebratesfestival.co.uk



Community love heart bunting

Be mindful at Nene Nursery

Nene Nursery, our community plant nursery on the edge of Ferry Meadows was created through the Your Community Greenspace project and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund. It was opened in autumn 2023 and is now offering regular health and wellbeing sessions to groups and individuals referred by local social prescribers.

We also hold regular public sensory craft sessions which are open to all to come along to. There are even some special events coming up at the nursery too.

Please pop in and experience this wonderful, peaceful, mindful environment. Take part in our sensory trail, try sensory natural crafts and find out about growing herbs and vegetables.

Special events coming up:

- Tulip Day - Saturday 27 April
- Herb Distillation Day - Saturday 1 June



Sensory crafts at Nene Nursery

Why is coming to Nene Nursery good for you?

- Spending time in nature has been shown to improve health and wellbeing
- There are lots of opportunities for learning new things
- The space and activities are inclusive and at your own pace



Nene Park Volunteering

Our Nene Park volunteer team is continuing to grow and we'd love to shout about the amazing impact they have on the work of Nene Park Trust.

We couldn't support the amount of conservation, education and events that we do without the support of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you to each and every one of you!

We're currently recruiting for these volunteer roles:

- Companion Walk leader
- Longthorpe Tower guide
- Peterborough Celebrates Festival support

Please go to www.nenepark.org.uk/volunteer and find out how you can join us!

Our wonderful volunteers



Did you know...?

In 2023 our band of volunteers completed a whopping
13,290 HOURS

We currently have
OVER 160 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS
working in over 20 different roles across the Trust

The conservation volunteers alone completed
4,200 HOURS
in 2023

Introducing our Corporate Conservation Days!

Do you know a local company who would like to bring their staff to the Park and take part in some meaningful conservation tasks - or even try out our new Conservation PLUS offer?

We are now offering half day Corporate Conservation sessions (charged at £20 per person) and a full day Conservation PLUS offer (£35 per person), which includes conservation tasks in the morning and then an afternoon of green woodworking or weaving sessions in our wonderful Nene Nursery.

Find out more about these different offers at www.nenepark.org.uk/corporate-conservation-days

Corporate groups help coppicing



Update from the Education team



FREE school visits to our Rural Estate

We're working with our share farming partners to bring a unique addition to our education offer.

Educational farm visits on our Rural Estate will provide an enriching experience for students, taking the curriculum outside the traditional classroom and into the world of agriculture.

Following pilot sessions last summer, we're making improvements to the site, including installing a classroom shelter and composting toilet to ensure the comfort of our visitors!

Activities available for primary groups include species surveys, soil testing, sketch mapping and making seed bombs. In addition, our team are working with specialists in agri-education to develop activities for secondary aged students and beyond.

Exciting news! We have funding to be able to offer a limited number of education visits to the Rural Estate for students up to age 18, completely free of charge.

We expect these visits to be very popular, so send us an email at education@neneparktrust.org.uk if you would like to book a free visit for your students!

"My favourite part of the trip was when we made the seed bombs because I got to get my hands dirty!"

Pilot session student

"My favourite part was when we went in the long wavy grass and the surrounding was amazing!"

Pilot session student

Nature Tots and Wild Home Educators moving to Lynch Farm!

In May we are moving our regular children's activities over to Lynch Farm and expanding our offer.

We will be introducing Friday sessions as well as the ever-popular Monday sessions and launching a new forest school group for home-schooled children age 11-14.

Keep an eye on our website for more information coming soon.





20% off your 2024 bell tent bookings

Book a stay at our Lakeview bell tent campsite at Nene Outdoors and enjoy a 20% discount during off-peak dates.

Relax and enjoy the tranquillity of Gunwade Lake, explore the beautiful Nene Park and create unforgettable memories with your loved ones.

Special offer details:

- Valid 14 April to 23 May and 2 June to 18 July
- Eligible on Sunday to Thursday nights
- Offer also applies to group bookings for the whole campsite

Visit our website to book and enter code

OFFPEAK20
at the checkout.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



Our bell tents at Lakeview campsite

Hurrah, our holiday clubs are back!

