

Parklife

Summer
2024

All the
fun
from
Nene Park

June - September 2024



Summer Nights!

See page 13

Find out about:

**Our great
summer events**

**Our Community
Green Bus**

nenepark.org.uk

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Nene Park

Welcome to Summer Parklife 2024!

We have had a very busy few months here in the Park with the third Peterborough Celebrates Festival in May, which saw thousands of visitors flocking to enjoy a wide range of performances, music, art, sport and community activity in the sunshine! Find out more about the weekend on pages 8-9.

Summer is slowly arriving in the Park but we haven't had many warm days – yet! Everywhere is looking green and lush though from all the rain and the air is certainly filled with birdsong and butterflies, making it the perfect place to come and visit.

We're excited about the months ahead and have so much going on here for you all to enjoy. Take a passenger boat ride on Overton Lake; try paddlesports on Gunwade Lake; have a browse in our Visitor Centre; enjoy a cuppa in the cafes and even extend your visit with a night or two under canvas at the Nene Outdoors campsites. Take a look at our events listings on pages 15-20 to see all our different activities and events for all the family too. We've got some exciting open-air cinema and theatre this summer – find out more on page 13. We look forward to welcoming you to the Park soon.

The Nene Park Trust team

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION CONTINUES...

Our monthly photography competitions continue to receive plenty of wonderful entries from visitors keen 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 can 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.



April's Winner
Clare Ratcliffe



May's Winner
Daniel Youngs

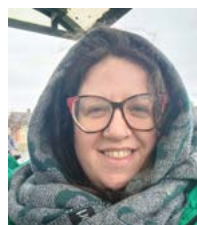
So what are you waiting for? Dust off your cameras, fire up your smart phones and get snapping in the Park. Then email your photos to marketing.NPT@neneparktrust.org.uk. We look forward to seeing your entries!



Lynch
Wood Seat
by Lee Mawby

Sculpture Spotlight

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, Lou, Fundraising Officer, has chosen Lynch Wood Seat by Lee Mawby, located in Lynch Wood between Ferry Meadows and Alwalton.



"I recently came across this special sculpture when I spent the day with one of our Park Rangers. I absolutely loved how regal they looked, framed by the tall cedar of Lebanon trees. There is an air of ancient tradition and a lost time about the chairs. They made me think of the mystical people who might have lived here – and important gatherings, where I could imagine all manner of decisions being made about the woodland".

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

You can find out more information about Peterborough Sculpture Collection and the Thorpe Meadows Sculpture Trail at www.nenepark.org.uk/sculptures



Try running!

This summer, we're launching FREE beginner running sessions at Thorpe Meadows to create the opportunity to feel healthy, improve fitness and wellbeing while enjoying being outside in green spaces. Find out more and come and join in!

The run sessions are being led by nine enthusiastic volunteers who have completed a Leadership in Run Fitness (LiRF) qualification, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund, through the Your Community Greenspace project. One of the wider project aims is to bring communities together and to connect them to greenspaces through fitness and exercise. 'Try Running' is a friendly beginners introduction to running outside. Everyone is welcome!

Our qualified run leader volunteers will be offering sessions on different days and times to suit different people. Find out more about dates, times and what the sessions consist of at www.nenepark.org.uk/news/try-running-news

Keep an eye out for news coming soon about Tai Chi sessions in the Park too!



Purple Hairstreak survey success!

Last summer, we undertook the first species specific surveys for Purple Hairstreak butterflies as part of a national scheme led by Butterfly Conservation.

Purple Hairstreaks are a small butterflies, which generally stay high in the canopy of oak trees feeding on the honeydew, and are usually more active in the evenings during their flight period in July and August. It is because of their behaviour and chosen habitat that they are generally very under-recorded, which is why a more targeted survey has been started. Over seven evenings in July and August 2023 a team of staff and volunteers surveyed the line of oak trees between Coney and Oak Meadows in Ferry Meadows, a known hotspot for Purple Hairstreaks.

A total of **82 butterflies** were recorded across the **7 surveys**, an increase from 10 recorded from 2019 to 2022, showing that maybe these butterflies are even more under-recorded than we realised. In March 2024, we were recognised in the annual UK Butterfly Recorders Meeting held by Butterfly Conservation as having the **10th highest count** across all the sites in the UK that took part!

This is a massive achievement for the team, and a massive thank you to the volunteers who offered their time to make the surveys possible, and getting Ferry Meadows on the UK butterfly map. We'll be surveying again in July and August this year, and hoping to beat last years' record.



A taste of summer in the Visitor Centre

Pop in to the Visitor Centre to see a wide range of children's toys from bubble swords and footballs to cuddly toys and monsters! This summer, we are filling our shop cart with a selection of toys all selling for £2.50 or less!

For our furry friends, we have an extensive range of Pooch's Treats and we now stock Hairy Dogs treats and lots of dog accessories such as leads, water bowls and toys. We also stock "Pawsome Parent" mugs so you can treat yourself as well.



Ferneley's Ice cream has to be tasted and we have six flavours on offer for this summer in their large 500ml tubs! Try chocolate, salted caramel, raspberry sorbet and a completely new flavour for us – honeycomb!

