



...a breath of fresh air

Stanwick Lakes News



News in brief...

Full planning permission has been granted for the 'green technology' visitor building, with a shop and cafe. This will be a much-needed facility for visitors and the local community alike, and should ensure the site's future viability. It is hoped that work will start some time in the New Year, subject to final funding confirmation.

Liam Fox, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, visited the lakes as part of his whistle-stop tour of the area, and was impressed with what he saw.

Members' News

- Our Members' Christmas event will be taking place in the log cabin on Saturday December 15th (4.30-6pm) with suitably festive goings-on including free refreshments courtesy of Waitrose Rushden, Food and Home.
- Don't forget that your membership is worth even more to you now that the car parking charges are £2 all year round.
- The new events programme has a number of walks etc. for members only - sign up with the Rangers.
- Members receive a 15% discount on log cabin hire, e.g. for children's birthday parties.

New attractions

THIS SECOND YEAR at Stanwick Lakes has seen some tremendous contrasts: from the low point of the June floods to the highs of an incredibly busy Easter and summer, and the introduction of some new attractions.

Our Outdoor Theatre was completed at the start of the summer and was officially 'christened' when the new Chairman of East Northamptonshire Council held her inauguration celebration there, complete with local dance group demonstrations. Then it was 'Ahoy me hearties' for Quantum Theatre's sell-out performance of Treasure Island, on a perfect summer's evening.

Cycle Hire has come to the lakes in the form of local outfit, AJ Bikes, who now offer a wide range of bicycles for individuals and families to hire at competitive rates at weekends and during school and public holidays.



Don't miss our Winter Wonderland in the log cabin on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th December, 11am - 4pm





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Busy events

Our events have proved popular, particularly 'How the Wind Blows', when lovely weather at Easter ensured the park was packed with visitors wanting to try their hand at raft and kite-making. The Halloween craft activities were also a hit with families.

ShedArt held another successful exhibition of their members' work, and the Antiquities Roadshow drew many local people with their treasures.

The new 2008 events programme has over 25 events ranging from arts and crafts to dragonfly spotting.

So come on down!



Wildlife Close-up

The adverse weather conditions in early summer affected the breeding birds but some species did well towards the end of the season e.g. Great Crested Grebe, Tufted Duck and many small passerine species. In addition the children's WE Watch group bird boxes were all occupied by bird families, and many young hatched successfully. At the time of writing, many wintering birds that use the site are arriving back in the Nene Valley, with large groups of Golden Plover particularly noticeable.

Calendar

The 2008 Stanwick Lakes Calendar is on sale in the cabin, price £7. Produced by the Friends of Stanwick Lakes it captures the beauty of the site through the seasons.

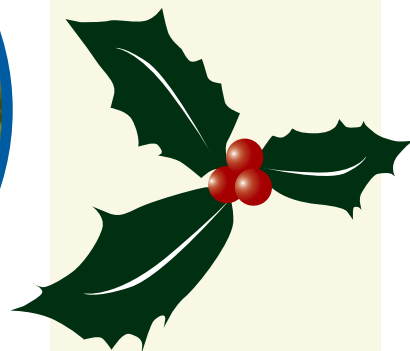


Education

The Rangers have been busy with a variety of educational visits for schools and groups. Activities have included pond-dipping, treasure hunts and wildlife walks. The partnership with Manor School to provide 'alternative PE' sessions has also continued. Anyone interested in booking an educational visit should contact the Rangers' office on 01933 625522.

Christmas opening times

The site will be open from 7am-5pm over the festive season with the exception of Christmas Day.



For further information on the **Stanwick Lakes project**, please contact the Project Manager at the Rockingham Forest Trust on 01832 274278 or e-mail info@rftrust.org.uk www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk