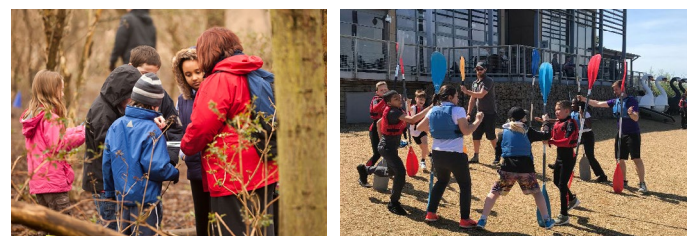
Get ready for action-packed adventures as our school holiday clubs return to Ferry Meadows!

At Nene Outdoors Watersports & Activity Centre, our Oak Adventurers holiday club designed for 8-13 year olds offers a fantastic opportunity for kids to hone their skills and experience a variety of adventurous water and land-based activities. From kayaking and paddleboarding to climbing and bushcraft, there's something for every young adventurer to enjoy.

But that's not all! This year we're excited to introduce a new holiday club aimed at younger children aged 5-8 years old, our Acorn Explorers! Packed with nature-based activities and creative outdoor bushcraft fun, it's the perfect opportunity for little ones to explore the great outdoors in a safe and supportive environment.

Our Nene Outdoors Oak Adventurers holiday club starts in the second week of the Easter holidays, with both clubs then running daily throughout May half Term. During the summer holidays Oak Adventurers will run daily and our Acorn Explorers will run for one week.

Visit our website to find out more and secure your child's place!

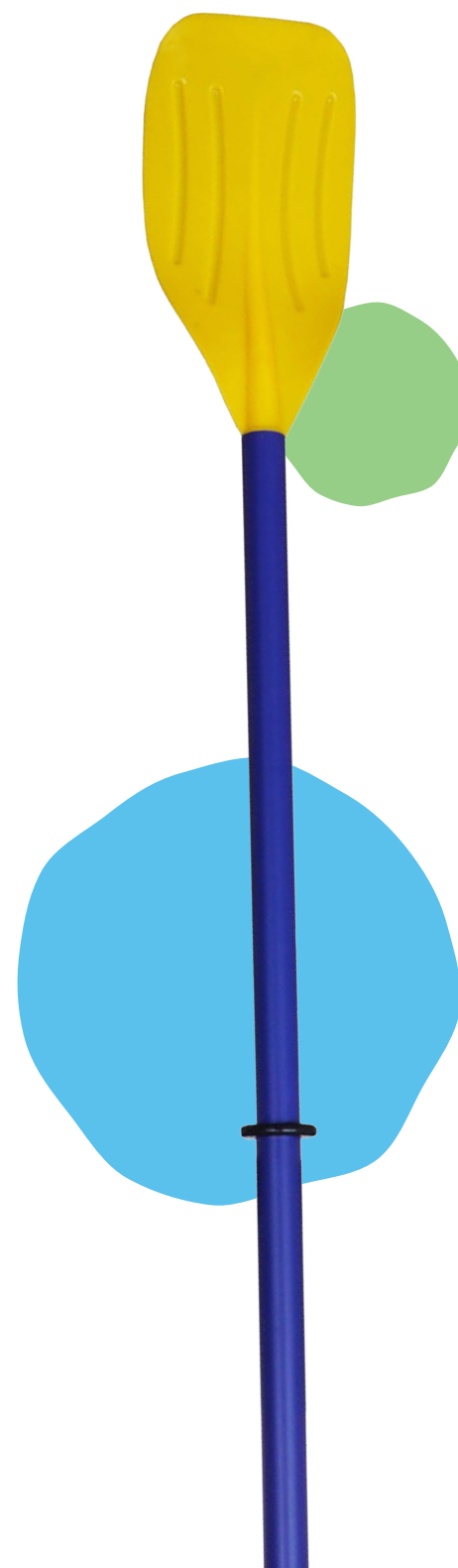


2024 RYA sailing courses

Our 2024 RYA sailing course dates are online and ready to book!

Set sail with courses for both adults and children at various skill levels, including dinghy, powerboat and windsurfing options.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES BACK UP AND RUNNING



Passenger Boat Trips

Weekends in term time and daily during the school holidays

Enjoy a tranquil trip around Overton Lake and onto the River Nene on our electrically-powered passenger boat. The 45-minute pre-bookable trips will depart from the Visitor Centre Jetty. Suitable for all ages, it's £9 per person and free for under 3s. Book online

Pay and Play Watersports Hire

Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6.30pm (10am at weekends) – and daily during the school holidays.