Fresh seasonal strawberries will be available throughout this summer, along with lots of tasty picnic items, new flavours of drinks, and a few cheeky sweets as well. Do pop in and say hi!

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

Sharing our Park Developments

Updated welcome area at Ferry Meadows



A new classroom

We have added a new classroom building behind the Discovery Den to expand our locations for school groups and education sessions. This will be called The Sett and the Discovery Den is being renamed as The Den.



CREATING A NEW HABITAT FOR BEES AND BUTTERFLIES

With the mound of earth from the creation of the new car park now moved from Poppy Meadow into Gunwade Lake to create the new reed bed, our volunteer team and staff have now sown wildflower seed on this area and it's already sprouting up! Expect a riot of colour in the next month or so!

We also kept back some of the earth to create a bee and butterfly bank in this area – another great habitat for our pollinators. This part of the project has been funded by Big Motoring World. Thank you!



Volunteers sowed wildflower seed on Poppy Meadow.



Welcome to Ferry Meadows!

Have you visited lately and seen the new improvements to the welcome area?

The new surfacing is complete and the central feature elm tree – now in leaf – looks fabulous surrounded by the new designed seating. We're sure you agree, this creates a real focal point and a great place for visitors to meet, talk and rest. The seating has been designed by local artist Jeni Cairns with input from our monthly art club participants. Have you spotted the poem set into the ground too? This was written by local poet Sandy Wardrop with help from children at Paston Ridings primary school and was inspired by the children's visits to the Park.

There is a newly landscaped path from this welcome area which takes you through the Wildlife Garden directly to the Visitor Centre.

The toilet block and Discovery Den have been wood clad to tie them in together and the toilets have all been refurbished. Our new Changing Places toilet is fully operational too and we're so pleased to be able to include this in our accessible facilities in the Park to make Park visits easier for all.

The new canopy over the parking payment machines is currently being installed and look out for new biodiversity rich planting over the next few months as well as new signage and visitor information.

These improvements have all 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



Refurbished toilets

Thorpe Meadows café

As we write, the opening of the new café at Thorpe Meadows has unfortunately been delayed but we hope it will be open over the summer months.

You can look forward to drinks and snacks being available all day from the café, as well as new toilets, including accessible toilets and baby change facilities. The play area here will add an extra attraction to the café and it looks like this area is going to become a popular visitor destination, as you can combine a walk around the Sculpture Trail with refreshments and meeting your friends at the café.

Park Heritage Highlight

The sheepwash in Bluebell Wood

Have you seen this wooden sculpture of a shepherd and his sheep near a pool of water in Bluebell Wood? This sculpture was carved in 1999 by Jason Thomson to remind us of the original purpose of the pool of water here.

The practice of sheepwashing was an important part of the local agricultural calendar from the 15th to mid-19th century. Many hundreds of sheep were grazed in the flood meadows, under direction of the Milton Estate. Each year estate workers would have herded the sheep over Milton Ferry Bridge and individually washed them in the purpose dug sheepwash here. By the early 20th century most sheepwashes in the country had fallen into disuse. By the 1950s the practice had disappeared in all parts of the country.

It's great to have a reminder here of what used to happen all those years ago. Do go and take a look next time you're in the Park!



The old sheepwash pool

Summer barbecue safety

We all love a trip out to the Park on a hot summer's afternoon for a barbecue. What could be better than the smell and sound of sizzling sausages on the grill while the kids kick a ball about on the grass?

However, with long dry spells becoming more frequent, the fire risk posed by BBQs has never been so high. The Park has already seen a fire this year when a disposable BBQ (still smouldering) was placed in one of our big wooden bin stations. Every year we experience damage to grass, vegetation, Park benches and even our ancient oak trees, where BBQs have got out of hand and set fire to the bark and roots.



For this reason, we are launching a summer campaign to say **NO to all BBQs that are not on proper BBQ stands off the ground**. Please follow these simple rules:

- Never place a BBQ or hot ash anywhere on the ground or on the wooden Park furniture. Always use the metal BBQ stands or BBQ shelves provided.
- Never dispose of BBQs or hot ashes in the general waste or recycling bins. Always use the metal BBQ bins provided.
- Always report small fires, smoking bins and irresponsible BBQ activity to the Duty Ranger before 6.30pm on **07860 308081** or dial **999** in the event of any significant fire.



Your Community Greenspace updates

NENE NURSERY NEWS

The nursery and its activities are going from strength to strength!

The programme of social prescribing activities that we started in November 2023, is now on its third cycle. There is a huge variety of activities which we offer to people referred by GPs, social prescribers, local NHS departments and charities, and we have included propagation practice, branch weaving, wood carving and cookery. Providing a calm, welcoming and safe space for our visitors, is already creating great impact and it is heart-warming to have repeat visitors at these sessions.

Alongside developing our social prescribing offer to local people, we have been piloting work experience programmes to students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) from schools across the city.

It has been wonderful to see the enjoyment of these young people in learning horticultural and gardening skills and terms – such as propagating microgreens, using wheelbarrows and spades to fill our newly built, raised beds, making kokedamas (Japanese hanging plants) and the potting on of seedlings.

