



NEWPORT PAGNELL CARNIVAL BIG DUCK INFORMATION PACK



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



Introduction



Thank you for taking an interest in 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 answer all of your questions.

If there is anything not covered by the pack, or you have any questions or any suggestions, please contact us at ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com

The Carnival Committee

The Committee

The Carnival Committee is run by volunteers, when contacting members of the committee please be patient and bear this in mind – we will respond to all queries as soon as possible.

Important Dates

From 29th April 2023	Delivery of your big ducks begins
17th June 2023	Deadline for 'Big' Duck Race applications
24th June 2023	Deadline to return your big duck
1st July 2023	Carnival Saturday
2nd July 2023	Carnival Sunday – Duck Races (starting at approx 14:30)

If you have any queries, please email us at ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com





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.

If you have ordered a new duck it will be delivered prior to the event, allowing you to decorate it, brand it and give it the all-important swimming lessons!

Having a duck in the Big duck race is a great way to promote your business, group or cause, all whilst having fun and taking part in Carnival Weekend.

There are prizes for the winner of the race and also for the best-dressed duck (independently judged). What's more you get to keep your decorated duck and display them in your office, shop window, desk or bathroom. Your duck is then yours to keep and re enter the race again the following year.

Entry Fee

The entry fee is broken down as follows:

- Purchase of a duck: £22
- Race entry: £20

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.

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. We will contact you when we are ready to deliver your duck, around the date stated in the table above. If you have any questions, please do get in touch ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com

Delivery of your Big Duck

Our Big Duck Race Coordinator will be in contact about the delivery of your duck. So, sit tight and start thinking about how you would like to decorate your duck!

Planning your Big Duck

You might already know how you are going to decorate your duck or you might be after some inspiration. Take a look at some of our previous entrants for some inspiration



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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.
- ★ Maybe you want to decorate your duck in keeping with this year's Carnival theme.
- ★ Displaying your group or company name prominently.
- ★ Making your duck a good swimmer – it's not unheard of for participants to test them out in the bathtub, making sure it floats and investing in some speedy swimming lessons!
- ★ Please do share with us your duck training photos and stories so we can share on our social media
- ★ 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
- Marker Pen

Spreading the Word

We work hard to promote the carnival ahead of the big event weekend in order to attract the many visitors who come to have fun over both event days. Please follow us on Facebook, visit our website and keep an eye out in local magazines and news publications and share, share, share!

www.newportpagnellcarnival.com

facebook.com/newportpagnellcarnival

#NPCarnival

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.

Parking

If you are travelling from afar, parking is available and can be accessed via Welland Drive. Using the postcode MK16 9DX your satnav should bring you to the right place. Parking isn't too easy to find if you are unfamiliar with the area so do look out for the blue arrows.





Race Times

The exact time of the Big Duck Race will be announced closer to Carnival Weekend, along with the timings of all the other events. Carnival Sunday starts with the classic car parade from Midday.

There will be lots to see and do on the day, including entertainment, stalls, classic cars and a carboot sale, all leading up to the big event. Join in the fun and make a day of it!

Winning

Your duck has two chances of winning on the day. There are prizes for:

Fastest duck – The first duck over the finish line

Best dressed duck – Independently judged on the day

Return of your Big Duck

If you'd like to take your duck home on the day, it will need to be collected from the Carnival HQ tent and not from the finish line. Please allow time for us to retrieve all ducks from the river. If you do not collect your duck on the day, we will do our best to return the remaining ducks within two weeks following Carnival Weekend.

If you live outside of Newport Pagnell, please contact our duck coordinator to arrange collection of your duck.

Behaviour

Newport Pagnell Carnival is run by a team of volunteers. We will not tolerate any verbal or physical abuse before, during or after the event. 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 enable us to improve is hugely appreciated.

The Committee will be unable to respond to emails during Carnival Weekend, please submit any questions in advance of the event.

Thank you and...enjoy!
The Carnival Committee

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