Make a splash with our 'Pay and Play' watersports. Activities include swan and dragon pedalos and row boats, stand up paddle boards, kayaks and canoes, dinghies and windsurfing.

Book online to avoid the queues on busy days!

Visit Longthorpe Tower

Weekends from the 23 March 10am-4.30pm

Visit Longthorpe Tower, the surviving tower of a 14th century fortified Manor House. It contains the finest set of medieval wall paintings in a domestic setting in Western Europe, giving a rare insight into the medieval mind.

Book your 1-hour tour with our knowledgeable volunteers between 10am – 4.30pm at weekends. Booking essential.

Open Water Swimming

Every Thursday 5.30-7pm starting on 9 May.

Come along and swim the 400m course on Gunwade Lake in these friendly sessions. Register with NOWCA and get your first swim session free. Subsequent sessions are £7.00.

Find out more at www.nenepark.org.uk/open-water-swimming

Go Camping

Upgrade your day out at Ferry Meadows to an overnight adventure!

Book one of our bell tents on 'Lakeview Campsite' or book a camping pitch at 'The Glade'. Located in the heart of Ferry Meadows, both campsites have access to a number of facilities and are ideally situated to take advantage of all the exciting activities on offer at Nene Outdoors.

Ride the Ferry Meadows Railway

All aboard the Ferry Meadows miniature railway!

Sit back and enjoy the ride as you pass through meadows while taking in views of Overton and Lynch Lakes. The carriages include a wheelchair coach which allows people to ride the train while remaining in their wheelchairs.

To see if trains are running on the day of your visit please go to the www.ferrymeadowsrailway.co.uk.

Spring Events

March, April, May and June at Nene Park

REGULAR CHILDREN'S NATURE ACTIVITIES



Nature Tots

Mondays – 11 March, 25 March, 8 April, 22 April, 13 May, 20 May, 3 June, 17 June 10am – 11.30am
Fridays – 3 May, 17 May, 31 May, 14 June 10am – 11.30am

A fun outdoor parent and toddler group with a nature theme. Each session will include a messy craft activity and activities exploring the beautiful outdoors. Sessions run every two weeks on a Monday, with a different theme each month. Please note, sessions on the second Monday are a repeat of the session on the first Monday. Please only book one session per month.

Suitable for: 2yrs +

Meeting point Mondays:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Meeting point Fridays:
Lynch Farm, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Wild Home Educators

Mondays – 11 March, 25 March, 8 April, 22 April, 13 May, 3 June, 17 June 1pm – 3pm

Every two weeks on a Monday we will be running outdoor learning sessions for home schooled children aged 5-11 years old. Each session will have Forest School and nature focussed activities.

Suitable for: 5 – 11yrs

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £7.50

Wild Home Educators Forest School

Fridays – 17 May, 31 May, 14 June 1pm – 3pm

Come and join us for fun Forest School sessions for home educated children aged 11-14 years old. You will get to try out a variety of activities across the year and learn or practice different skills. Sessions will be every two weeks on a Friday, with the second session being a repeat of the first one.

Suitable for: 11-14yrs

Meeting point:
Lynch Farm, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £7.50

EASTER HOLIDAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES



Easter Adventure Trail

Friday 29 March – Sunday 14 April 9.30am – 4pm

Brand new for 2024! Follow our Easter Adventure Trail, complete egg-citing activities and games along the way to win an Easter egg prize! In your Easter Adventure Trail activity booklet, you'll find a trail map, wildlife quiz and a scavenger hunt to complete along the route. You'll also come across four family-fun games to try, all with a hoppy Easter theme! No need to book, just turn up. Running every day during the Easter holidays whilst stocks last.

Suitable for:
Children of all ages and their families

Location:
Outside entrance to Lakeside Kitchen & Bar, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £3.50 per child.
Free for accompanying adults.

Climbing Taster

Tuesday 2 April and Thursday 11 April 11.30am – 3.30pm

The team at Nene Outdoors will have our climbing wall up for 45 minute taster sessions, running through the day. Are you brave enough to reach the top?