The Nursery is available for bespoke bookings and the ones offered so far have included working with the charity Sense, where people from their local colleges visit us for sensory and horticultural activities. We have also welcomed corporate networking events to the nursery. It makes a great setting for an event that brings people together. **To find out about coming to the nursery for an event please email nenenursery@neneparktrust.org.uk**



We are running **FREE** events on three Saturdays in the summer holidays to tie in with the **FREE** shuttle bus into the Park:

Saturday 27 July 10am-12pm
Origami Flower Making + Soap Mixing
Come along to see the Nursery all in leaf and bloom and try your hand at soap mixing and making origami flowers.

Saturday 10 August 10am-12pm
Paper Making with Petals + Brassica-Planting
Join us to make paper from petals grown at the Nursery and plant some brassicas to take home.

Saturday 17 August 10am-12pm
Kokedama Making + Harvest Festival
Find out how to make Japanese Kokedamas and join in our fruit & vegetable celebration.

Get the bus to Ferry Meadows!

Visitors have often asked why there isn't a public bus that comes right into Ferry Meadows. Now, thanks to funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund through the Your Community Greenspace project, we have been able to organise a public bus from Gunthorpe all the way into Ferry Meadows on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer holidays. The bus fare will be **£2 per person and free for under 10s**. We really want to spread the word about this summer bus route in the hope we can push to have a regular bus right into the park throughout the year.

Please tell all your friends who live in these areas of Peterborough to come to the Park by bus!



NENE PARK SUMMER SHUTTLE BUS									
The Nene Park Summer Shuttle Bus operates on Saturdays and Sundays between 20th July 2024 and 1st September 2024. The Shuttle Bus will stop at every bus stop along the route, but only main stops are shown on the map and timetable. You must report clearly to the driver to indicate that you wish to get on the bus.									
The most rapid route to the driver to indicate that you wish to get on the bus.									
£2 per person, children under 10s get free									
NENE PARK SUMMER SHUTTLE BUS									
Herald Way + Poston School + Occupation Road + Craig Street + Nene Park, Ferry Meadows									
SATURDAY & SUNDAYS									
The Shuttle Bus will stop at every bus stop along the route, but only main stops are shown on the map and timetable. You must report clearly to the driver to indicate that you wish to get on the bus.									
Buses towards Nene Park, Ferry Meadows									
Herald Way	9:00	10:00	12:00	14:00	15:30	17:00			
Poston School	9:05	10:05	12:05	14:05	15:35	17:05			
Occupation Road	9:10	10:10	12:10	14:10	15:40	17:10			
Craig Street	9:15	10:15	12:15	14:15	15:45	17:15			
Nene Park, Ferry Meadows	9:20	10:20	12:20	14:20	15:50	17:20			
Buses towards Herald Way									
Nene Park, Ferry Meadows	9:40	10:40	12:40	14:40	16:10	17:40			
Craig Street	9:45	10:45	12:45	14:45	16:15	17:45			
Occupation Road	9:50	10:50	12:50	14:50	16:20	17:50			
Poston School	9:55	10:55	12:55	14:55	16:25	17:55			
Herald Way	10:00	11:00	13:00	15:00	16:30	18:00			
	10:05	11:05	13:05	15:05	16:35	18:05			



PETERBOROUGH CELEBRATES
FESTIVAL
AT FERRY MEADOWS
Hosted by Nene Park Trust

Peterborough Celebrates success again!

For the third year running, Peterborough Celebrates Festival at Ferry Meadows (18-19 May) was declared a resounding success, with record numbers of visitors and overwhelmingly positive feedback.



"Well done everyone! You have brought joy and pride to the city!"

Festival-goer
Peterborough Celebrates

The festival all started with the pre-festival Big Top Cinema on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 May, making the most of the festival site set up and building the festival anticipation. **700 cinema-goers** arrived for four different films across the two evenings in an array of fancy dress costumes, ready to sing-a-long and enjoy the festival atmosphere.

Saturday 18 May and Sunday 19 May saw the sun breaking through the clouds and festival visitors flocking to enjoy free performances and a wide range of activities for all the family. We estimate from car parking data and visitor counters that around **25,000 people** attended the festival across the weekend. In addition, Nene Valley Railway reported that 720 tickets were sold for the festival shuttle train service, a significant increase on tickets from last year.

Throughout the weekend, festival-goers were treated to a wide range of performances, such as music, theatre, dance, and activities including art and community workshops and have-a-go sports and games.

In total there were **44 different performing groups** which consisted of about **250-300 individual performers**, providing approximately 42 hours of free live entertainment! Performers ranged from local music and dance groups such as Peterborough Rock Choir, Wansford Ukelele Folk, Peterborough Opera, Indian dance group Ritu Ranga and Latvian children's dance group Kastinitis to renowned professional acts such as acrobats Mimbire, Vanhulle Dance, Pif-Paf Theatre and Xidus Pain.



Mandinga Arts brought the carnival to Peterborough



Happy festival-goers

"Such a success! Brilliant event, really well organised and superb for the kids!"

Festival-goer
Peterborough Celebrates

The Silent Disco, a new addition to the Big Top, was a huge hit and we welcomed 12 local buskers to entertain festival-goers from the new pop up stage in the bar tent.

