



# **NEWPORT PAGNELL CARNIVAL 'BIG' DUCK INFORMATION PACK**



**Your guide to getting the most out of the  
Carnival 'Big' Duck Race**



## Introduction



Thank you for entering the Newport Pagnell Carnival 'Big' Duck Race. The Carnival is an annual community event that sees thousands of people gather together for a weekend full of fun, entertainment and community spirit.

We want you to get the most out of your 'Big' Duck Race entry and so have put together this information pack to make that happen.

If there is anything not covered by the pack, or you have any questions or any suggestions, please contact us (contact details at the bottom of the page).

Thank you for supporting the Carnival and enjoy!

*The Carnival Committee*

## The Committee

The Carnival Committee is run by a group of volunteers, in their spare time and around their full time work and commitments. When contacting members of the committee please be patient and bear this in mind – we will respond to all queries as soon as we possibly can.

## Important Dates

From 31 May 2019 or later if applied after	Delivery of your big ducks begins
14 June 2019	Deadline for 'Big' Duck Race applications
30 June 2019	Deadline for returning your big duck
06 July 2019	Carnival Saturday
07 July 2019	Carnival Sunday – Duck Races (starting at 14:30)

If you have any queries please email us at [ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com](mailto:ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com)  
or call Wendy Miller on 07515 497564





## What's This All About Then?

The 'Big' Duck Race is exactly what it says on the...tin: Big rubber ducks, racing down the river.



The ducks are delivered prior to the event, allowing you to decorate and brand them and give them the all-important swimming lessons!

We think it is a really great way to have some fun and promote your business, group or cause and to take part in the Carnival Weekend.

There are prizes for the winner of the race and also for the best-dressed duck (independently judged of course!). What's more you get to keep your decorated duck and display him or her in your office, shop window, desk or bath. And if that wasn't enough, you get to enter your duck again the following year.

## Entry Fee

The entry fee is broken down as follows:

- Purchase of a big duck: £20
- Race entry: £15

Therefore, if you're new to the event you'll need to buy a duck and pay for race entry. If you're a 'Big' Duck Race veteran and already have your duck to enter, all you need to pay is the race entry fee.

All funds from the 'Big' Duck Race go towards the running of the Carnival Weekend and help to maintain its very existence. So you're having fun and doing good at the same time.

## What Happens Now?

Once you have submitted your application form you might think that things have gone a bit quiet. Don't worry, we are busy working away in the background. You won't hear from us until we confirm when we'll be delivering your duck, approximately three weeks before the carnival. If you have any questions to ask beforehand please do get in touch (contact details on the last page) – but otherwise enjoy the quiet whilst you can!

## Delivery of your Big Duck

Our lovely 'Big' Duck Race Coordinator, Wendy, will be in contact about the delivery of your duck. So sit tight and get your thinking caps on and your equipment ready...

## Planning your Big Duck

You might already know how you are going to decorate your duck or you might be after some inspiration. Newport Pagnell Carnival 'Big' Duck Race attracts a variety of artistic efforts, from tooth fairy ducks, Co-op worker ducks and builder ducks...

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The most important thing is that you have fun decorating your duck but you might also want to consider the following:

- 🦆 Using bright colours to make your duck stand out when it's racing down the river.
- 🦆 Fitting into the Carnival theme. For 2019 we are celebrating Best of British!
- 🦆 Displaying your group or company name prominently.
- 🦆 Making your duck a good swimmer – it's not unheard of for participants to test it out in the bathtub, making sure it floats and giving it some speedy swimming lessons!
- 🦆 Adding a creative touch or twist that will attract the eye of the judge for best dressed.
- 🦆 Don't forget to put your entry name and telephone number in marker pen on the bottom of your duck.

## Equipment

You'll be pleased to hear that you don't need to provide your duck with armbands, goggles or a towel (unless you want to!) but you might want to consider purchasing some of the following to help with your decoration:

- 🦆 Glue.
- 🦆 Paint.
- 🦆 Clothing.
- 🦆 Accessories.
- 🦆 A Marker Pen.

## Spreading the Word

We work hard to publicise the carnival as much as possible in order to attract big numbers but we can always do with a helping hand. Please follow us on Facebook, visit at our website and look out for us in local magazines and news publications and share, share, share!

[newportpagnellcarnival.com](http://newportpagnellcarnival.com) - [facebook.com/newportpagnellcarnival](https://facebook.com/newportpagnellcarnival)

If you are particularly excited, have a unique duck or had a wonderful time please do contact us as we may be interested in including you in one of our blog entries and on social media posts. Contact us at [pr@newportpagnellcarnival.com](mailto:pr@newportpagnellcarnival.com).

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## The Night Before

We know it's a little hard to sleep the night before the 'Big' Duck Race but it's important to get a good night's sleep because Carnival Sunday is busy. So make sure that your alarm is set to the right time and get some shut eye!

## On the Day

### Finding Us

Carnival Sunday takes place on Riverside Meadow in Newport Pagnell.