Suitable for: 4yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £12

Charming Worms

Wednesday 3 April 10.30am – 12pm OR 1.30pm – 3pm

Come along to find out more about these amazing wriggly creatures and have a go at charming them to the surface. We'll see who can find the shortest and longest and then you can make a wormery to take home with you.

Suitable for: 2yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Archery Taster

Thursday 4 April and Tuesday 9 April 11am – 3.30pm

Group Pay and Play Archery sessions running through the day. Come and have a go at a 45 minute session.

Suitable for: 8yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £12

Meeting Magical Mammals

Thursday 4 April 9.30am – 11.30am

Join a ranger for a short walk to discover the small mammals that live in the Park. We will hopefully get to see voles, mice and shrews, as well as talk about their habitat, diet and identifying features.

Suitable for: 5yrs +

Meeting point:
Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Heart Decorating workshops

Thursday 4 April and Friday 12 April 11am – 3pm

Get involved with preparations for Peterborough Celebrates Festival (18-19 May) by decorating hearts, which will be displayed at the festival. No need to book – just come along.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Wooden hut near the Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free

Oak Adventurers Holiday Club

Monday 8 April – Friday 12 April 8.30am – 3.30pm

Come along and try a variety of adventurous water and land-based activities. From kayaking and paddleboarding to climbing and bushcraft there's so much to keep the kids entertained. Parents do not need to stay with their child.

Suitable for: 8-13 yrs

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £43 per day.

Orienteering Challenge

Tuesday 9 April 1pm – 2.30pm

Do you think you can follow the directions and find your way around an orienteering route? Come along and join us to test out your skills and see who will be the first to visit all the points. Children need to be supervised by at least one adult. You do not need to have orienteering experience.

Suitable for: 8-13yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Treasure Hunt

Tuesday 9 April 10.30am – 12pm

Can you use the clues to help you find the hidden items at the end of the trail?

Suitable for: 4-7yrs

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Tree-tectives

Wednesday 10 April 10.30am – 12pm or 1.30pm – 3pm

Discover the different trees of Ferry Meadows and complete your very own Ferry Meadows Tree Encyclopaedia.

Suitable for: 5yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Remarkable Romans

Thursday 11 April 10.30am – 12pm or 1.30pm – 3pm

A fun session for children and their families. Come along and find out about the Romans who made their home in the area and see if you can work

together to create your own Roman catapult (onager)

Suitable for: 7yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Family Wildlife Boat Trip

Friday 12 April 9.15am – 10.45am

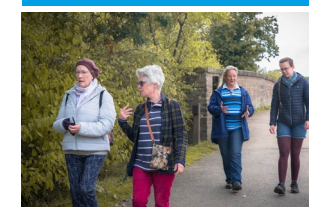
Join one of our rangers on our electric passenger boat for a trip of Overton Lake and the River Nene, taking in a unique view of the Park while also discovering its diverse wildlife.

Suitable for: 5yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £15

WALKS & TALKS



Social Walking Group

Wednesday 20 March, Tuesday 2 April, Wednesday 17 April, Tuesday 7 May, Wednesday 22 May, Monday 3 June, 10.30am -12pm

Join our regular social walking group to keep fit, explore new areas of Nene Park and make new friends. Walks are led by a member of the Nene Park Team and are approximately 5 km (3 miles) in distance. Each month we will explore a different area of Nene Park.

Suitable for: 14yrs +

Meeting point:
Various – please check website for each walk.

Cost: Free - no need to book.

Roman Talk – Edmund Artis

Thursday 25 April 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Join us and Prof. Stephen Upex for an evening talk about Edmund Artis who looked at geology, palaeontology, and archaeology in East Anglia in the 19th century. We will learn about his connection to Milton Hall and the Fitzwilliam family, scandal and all! Stephen will talk about his new book about this fascinating character.

Suitable for: 12yrs +

Meeting point:
Lakeside Meeting Room, Nene Outdoors

Cost: £6.00

Social Walking Group with British Sign Language

Wednesday 1 May 1-2pm

Join our social walking group around the lakes of Ferry Meadows – with the added bonus of some BSL support. The walk is led by members of the Nene Park Team who have been learning British Sign Language (BSL) and is approximately 5 km (3 miles) in distance. Everyone is welcome to join the walk but we would love to welcome those who would benefit from sharing BSL.

