



MORE TO EXPLORE

There are three other Family Activity Trails for you to discover in Newport Pagnell.

DON'T MISS OUT ON EVEN MORE ADVENTURES- TRY THESE TRAILS TOO !

Bury Field Common

Castle Meadow

Riverside Meadow

SKYLARK TRAIL...



Leaflets are available from the Town Council office (address on the back of this leaflet) or can be downloaded from www.newport-pagnell.org.uk Or you can use this QR code.



DRAGONFLY TRAIL...



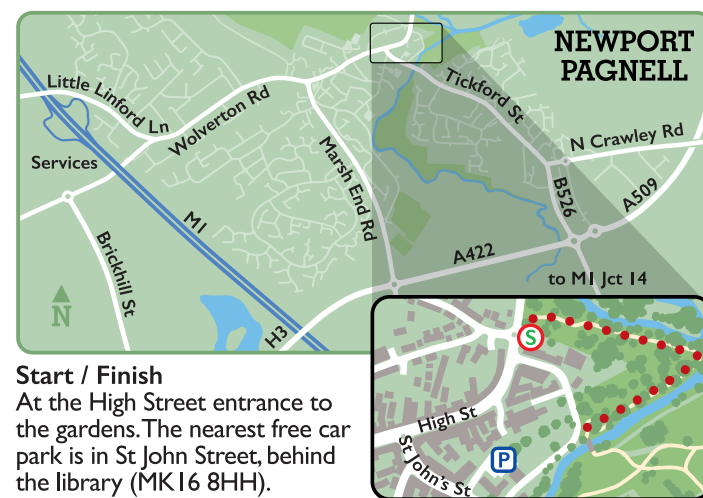
KINGFISHER TRAIL...



COMPLETE THE TRAIL - COLLECT THE STICKER

Don't forget to claim your special Otter Trail sticker when you've completed this trail. There are 4 stickers to collect from the Town Council office - one for each named trail. Just bring your completed trail sheet to the reception (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm) and collect your sticker.

GETTING TO THE START OF THE TRAIL



Start / Finish

At the High Street entrance to the gardens. The nearest free car park is in St John Street, behind the library (MK16 8HH). The nearest bus stop is Ousebank.

For public transport timetables contact Traveline: www.traveline.info Tel: 0871 200 22 33

Facilities nearby:

Public toilets at 86 High Street, near the town clock. There is a children's play area in Ousebank Gardens.

For further information:

Ousebank Gardens is managed by Newport Pagnell Town Council. 80 High Street, Newport Pagnell, Bucks, MK16 8AQ (open Mon-Fri, 9am to 4pm). www.newport-pagnell.org.uk Tel: 01908 618756 Email: TownClerk@newport-pagnell.org.uk

OTTER TRAIL

Design and illustration by: www.maltingspartnership.com

ACTIVITY 1

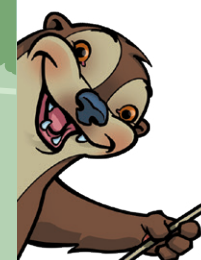
LET'S GO FISHING!

SAFETY FIRST !

All children must be continuously supervised by an adult while on the riverbank.

You will need a long-handled fishing net for this activity.

STAND SAFELY ON THE RIVERBANK AND DIP YOUR NET INTO THE WATER AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN CATCH.



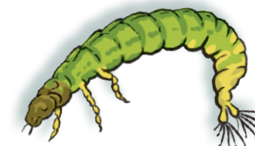
Try dipping in different places. Some river creatures like to stay in the shade of the trees and others like to hide under stones.

Carefully transfer your catch into a jam jar filled with river water so you can study it.

Use a magnifying glass for a really close look.



DID YOU FIND ANY OF THESE THINGS?



Caddis fly larva



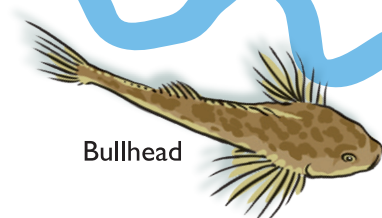
Mayfly larva



Minnow



Leech



Bullhead

RETURN YOUR CATCH TO THE RIVER STRAIGHT AWAY.

You could take its photograph first, so you can remember what you caught.

SAFETY FIRST !

You are advised to use hand sanitiser after this activity.

FAMILY ACTIVITY TRAIL IN NEWPORT PAGNELL



OUSEBANK GARDENS & CEMETERY

BECOME AN ARTIST AND A TREE DETECTIVE ALONG THIS 1/2 MILE TRAIL

OTTER TRAIL

ADVENTURE AWAITS !

THINGS TO BRING

- Camera, binoculars, notebooks and pencils
- Long handled fishing net, jar and magnifying glass (Activity 1)
- Hand sanitiser (Activity 1)
- Sheets of paper and wax crayons (Activity 2 and 4)
- A blindfold e.g. a scarf (Activity 4)
- Drinks and snacks

DID YOU KNOW ?

The rivers Great Ouse and Ouzel, which flow alongside Ousebank Gardens and the cemetery, are home to otters. These secretive mammals hunt at night, searching the rivers and nearby ponds for fish, frogs and water birds. Their webbed feet and streamlined bodies make them powerful swimmers. They have thick waterproof fur and sensitive whiskers to detect fish in murky water.

Look for their footprints in the soft mud along the riverbank.

"SCIENTISTS CALL ME LUTRA LUTRA. WHAT NAME WILL YOU GIVE ME?"



ACTIVITY 2

TREE TRAIL

Ousebank Gardens is home to lots of different species of trees. They all have different shaped leaves, buds, flowers and fruit.