We fully encourage people to walk to Riverside Meadow and enter the field as follows:



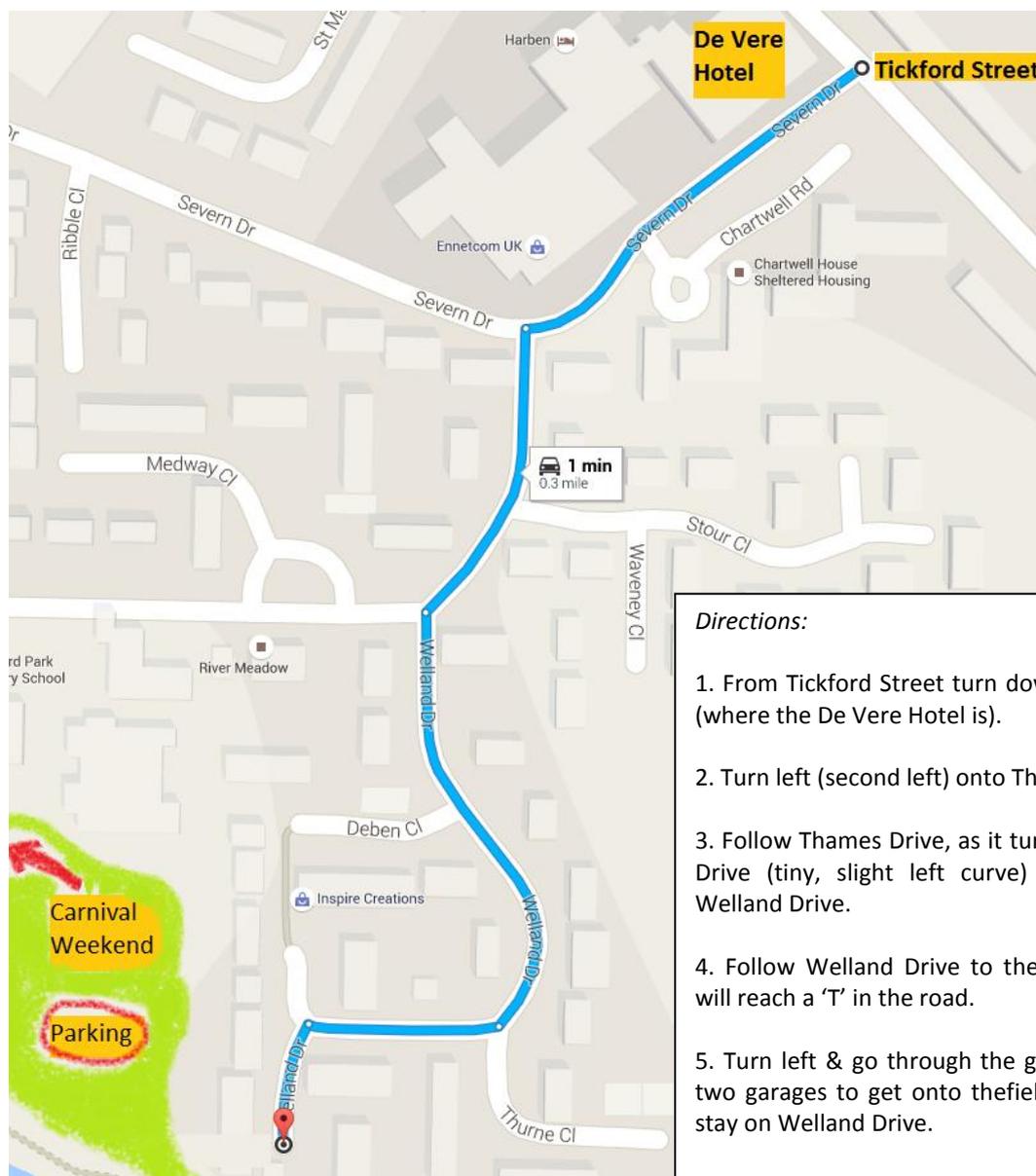
or call Wendy Miller on 07515 497564





## Parking

If you are travelling from afar parking is available and can be accessed via Welland Drive – Pop MK16 9DX into your satnav and it should bring you to the right place. We are, however, the first to admit that the parking isn't the easiest to find; please be patient and if lost ask anyone in a high-vis jacket.



## Race Times

The exact time of the 'Big' Duck Race will be announced closer to the Carnival Weekend, along with the timings of all the other events. The day will start with the classic car parade, leaving Blakelands at 12 noon and travelling through Newport Pagnell High Street to Riverside Meadow. There will be lots of entertainment, stalls, classic cars and a carboot sale on the day, as well as the duck race – so make a day of it!

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## **Friends and Family**

We strongly encourage you to invite friends, family, work colleagues, neighbours....anyone, to come and enjoy the fun of the Carnival. We have a wide variety of stalls, entertainment, funfair rides and food and drink.

## **Winning**

Your duck has not one but two chances of winning on the day. There are prizes for:

Fastest duck – The duck first over the finish line.

Best dressed duck – Independently judged of course!

## **Return of your 'Big' Duck**

We will do our best to return your duck within two weeks of the carnival. If you'd like to take your duck home on the day then just ask one of the committee members (wearing a hi-vis jacket, running around like a headless...duck(!?)).

If you live outside of Newport Pagnell then you will need to arrange for the collection of your duck. Just get in touch with Wendy and she will help you to arrange this.

## **Behaviour**

Newport Pagnell Carnival is run by a committee of volunteers. We will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse before, during or after the carnival. Anyone who is deemed to be acting against the spirit of the carnival (either to a committee member, another parade entrant or to a member of the public), will have their application declined, be asked to leave the carnival and/or have all future applications rejected.

## **Feedback**

We would love to hear your feedback following the event. We work hard to make sure that the carnival is enjoyed by not only the public but the Duck Race entrants (and the committee) too. Any feedback that would make our day or that would enable us to improve is hugely appreciated.

**Please note that due to the sheer volume of work undertaken by the committee on the weekend of the carnival, responses can't be guaranteed if you try to contact us during Carnival. Please ensure that all enquiries are submitted prior to the carnival weekend.**

**Thank you and...enjoy!**  
**The Carnival Committee**

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