Community groups from across Peterborough were at the heart of the festival. **28 local organisations** had festival stalls showcasing what they do and **13 different community groups** decorated large wooden hearts which were dotted around the centre of festival site for visitors to discover and explore. The community Heart Bunting display had an amazing impact with **2,084 hearts made** from recycled materials and decorated by **49 different community groups, schools and care homes**, all incorporated into a heart shaped installation.

The festival finale saw a dramatic Hindu Holi Colour celebration in front of the main stage. Festival-goers gathered together to throw coloured powder paint in the air and at each other in a joyful celebration of the arrival of spring and to mark a colourful end to a fantastic festival weekend.

Thank you to all our festival visitors for coming along and celebrating the city with us over the weekend. We are keen to make the festival an annual fixture in the city's calendar and watch this space for dates for next year.

Thank you to our amazing sponsors & partners

The festival couldn't have run without the generous corporate sponsorship.



Nene Park Volunteering

JOIN OUR WELCOME RANGER TEAM!

We are looking for more volunteers interested in joining our Welcome Ranger team! This role involves welcoming visitors in the Park, sharing information about where to go and what to see and getting involved in leading guided walks.

Find out more and join the team at <https://neneparktrust.teamkinetic.co.uk/volunteers/opportunity/10191937>



Two of our Welcome Rangers



Looking after our sculptures

Are you aged 14-17 and interested in history, art, nature and the outdoors?

New opportunity – Young Heritage Rangers

We are recruiting a team of Young Heritage Rangers to help us explore the history of Peterborough, Nene Park and the sculptures in the Park.

Working with Nene Park staff, you will investigate and research the Park's history and learn how to design activities and events. Sessions will include walks, talks and fun, creative tasks. This is a great opportunity to gain new skills, meet new people, get involved and learn about your local area.

Taster session: **Saturday 13 July 9.30-11.30am** with sessions starting in the autumn. Thanks to support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, all places are free. To find out more or register your interest please email art@neneparktrust.org.uk

Family volunteering at Ham Mere

Ham Mere is a wetland area of Ferry Meadows which we're keen to restore.

As part of the Your Community Greenspace project, we have plans to do just this through targeted habitat restoration work. One of things we want to do is create a volunteer team to help us remove lots of the overgrown vegetation and so we are planning to hold family volunteering sessions every Saturday morning in September 10am-12pm. Keep an eye on our website and social media channels for more details of where to sign up! We can't wait to welcome you along to help us!

Following this vegetation clearing work, we will be creating some deeper channels and pools on Ham Mere to retain areas of water all year round, which will be great for improving wildlife habitats and attracting winter visiting birds. Visitors will be able to come and see the improvement works here at the bird hide viewing points.



Peterborough Arch sculpture

Fundraising

SAVE PETERBOROUGH ARCH!

Can you help us save the Peterborough Arch sculpture?

You might have noticed that the tall wooden sculpture has been missing from Thorpe Meadows – and we need your help to ensure it is returned to its rightful place! We're looking for donations and sponsorship to ensure this important artwork can be returned to Peterborough.

Peterborough Arch by sculptor Lee Grandjean has welcomed visitors and residents into the city centre, and been the guardian of Thorpe Meadows for over 30 years. In 2022 we discovered that the sculpture had finally succumbed to weathering and for safety reasons it was removed by a specialist conservation company.

By making a donation you will be supporting the vital conservation and reinstallation of this important sculpture. We have successfully achieved half of our funding target, but we need your support to reach our target.

- £50 will contribute to specialist conversation work
- £200 will help pay for replacement wooden sections
- £500 will support the rebuild and installation

Every donation however small, will help us reach our target. It's easy to donate and all supporters will be invited to special events and guided walks. You can donate directly to our online appeal at www.nenepark.org.uk/Appeal/save-peterborough-arch or for more information contact fundraising@neneparktrust.org.uk



Networking event with Opportunity Peterborough

At the end of April we were pleased to host a networking event in collaboration with Opportunity Peterborough, at our very own Nene Nursery!

It was a really wonderful evening of making new contacts, catching up with familiar faces and enjoying being outside taking part in some activities within the beautiful setting of Nene Nursery.

Thank you to Opportunity Peterborough for collaborating with us on this event, we couldn't have been happier with how it went and look forward to doing many more events like this in the future!

Are you ready for Swim Serpentine?

We have two spaces for keen swimmers who would like to fundraise for Nene Park Trust while taking on the challenge of Swim Serpentine! Keep an eye on our website and social media for more news about this very soon!





HURRAH, OUR HOLIDAY CLUBS ARE BACK FOR SUMMER!

Get ready for action-packed adventures as our school holiday clubs returns 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.

Oak Adventurers is on every weekday during the school holidays (except August Bank holiday Monday) and you can book for individual days or an entire week (with a 20% discount!)



Our holiday club for younger children (5-8 year olds) - Acorn Explorers will also be running for one week in the holidays: **5-9 August**. 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.

Find out more and book your place at www.nenepark.org.uk/holiday-club



Activity list:

Archery, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, dragon pedalo, swan pedalo, stand up paddleboard.

Prize: 1.5 hour paddlesport or sailing taster session with a qualified instructor for up to 6 people. Prize to be redeemed by 30 June 2025.