Suitable for: 14yrs +

Meeting point:
Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free - no need to book.

Guided Walk – Thorpe Meadows Sculpture Trail

Saturday 11 May 2.30-4pm
Thursday 20 June 10.30am – 12pm

Join our Arts Officer for a gentle walk around Thorpe Meadows Sculpture Trail exploring the 12 artworks and enjoying the landscape around the rowing lake.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Thorpe Meadows car park

Cost: £5.50

Raptor Talk

Tuesday 21 May 6.45 pm – 8.30pm

Join one of our rangers, Jamie for an informative talk about raptors and birds of prey.

Suitable for: 12yrs +

Meeting point:
Lakeside Meeting Room

Cost: £6.00

Wildflower Talk and Survey

Saturday 8 June 10am-12.30pm

Join one of our rangers, Sophie, for an informative talk on the flora we have in the park, how we manage our grasslands for wildlife and then head out into one of wild flowers meadows to undertake a wildflower survey.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Lakeside Hub, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £11

Spring Events – continued

March, April, May and June at Nene Park

River to Rail Walk

Wednesday 12 June 9am-3pm

Walk the Nene Way from Ferry Meadows to Wansford railway station, with time to look around the station before heading back to Ferry Meadows on the train.

Suitable for: 12yrs +

Meeting point:
Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £11

NENE NURSERY EVENTS



Sensory Craft sessions

Tuesday 30 April 2-3pm,
Wednesday 29 May 2-3pm,
Wednesday 26 June 2-3pm,
Tuesday 23 July 11am-12pm

Come along to the Nene Nursery and explore various craft skills – from branch weaving to slow stitching. These crafts will have an emphasis on mindfulness and enjoying the process. Our sensory trail will be running alongside the craft activities. Information boards are placed around the Nene Nursery site, encouraging visitors to engage with the herb-growing area, ornamental ash tree, fruit bed and more.

These sessions can be self-led if preferred, or guided by Nene Park Trust staff and volunteers.

Suitable for:
All ages (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ham Lane

Cost: Free. No need to book – just drop in.

Tulip Day

Saturday 27 April 11am-1pm

Come along to the Nene Nursery for a creative session all round tulips! Nursery-grown tulips will be available to take away, as well as related Craft activities.

Suitable for:
All ages (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ham Lane

Cost: Free. No need to book – just drop in.

Herb Distillation Day

Saturday 1 June 11am-1pm

Come along to the Nene Nursery for a demo on extracting lavender & rosemary essential oils and floral waters.

Suitable for:
All ages (children must be accompanied by an adult)

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ham Lane

Cost: Free. No need to book – just drop in.

SPORTING EVENTS



British Canoeing Short Course Marathon Championships

Sunday 12 May 9am – 5pm

British Canoeing bring the marathon canoe racing short course event to Ferry Meadows in 2024 for the third year.

Suitable for: all ages

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free

ARTS, CRAFTS & HERITAGE



Adult Fused Glass Workshop – Easter Egg

Saturday 16 March 10.30am – 12pm & 1.30pm-3pm

Join June from Semperart to make your own unique fused glass. On this course you will expand your skills, learn how different glass fuses and make a beautiful Easter egg decoration.

Suitable for: 18 yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £40

Art Club

Saturdays 23 March,
20 April, 11 May,
8 June 10am – 12pm

Our fun monthly art workshops are a great opportunity to get creative, enjoy the outdoors and work with local artists. Art Club is for young people aged 13-17, no experience necessary and all materials are provided.

Suitable for: 13-17yrs

Meeting point:
Volunteer Hub, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £20 for 4 sessions

Express Eco Printing Workshop

Saturday 23 March
10am - 2pm

A taster workshop to introduce you to the ancient art of using natural dyes to dye fabric and native flora to print using the eco dyeing express method on paper and fabric.

They can be hand or machine stitched, painted, add beads and sequins. They can be used to make cards, wall hangings, for journals or a little framed picture, great as a gift.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £35

Willow Weaving Taster Workshop

Sunday 24 March
10am – 12pm OR 1pm – 3pm

Join Martin from Rutland Willow for a taster session. On this workshop you will make up to four small animals, including a fish, snail and ending with a beautiful dragonfly.

