



# **NEWPORT PAGNELL CARNIVAL**

## **'BIG' DUCK INFORMATION PACK**



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

If you have any queries, please email us at [ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com](mailto:ducks@newportpagnellcarnival.com)





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 make that happen.

If there is anything not covered by the pack, or you have any questions or suggestions, please contact us (contact email 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**

<b>From 1st May 2026</b>	Deliveries of big ducks begins (unless you are re-entering a duck)
<b>20th June 2026</b>	Deadline for 'Big' Duck Race applications
<b>27th June 2026</b>	Deadline for returning your big duck (or please let us know via email if you will be bringing your duck to Riverside Meadow on race day!)
<b>4th July 2026</b>	Carnival Saturday
<b>5th July 2026</b>	Carnival Sunday – Duck Races (starting at approx 3.00 p.m. )

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## 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 time to decorate it, brand it and give it 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 an easy way to take part in 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 it 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 duck: £30
- Race entry: £22

Therefore, if you're new to the event you'll need to buy a duck and pay for race entry for the first year. 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 existence. So you're having fun and donating to a good cause 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, which starts at the beginning of May. If you have any questions to ask beforehand, please do get in touch (contact email on the bottom of the page) – but otherwise enjoy thinking about how to decorate your duck.

## Delivery of your Big Duck

Our Big Duck Race Coordinator will be in contact about the delivery of your duck. So, sit tight and get your thinking caps on and your decorating 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.
- You may want to decorate your duck in keeping with the 2026 Carnival theme: **Party for the Planet**
- 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 giving it some speedy swimming lessons! Please do share with us your duck training photos and stories so we can share them 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 Pens

## **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 our website and look out for us in local magazines and news publications and share, share, share!

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## On the Day

### Finding Us

Carnival Sunday takes place on Riverside Meadow in Newport Pagnell.

### Parking

If you are traveling 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 look out for the blue arrows.

### 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 traveling through Newport Pagnell High Street to Riverside Meadow. There will be lots of entertainment, stalls, classic cars, a dog show and a carboot sale on the day as well as the duck races – so come along and make a day of it!

### Winning

Your duck has not one, but 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 of course

### Return of your 'Big' Duck

If you'd like to take your duck home on the day, it MUST be collected from the Carnival HQ tent and not from the finish line, as we log them all back in from the river (and take pictures!). We want to avoid any ducks going missing. All remaining ducks can be collected by prior arrangement within two weeks after the carnival.

### Behavior

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 during Carnival weekend. Please ensure that all enquiries are submitted prior to the carnival weekend

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