Olympic Challenge at Nene Outdoors

Celebrate a summer of sport at Nene Outdoors! Complete five different activities throughout the Six Weeks of Summer for your chance to win a paddlesport or sailing taster session for you and 5 friends.

To take part, head down to [Nene Outdoors](http://www.nenepark.org.uk) to pick up your challenge sheet.

Everyone who completes the challenge will be awarded a certificate to celebrate their sporting achievement!

Introducing SUMMER NIGHTS

This summer, we're excited to present an incredible line-up of open-air cinema and theatre, all part of our ongoing mission to offer diverse events that invite more visitors to enjoy Ferry Meadows.

Spanning three weekends in July and August, join us for family-friendly movies, timeless classics and action-packed blockbusters on the big screen, plus two literary productions by Chapterhouse Theatre Company, all in the heart of Ferry Meadows.

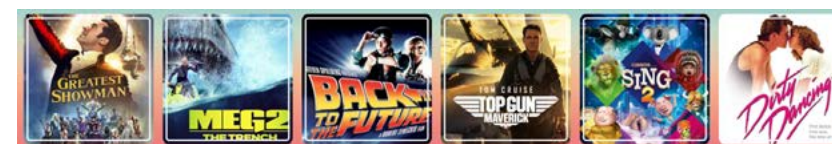


SUMMER NIGHTS AT FERRY MEADOWS

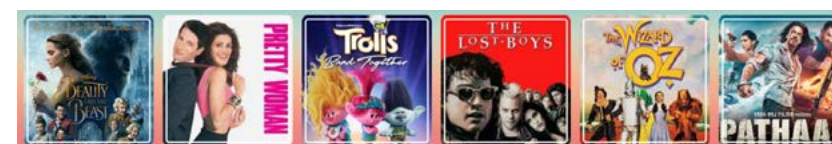
“A programme of open-air cinema and theatre”



Week 1



Week 2



Week 3



Book your tickets at www.nenepark.org.uk/summer-nights

Outdoor Cinema

Sit back, relax and enjoy our evening outdoor cinema screenings at Ferry Meadows. With films including family-favourites Back to the Future and Barbie, musical showstoppers The Greatest Showman and Beauty and the Beast, timeless classics Pretty Woman and The Lost Boys, Bollywood action thriller Pathaan and more recent blockbusters Top Gun Maverick and Meg 2, our full line-up has something for everyone – see which film is on when on our events pages (pages 15-20). Spread your blankets out on the grass in front of the big screen and enjoy the film!

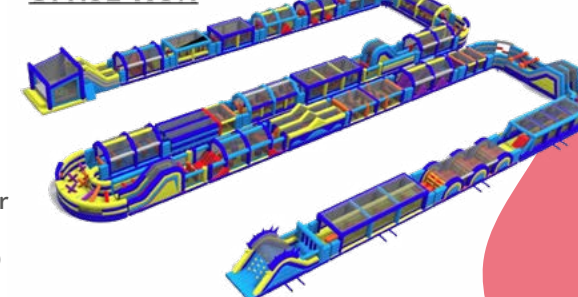
Don't miss the **FREE screenings on Saturday 17 August**, as our friends at Gateway Film Festival bring the much-loved animated movie Tangled, plus The Talking Heads concert movie Stop Making Sense, to our outdoor cinema.

The Big Jump Inflatable Fun Park at Ferry Meadows

22 August to 31 August

Get ready for something new this summer as we welcome The Big Jump Inflatable Fun Park to Ferry Meadows! Expect a 300 metre obstacle course, bounce houses, slides and a toddler zone.

SPACE RUN



- Two three-hour sessions per day – 11am to 2pm and 2.30pm to 5.30pm.
- £12 wristbands for children age 5 and over.
- £5 wristbands for toddler zone age 2 – 4.
- Spectators free

REGULAR ACTIVITIES throughout the summer



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-4.30pm (10am at weekends) – and daily during the school holidays 11am-6pm
Make a splash with our 'Pay and Play' watersports. Activities include swan 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 10am-4.30pm until the end of October
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 until the end of September.
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**

Summer Events June, July, August and September 2024

REGULAR CHILDREN'S NATURE ACTIVITIES



Nature Tots

Mondays – 1 July, 15 July, 29 July, 12 August, 26 August, 9 September, 23 September
Fridays – 28 June, 12 July, 26 July, 9 August, 23 August, 6 September, 20 September
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 and a Friday, with a different theme each month.

Suitable for: 2yrs +

Meeting point:
Lynch Farm, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Wild Home Educators

Mondays – 1 July, 15 July, 29 July, 12 August, 26 August, 9 September, 23 September
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:
Lynch Farm, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £7.50

Wild Home Educators Forest School

Fridays – 28 June, 12 July, 26 July, 9 August, 23 August, 6 September, 20 September
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 practise 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

WALKS & TALKS



Social Walking Group

Wednesday 19 June, Monday 1 July, Wednesday 17 July, Monday 5 August, Wednesday 21 August, Monday 2nd September, Wednesday 18 September
10.30am -12 pm

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

Wildlife Boat Trip and Bat Walk

Saturday 24 September
6pm-9pm
Sunday 25 September
6pm-9pm

Join our park rangers for a wildlife trip on our passenger boat followed by an informative presentation on bats and then a walk in the Park using bat detectors try to spot and identify the bats that call Ferry Meadows home.