Suitable for: 16yrs +

Meeting point:
Discover Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £35

Soap Making Workshop

Saturday 13 April
10.30am – 2.30pm

Join us for a creative class to learn the intricacies of cold process soap making. You will be guided through each stage (by Pia from the Tval Soap Company) and learn to mix essential oils, botanicals and clays. All ingredients, including the purest butters and oils, are provided and you will take your own batch of soap home at the end of the session!

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £60

Adult Crochet Workshop – Bees

Saturday 20 April
10am – 12pm or 1pm – 3pm

Learn to make a cute amigurumi crochet bee key ring. You will need to know basic crochet

stitches and all materials and equipment are provided. If you have your own 3mm hook, feel free to bring it along.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Lakeside Hub, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £25

Mono Printing workshop

Saturday 27 April 10am – 12pm
or 1pm – 3pm

Learn the basics of monoprinting and create your own monoprint artworks to take home! Monoprinting is a fantastic printmaking technique in its own right and creates very unique results.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £40

Peterborough Celebrates Festival

Saturday 18 and
Sunday 19 May

Come and join in this fantastic weekend of community music, performances, art and activity.

Keep an eye on our website and social channels for more information soon.

Longthorpe Tower: Living History tours

Saturday 20 and Sunday 21 April

Discover more about life in medieval manor house from the costumed Medieval Sokemen group.

Suitable for: 12yrs +

Meeting point:
Longthorpe Tower

Cost: £10

Needle Felted Bird Workshop for Adults

Sunday 9 June 9.30am-12pm
or 1pm-3.30pm

Artisan felter and teacher Eve Marshall leads this workshop, designed to give you an opportunity to try Needle Felting. You will learn about the tools and materials while learning the basic techniques for yourself. Learn how to needle felt a swan, duck or heron sculpture during this half day workshop.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £30

WATERSPORTS & COURSES



Pay and Play Watersports

Tuesday – Sunday 11am-4pm

The season has started at Nene Outdoors which means that paddlesports hire is available once more. Why not come along and take out a row boat, swan pedalo, paddleboard, kayak, a canoe or even a sailing dinghy?

Suitable for:
All ages – check with the Nene Outdoors team on any age restrictions or weather conditions.

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: From £10

Open Water Swimming

Thursday evenings from May – September 5.30-7pm

9th May sees the start of our weekly open water swimming sessions. Whether you are training for a triathlon or just want to take part in an activity which is sociable and good for you, everyone is welcome!

Suitable for:
9 yrs+ and all children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £7

RYA Power Boat Course – Level 2

Saturday 23 March and
Sunday 24 March 9am – 5pm
Saturday 21 September and
Sunday 22 September 9am-5pm

This two day entry level course provides the skills to drive a powerboat.

Suitable for: 16yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £300

RYA Youth Sailing Course Stage 1

Monday 8 April and Tuesday 9
April 9am – 5pm
Tuesday 28 May and
Wednesday 29 May 9am – 5pm

This course will teach you launching and recovery, sailing across the wind, turning around, steering and basic parts of the boat. By the end of the course you will be able to sail across the wind, steer and understand the basic principles of sailing.

Suitable for: 8 – 15yrs

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

RYA Youth Sailing Course Stage 2

Thursday 30 May and
Friday 31 May 9am – 5pm
Wednesday 7 August and
Thursday 8 August 9am – 5pm

This course will teach you improved sailing skills on all points of sailing. By the end of the course you will be more confident in tacking, jibing, rope work and collision avoidance.

Suitable for: 8-15yrs

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

RYA Adult Start Sailing Course, Level 1

Saturday 27 April and Sunday
28 April 9am – 5pm, Saturday
25 May and Sunday 26 May
9am – 5pm, Saturday 8 June
and Sunday 9 June 9am - 5pm

This two day course covers how to sail in all directions, including an awareness of launching and recovery. By the end of the course you will be able to sail in light winds under supervision.