YOUR CHALLENGE IS TO FIND THESE 10 TREES!

When you find the tree, take a sheet of paper and make a crayon rubbing from the plaque on the post next to it.

If you get stuck, look at the information panel near to the entrance to Ousebank Gardens where a map will help you to find the trees. **Tick them off as you find them.** ☒



1. YEW

The leaves and berries of yew trees are poisonous to humans, so look but don't touch!

☐


2. SYCAMORE

When the winged fruits are ripe they spin down to the ground like mini helicopters.

☐


3. WEEPING WILLOW

Willows love to have their roots in water, so look for them near the river.

☐


4. ENGLISH OAK

A single oak tree can be home to hundreds of different insects, birds, animals and fungi.

☐


5. COAST REDWOOD

Look for a conical tree with spongy, orange-red bark.

☐


6. SILVER BIRCH

The silvery-white peeling bark is a good clue to finding this tree.

☐


7. MULBERRY

Do you know a song about a Mulberry Bush?

☐


8. HOLM OAK

This is an evergreen oak - it keeps its glossy, dark green leaves all year long.

☐


9. JAPANESE MAPLE

These small trees are popular in gardens because their leaves turn bright colours in autumn.

☐


10. LOMBARDY POPLAR

Look for the tallest tree in the garden!

☐

ACTIVITY 3

BECOME AN ARTIST

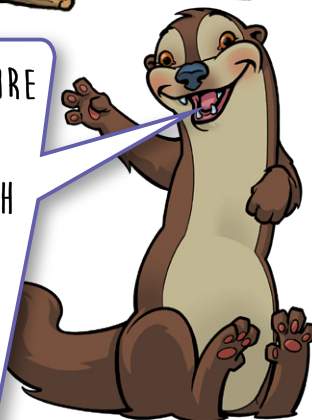
PICTURE THIS!

As you explore the gardens make a collection of interesting things that you find - things like sticks, leaves, pebbles, cones or bark.

Don't forget - you must not pick the flowers or collect living things!

Find somewhere flat to lay out your collection and arrange the things you collected into a picture. Frame it with twigs and leave it for other visitors to find. **Take a photograph of your art and send it to a friend.**

TRY MAKING A 3D SCULPTURE FROM YOUR COLLECTION. YOU COULD WEAVE TWIGS INTO THE SHAPE OF A FISH OR BUILD A TINY RAFT AND FLOAT IT DOWN THE RIVER. A LARGE LEAF WOULD MAKE A GOOD SAIL!

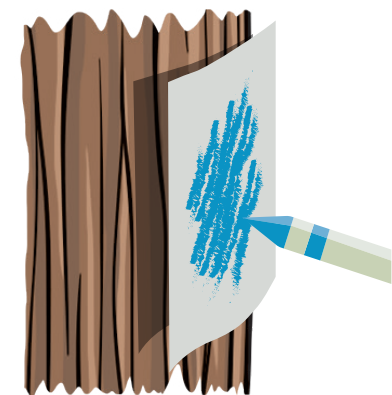


ACTIVITY 4

BARK PATTERNS

You will need some sheets of paper and wax crayons for this activity.

Tree trunks and branches are covered in tough bark. It protects the trees, just like your skin protects your body. Each species of tree grows bark of a particular pattern and texture.



TAKE BARK RUBBINGS FROM DIFFERENT TREES IN THE GARDEN.

HOW MANY DIFFERENT PATTERNS DID YOU FIND?

CLOSE YOUR EYES AND FEEL THE BARK WITH YOUR FINGERTIPS.

IS IT SMOOTH OR FLAKY? IS IT HARD OR SPONGY?

In your notebook write down all the different words you can think of to describe the different types of bark.

LOOK CLOSELY AT THE BARK ON DIFFERENT TREES.

CAN YOU SEE ANY WILDLIFE HIDING THERE OR HOLES MADE BY BIRDS OR INSECTS?



TREE HUGGING GAME

Take it in turns to blindfold someone in your group.

LEAD THEM TO A TREE AND ASK THEM TO HUG THE TREE AND FEEL THE BARK AND LOWER BRANCHES CAREFULLY.

Lead them away from the tree and turn them around in circles.

Take off the blindfold and ask them to find the tree they were hugging.

ACTIVITY 5

PEOPLE FROM THE PAST

The gravestones in churchyards can tell us things about the people who lived here in the past.

WALK AROUND THE GRAVESTONES CAREFULLY AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN DISCOVER ABOUT THE PEOPLE BURIED HERE. TRY NOT TO STEP ON THE GRAVES.

What is the oldest date that you can find?

How long ago did that person die?

Who was the oldest person buried here?

Who was the youngest?

Did anyone buried here die in a war?

Are there any family names that appear again and again?

Many of the old gravestones have pictures carved into them. These pictures have special meanings.

CAN YOU FIND ANY OF THESE ON THE GRAVESTONES?

Tick them off as you find them. ☒



SHAKING HANDS

This represents a never-ending bond between the living and the dead.



ANCHOR

This is a symbol of hope, reminding the family to hold onto their hope of being with their loved one again.



OPEN BOOK

This can appear on graves of young people, meaning that their life story was not yet fully written.



DOVE

A symbol of the Holy Spirit. Doves carrying an olive branch are also symbols of peace.



CIRCLE

This is showing that the dead person will never be forgotten. A circle has no beginning and no end.

WELL DONE! YOU'VE COMPLETED THE OTTER TRAIL. DON'T FORGET TO COLLECT YOUR STICKER!