Suitable for: 10yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den

Cost: £20



Bat Walk

Thursday 3 October
6.45pm-8.45pm or
Friday 4 October
6pm-8pm

Join our park rangers for an informative presentation on bats. Then follow this with a walk in the Park, using bat detectors try to spot and identify the bats that call Ferry Meadows home.

Suitable for: 10yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den

Cost: £11

SPORTING EVENTS

'Try Running' - beginner running group

Wednesday 26 June 10am,
Tuesday 2 July 6pm, Monday
8 July 2pm, Wednesday 10
July 1pm, Tuesday 16 July 6pm,
Monday 29 July 2pm

Our new FREE Try Running' sessions are aimed at anyone who is completely new to running, is a lapsed runner who wants to give it another go or for people who just want to get fitter in a safe, supportive and social group.

Suitable for: 12 yrs+ (under 18s must be accompanied by an adult)

Meeting point:
Thorpe Meadows

Cost: Free

Zig Zag Running – Summer Ready!

Sunday 7 July 9am-3pm

Summer Ready Run - for more information and booking, please follow the web link below **<https://www.zigzagrunning.co.uk/>**

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Alzheimer's Society - Peterborough Memory Walk

Sunday 1 September 10am-3pm

Suitable for: All ages spectate

Meeting point: Coney Meadow,
Ferry Meadows

Summer Events – continued

June, July, August and September 2024

ARTS, CRAFTS AND HERITAGE



Art Club

Saturdays 8 June, 6 July
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: 13-17 yrs

Meeting point:
Volunteer Hub, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £20 for 4 sessions

Music in the Park: Salvation Army Brass Band

Sunday 23 June and Sunday 8
September 2.30pm-4pm

Come along to enjoy some music in the Park! The Salvation Army Brass Band will be playing some well-known hymns, marches and songs from the musicals outside the Visitor Centre in Ferry Meadows, so come along, relax and enjoy!

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Donations welcome

Creating Outdoors: Drawing and Painting on Location

Saturday 20 July 10am-12pm
& 1pm-3pm

Join us for this workshop where we will be out on location, taking inspiration directly from the abundant nature around us at Nene Park.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £40

Longthorpe Tower in the 15th Century

Saturday 3 August and
Sunday 4 August 10am-4.30pm

The Whittlebury family lived at Longthorpe Tower in 1471 during a time of turmoil. The War of the Roses is underway and the Yorkist King Edward IV is launching a bid to get his throne back from the Lancastrians. Which side will Robert Whittlebury choose? Join our costumed interpreters to explore life in the 15th century, and watch as the family's soldiers perform a medieval Bill Drill. Tickets have timed entry every 30 minutes from 10am until 3.30pm. Living history demonstrations will run throughout the day, with Bill Drills at 11am, 1pm and 3.30pm each day.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Longthorpe Tower

Cost: £10



Longthorpe Tower by Candlelight

Saturday 14 September 7-10pm

Experience Longthorpe Tower lit by the soft glow of candlelight and uncover the fascinating tales of this remarkable building through a guided tour led by costumed characters representing different eras in the Tower's rich history. Meet characters from the illustrious Thorpe family who built the Tower and commissioned the remarkable wall paintings, and the Whittlebury family amidst the turbulence of the 15th century. Encounter figures from the Tudor period when the wall paintings were covered over, the Civil War when nearby Thorpe Hall was constructed, and from World War II when the paintings were rediscovered.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Longthorpe Tower

Cost: £15

Fused Glass Workshop for Adults

Saturday 21 September
10.30am-12pm or 1.30-3pm

Join June from Semperart at this beginner workshop specifically for adults to make your own unique fused glass. During the session you will learn about the nature of glass to inform your designs and creations, design the pieces you intend to make, choose a variety of glass to create your designs and learn how to use inclusions in your pieces (copper, silver).

You will make two pieces, a coaster and an ornamental wave.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den,
Ferry Meadows

Cost: £40

Dragonfly Fused Glass Workshop

Sunday 22 September
10am-11.30am

If you have already attended a beginners workshop, you can take the next steps to create a beautiful dragonfly. In this workshop June will teach you techniques to cut your own glass and use a mould to create the shape you are looking for.

Suitable for: 16 yrs+.
(Under 18s must be
accompanied by an adult)

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £40

Intermediate Fused Glass Workshop for Adults

Sunday 22 September
1pm – 4pm

If you have already taken part in a fused glass workshop, take what you have learned so far and use different inclusions and types of glass to create a piece of art work that will be totally unique to you. You could choose a land or seascape - feel free to bring a photo of your favourite place.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £60

Wet Felting Workshop for Adults

Saturday 5 October
10.30am – 4pm

Artisan felter and teacher Eve Marshall leads this workshop. Play with merino wool, curls, silk threads and yarn to create a river scene. We'll then wet-felt it together using hot water, soap and agitation. After lunch, you'll learn how to needle felt a swan, heron or otter onto your piece. The finished picture will be A4 size. Beginners welcome.

Suitable for: 18yrs +

Meeting point:
Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £50

Keep your eye on
www.nenepark.org.uk/events
for more craft workshops in the coming months.