Suitable for: 16yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

RYA Adult Start Sailing Course, Level 2

Saturday 15 June and
Sunday 16 June 9am – 5pm

During this two day course you will learn rigging, launching and will build confidence in sailing in all directions, capsizing recovery and essential safety knowledge.

By the end of the course, you'll be able to sail confidently on all points of sail and make decisions in good conditions. You must have completed the Level 1 Sailing Course before attending this course.

Suitable for: 16yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

Spring Events – continued

March, April, May and June at Nene Park

RYA Adult Start Windsurfing Course

Saturday 27 July and
Sunday 28 July 9am – 5pm

Nene Outdoors is the perfect place to learn to windsurf on our two day course. Our safe and sheltered waters help you progress in this sport, giving you the opportunity to focus on learning the basics, including preparation, sailing in all directions, maneuvering the board and getting on and off the water.

Suitable for: 16 yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors,
Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

MAY HALF TERM FAMILY ACTIVITIES



May Half Term Holiday Trail

Saturday 25 May –
Sunday 2 June 10am – 4pm

Complete a trail around Ferry Meadows. Answer the questions and claim a prize at the end!

Suitable for: all ages

Meeting point:
Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £1

Acorn Explorers Holiday Club

Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May
8.30am – 3.30pm

Come along and try a mix of bushcraft activities. We will try a variety of different activities, with possible activities including learning how to light a fire, building a shelter, and using tools safely.

Parents do not need to stay with their child.

Suitable for: 5-8yrs

Meeting point:
Lynch Farm, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £35 per day

Oak Adventurers Holiday Club

Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May
8.30am – 3.30pm

Come along and try a variety of adventurous water and land-based activities.

From kayaking and paddleboarding to climbing and bushcraft there's so much to keep the kids entertained. Parents do not need to stay with their child.

Suitable for: 8-13 yrs

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors,
Ferry Meadows

Cost: £43 per day.

Bug Hunt

Tuesday 28 May
10.30am-12pm or 1.30pm-3pm

Come along and join us in searching for the bugs that live in Ferry Meadows to see how many different ones we can find.

Suitable for: 2yrs +

Meeting point:
Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Wildlife Boat Trip

Wednesday 29 May
10.45am – 3pm

Join one of our rangers on our electric boat for a guided trip of Overton Lake and the River Nene, taking in a unique view of the park while also discovering its diverse wildlife.

Suitable for: 12yrs +

Meeting point:
The Boat Jetty,
Ferry Meadows

Cost: £15

Climbing Taster

Tuesday 28 May 11am-3.25pm

The team at Nene Outdoors will have our climbing wall up for 45-minute sessions throughout the day. Are you brave enough to reach the top?

Suitable for: 4yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors,
Ferry Meadows

Cost: £12

Archery Taster

Thursday 30 May
10.30am – 3pm

Group Pay and Play Archery sessions running throughout the day. Come for a 45-minute session to have a go.

Suitable for: 8yrs +

Meeting point:
Nene Outdoors,
Ferry Meadows

Cost: £12

Meet the Roman Professor

Friday 31 May 2.30pm – 4pm

Around 50 years ago, the idea of Ferry Meadows as a park was just being imagined. Professor Stephen Upex led a team of archaeologists to discover the history of Romans at Ferry Meadows before the Park was created. Come and find out more!

Suitable for: 8yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £2.50 per adult /
£5.50 per child

Look out for our 'Cinema on the Lake'!

24 and 25 June

Open air film screenings at
Gunwade Lake.

More details will be
announced soon.

Events information

- All events can be booked online using our booking system. Unless stated, all events must be booked in advance, some of which have multiple time slots. For all upcoming events and to book your place, please call in at the Visitor Centre or visit www.nenepark.org.uk
- Event details are correct at the time of going to press. Please check the website for up to date information.
- If you book onto an event and are unable to come, please let us know.

- Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult, up to a maximum of three children per adult.
- Many of our events are either free or on a cost recovery basis. If you enjoyed an event and would like to donate towards the £50,000 spent annually on delivering these events, the suggested donation is £2.

Accessibility

- We offer a range of services at events such as accessible maps, mobility scooters and assistance dogs are welcome.
- If you have any special requirements or queries, please get in touch or visit the accessibility page on our website.
- Some events involve uneven surfaces and climbing, so please phone for more details.