SUMMER NIGHTS CINEMA AND THEATRE



Friday 5 July

5pm:
The Greatest Showman (PG)

7.30pm:
Meg 2: The Trench (12A)

Saturday 6 July

5pm:
Back to the Future (PG)

7.30pm:
Top Gun Maverick (12A)

Sunday 7 July

5pm:
Sing 2 (U)

7.30pm:
Dirty Dancing (12A)

Thursday 15 August

7pm:
Chapterhouse Theatre - Pride
and Prejudice

Friday 16 August

5pm:
Barbie (12A)

7.30pm:
Bob Marley One Love (12A)

Saturday 17 August

5pm:
Tangled (PG)

7.30pm:
Stop Making Sense (PG)

**Both these films are FREE,
thanks to the Gateway Film
Festival.**

Sunday 18 August

5pm:
Chapterhouse Theatre – Little
Women

Friday 23 August

5pm:
Beauty and the Beast
Sing-Along (PG)

7.30pm:
Pretty Woman (15)

Saturday 24 August

5pm:
Trolls Band Together (U)

7.30pm:
Lost Boys (15)

Sunday 25 August

5pm:
The Wizard of Oz (U)

7.30pm:
Pathaan (12A)
(This film has Hindi audio with
English subtitles)

Find out more about our
Summer Nights programme of
outdoor cinema and theatre
at [www.nenepark.org.uk/
summer-nights](http://www.nenepark.org.uk/summer-nights)

NENE NURSERY EVENTS



Sensory Craft Sessions at Nene Nursery

Wednesday 26 June 2pm-3pm
Tuesday 23 July 11am-12pm

Come along 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, during which information boards are placed around the 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

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free



Origami Flower Making and Soap Mixing

Saturday 27 July 10am-12pm

Come along to see the Nursery all in leaf and bloom and try your hand at soap mixing and making origami flowers.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free

Paper Making with Petals and Brassica Planting

Saturday 10 August 10am-12pm

Join us to make paper from petals grown at the Nursery and plant some brassicas to take home.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free

Kokedama Making and Harvest Festival

Saturday 17 August 10am-12pm

Find out how to make Japanese kokedamas and join in our fruit & vegetable celebration.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point:
Nene Nursery, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free

Summer Events – continued

June, July, August and September 2024

WATERSPORTS AND COURSES



Open Water Swimming

Every Thursday until 26 September 5.30am-7pm

Swimming takes place around a 400m course in Gunwade Lake, a relatively sheltered and shallow lake (4.5m maximum depth) fed by freshwater from the River Nene. Swimmers are welcome to use the facilities at Nene Outdoors watersports and activity centre including heated changing rooms and showers. Parking is available onsite.

Suitable for: 9 yrs+ (under 18s must be accompanied by an adult)

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £7 per session

RYA Adult Start Sailing Course - Level 1

Saturday 8 & 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 Sailing Basic Skills Course - Level 2

Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 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 Youth Sailing Course - Stage 1

Monday 22 July & Tuesday 23 July or Monday 5 August & Tuesday 6th August 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 Start Windsurfing Course

Saturday 27 July & Sunday 28 July 9am-5pm

Nene Outdoors is the perfect place to come and 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, manoeuvring the board and getting on and off the water.

Suitable for: 8-15yrs

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

RYA Youth Sailing Course - Stage 2

Wednesday 7 August & Thursday 8 August 9am-5pm

This course will teach you improved sailing skills on all points of sail including tacking, gybing, rope work and collision avoidance. By the end of the course you will be more confident and improved in boat control and speed.

Suitable for: 8-15yrs

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

RYA Youth Sailing Course - Stage 3

Tuesday 20 August & Wednesday 21 August 9am-5pm

For all those who have completed stages 1 & 2. The course will teach you improved rigging, sailing theory, launching and recovery and will build confidence in a range of sailing techniques. By the end of the course, you will be able to launch and sail a dinghy on all points of sail in moderate conditions.

Suitable for: 8-15yrs

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £190

RYA Powerboat Course – Level 2

Saturday 21 September & Sunday 22 September 9am – 5pm

Power boat training is a key skill for operating a powered craft safely and appropriately. During this two day course at Nene Outdoors, you will be trained to drive and manoeuvre the craft in a safe and controlled way.

Suitable for: 16yrs +

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors

Cost: £300

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



Oak Adventurers Holiday Club

Monday 22 July – Friday 30 August 9am-5pm

Oak Adventurers holiday club designed for 8-13 year olds at Nene Outdoors, offers a fantastic opportunity for kids to hone their skills and experience a variety of water and land-based activities!

From kayaking and paddleboarding to climbing and bushcraft, there's something for every young adventurer to enjoy!

Available every weekday in the Summer school holidays (excluding August bank holiday Monday)

Suitable for: 8-13yrs

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £43 per day or £173 for a full week (save 20%)

Summer Holiday Trail

Tuesday 23 July – Tuesday 3 September 10am-4pm

Complete a trail around Ferry Meadows - answer the questions and claim a prize at the end! There will be a new trail set up around the Park approximately every two weeks.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point: Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £1



Archery Taster

Tuesday 23 July, Thursday 8 August, Tuesday 20 August 11am-3.30pm

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

Suitable for: 8yrs +

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £12

Pond Dipping

Wednesday 24 July, Thursday 1 August, Wednesday 14 August, Tuesday 20 August 12pm-3pm

Come along to our drop in sessions and spend some time pond dipping and identifying the fascinating creatures you find.

Suitable for: All ages

Meeting point: Lynch Lake, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Donations welcome

Treasure Hunt

Thursday 25 July 10.30am-12pm

Can you use the clues to help you find the answers by the end of the trail?

Suitable for: 4-7 yrs

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Orienteering Challenge

Thursday 25 July 1pm-2.30pm

Do you think you can follow the directions and find your way around a real orienteering route? Come along and test out your skills and see who will be the first to visit all the points.

Suitable for: 8-13 yrs

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Big Butterfly Count

Friday 26 July 11am-12.30pm & 1.30-3pm

The national Big Butterfly Count begins on Friday 12 July 2024, so help us count butterflies together! Join ranger Sophie on a walk looking for some of the butterfly species that flutter through Ferry Meadows. We will have some Big Butterfly Count sheets printed for you to identify what you see.

Suitable for: 8 yrs +

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: Free

Children's Glass Workshop

Friday 26 July 10.30am-11.15am & 11.45am-12.30pm

Join June from Semperart at this children's workshop to make your own unique fused glass.

Suitable for: 7-12 yrs

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £15

Glass Workshop for Teenagers

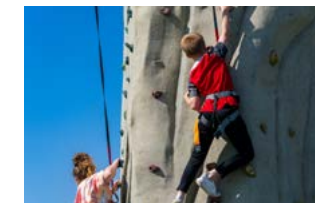
Friday 26 July 2pm-3pm

Join June from Semperart at this workshop for teenagers to make your own unique fused glass.

Suitable for: 12-17 yrs

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £20



Climbing Taster

Tuesday 30 July, Thursday 15 August, Thursday 29 August 11am-3.30pm

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

Suitable for: 4 yrs +

Meeting point: Nene Outdoors, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £12



Pollinator Ponder and Wildlife Wander

Tuesday 30 July and Thursday 15 August 1pm-3pm

The national Big Butterfly Count begins on Friday 12th July, so come and count butterflies with us! Join ranger Alex on a walk looking for butterflies. We will also see bees and wildflowers and talk about how they work together in the world of pollination.

Suitable for: 10yrs +

Meeting point: Visitor Centre, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Buzzy Bees

Saturday 3 August 10.30am – 12pm & 1.30-3pm

Join us for some fun activities all about bees! We'll be finding out about these brilliant creatures, playing a bee game and finding out how we can help them.

Suitable for: 5 yrs +

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Summer Events – continued

June, July, August and September 2024

SUMMER ACTIVITIES - cont.

Acorn Explorers Holiday Club

Monday 5 August - Friday 9 August 8.30am-3.30pm

Based at Lynch Farm in Ferry Meadows, our Acorn Explorers holiday club is packed full of nature-based activities and creative outdoor fun. It's the perfect opportunity for younger children age 5-8 to explore the great outdoors in a safe and supportive environment. Each day will have a different theme, from superheroes to survival!

Suitable for: 4 yrs +

Meeting point: Lynch Farm, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £35 per day, or book a full week for £140 and save 20%!

Bug Hunt at Thorpe Meadows

Wednesday 7 August and Thursday 22 August 10.30am-12pm & 1.30pm-3pm

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

Suitable for: 2 yrs +

Meeting point: Thorpe Meadows car park

Cost: £5.50

Kumihimo Bracelets

Thursday 15 August 10.30am-12pm

Would you like to learn more about the art of Kumihimo? Our popular Braided Kumihimo workshop will teach you this art of Japanese braiding. We will create an 8 braid bracelet with cord on a round Kumihimo disk.

Suitable for: 12 yrs +

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £18

Birdwatching for Families

Friday 16 August 10.30am-12pm or 1.30-3pm

Come and discover the remarkable birds that fly, feed and roost across Ferry Meadows. We will help you to identify some the birds and show you how to use binoculars effectively.

Suitable for: 5 yrs +

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50 child / £2.50 adult

Owls and their Pellets

Wednesday 21 August 10.30am-12pm or 1.30pm-3pm

Join us as we follow a trail to learn more about the fascinating world of owls and the amazing things you can find by dissecting their pellets!

Suitable for: 5 yrs +

Meeting point: Discovery Den, Ferry Meadows

Cost: £5.50

Foodie Fridays!

We are excited to be welcoming a selection of the best local food vendors and live music to the Park on **Friday 2nd August and Friday 16th August 5-9pm.**

These will be near Fox Play at Lakeside, Ferry Meadows. Come down to the Park and enjoy an evening of good food and entertainment to make the most of the summer evenings.



Get ready for Oktoberfest!

Saturday 28 September 1pm – 10pm

Ferry Meadows will be transformed into a Bavarian Wonderland, offering a taste of authentic German culture with incredible tribute acts, drag performers, Bavarian sing along cover bands, a terrific Oompah band, traditional German street food and Oktoberfest beer.

Find out more and book your tickets at www.nenepark.org.uk/Event/oktoberfest-peterborough-2024

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.
- Most 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.