

# Waterbeach

Newsletter Summer 2024

## Living

Explore Stonebond  
& Cala's show homes

## Connections

New App bikes to  
explore Waterbeach

## Community

Discover what's on  
around Waterbeach

Lakeside cafe and events  
open for the summer



# Welcome to the latest Waterbeach newsletter



## Contents

- 4 **Around Waterbeach**
  - 4 Primary school update
  - 5 Wild Woods play area opens
  - 6 Lake activation days
  - 8 Colourful beach huts at Waterbeach
  - 10 Evolve café kiosk by the lake
- 12 **New homes**
  - 12 Cala Homes
  - 14 Stonebond
  - 15 Home ownership at Waterbeach
- 16 **Nature**
  - 16 Creating and enhancing habitats
- 18 **Connections**
  - 19 App bikes
  - 19 Car sharing
- 20 **Community**
  - 20 Colourful celebrations
  - 21 Summer at the Beach
  - 22 Supporting active communities
  - 24 Waterbeach Independent Lending Library
- 25 **Days out**
  - 25 Wicken Fen
  - 26 Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey
  - 27 Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill



# Hello



**Rebecca Britton** Urban&Civic  
Regional Director, Communications,  
Communities and Partnerships

T 01223 622 533  
M 07739 339 889  
E RBritton@urbanandcivic.com



**Fiona Reardon-Rose** Urban&Civic  
Communications and Partnerships  
Manager

T 01223 622 533  
M 07502 191 344  
E fiona.reardon-rose@urbanandcivic.com



**Caroline Ward** Urban&Civic  
Community Development Lead

T 01223 622 533  
M 07795 033 600  
E caroline.ward@urbanandcivic.com

Hello and welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter.

With more people moving into Waterbeach, the opening of Wild Wood's play area, the monthly Waterbeach Community Market and the launch of lake open days during the summer, there's a real sense of energy and excitement within the development.

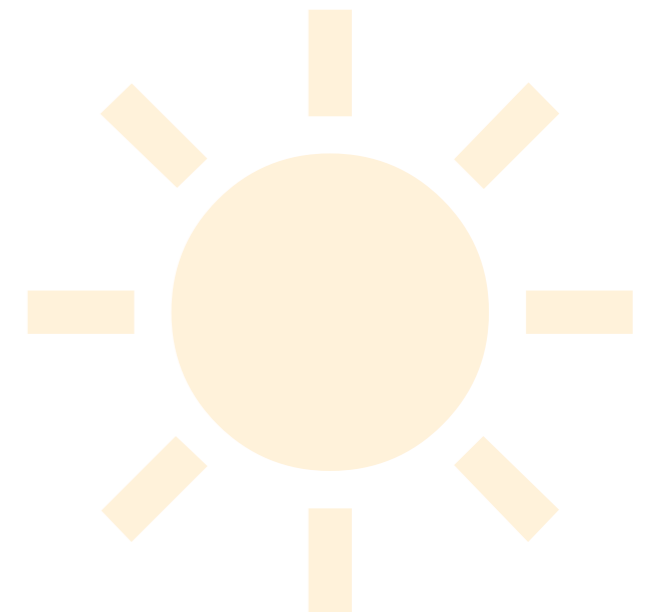
In this edition of our newsletter, we bring you the latest on Deneia Primary Academy; news from housebuilders Stonebond and Cala and affordable housing provider Longhurst Group; an insight into the ecological enhancements on the former golf course and the priority species being supported through the mosaic of habitats there; and ways we're supporting sustainable travel.

We also showcase some of the events and activities being hosted at Waterbeach as well as some of the things to see and do further afield in Wicken Fen, Anglesey Abbey, Denny Abbey and the Farmland Museum.

We hope you enjoy the updates and information in this issue of the Waterbeach newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions for future issues, please let us know.

Have a great summer!

With best wishes from  
Rebecca, Fiona and Caroline



# Around the development

## Primary school update

Education is a key priority at Waterbeach and, once complete, the development will include three primary schools, a secondary school and a special school.



Urban&Civic is working with Cambridgeshire County Council to bring forward Deneia Primary Academy, the development's first primary school which will be a member of Anglian Learning multi academy trust.

The County Council – which is overseeing the design, procurement and delivery process for the new 630 place, three form entry primary school – put the planning application on hold in March while it investigated cost issues associated with inflationary and construction supply chain issues.

Paul Mumford, Project Director for Urban&Civic, said: "Schools are at the very heart of every new place and community we create, providing inspiring places for learning, bringing together new residents and providing spaces that everyone in the community can use and feel welcome.

"The school has been designed to sit at the heart of the first phase of this new community and we've prepared the area for building work to start. We continue to work with the Council and Anglian Learning so that the primary school can open for our new residents as soon as possible."

Councillor Bryony Goodliffe, Chair of Cambridgeshire County Council's Children and Young People Committee, said: "We have been working closely with local schools to get the timing right for the first primary school in the Waterbeach development, working with capacity in existing schools and meeting the needs of the new community."

We'll provide an update on planning and delivery for Deneia Primary Academy in the next edition of the Waterbeach newsletter.

## Wild Woods play area opens for first residents

Wild Woods play area, which is inspired by the daily life of a hedgehog, welcomed its first children in May.

The area, which is designed for children of all ages and abilities, takes children from the forest floor to the tree tops above in accessible play features that grow in scale and complexity to build confidence and fuel curiosity. It also includes play equipment specifically designed for wheelchair users.

Among the first to enjoy the play area were some of the children of families who have moved into Waterbeach, with much excitement over who would have the honour of being the first down the big slide!

The play area sits within a wider area of woodland inherited from the Royal Engineers, who used it for training. Following discussions with the Forestry Commission, the woodland recently underwent extensive management to tackle a number of failing trees resulting from climate and disease impacts within the tightly-packed plantation style woodland.

Over 340 new trees have been planted along with woodland shrubs and climbing plants, with older and younger trees aiming to create a more diverse and robust woodland area for the long term, with species chosen to reflect local woodland species and ensure greater resilience to climate change.



Other ecological enhancement features include a log stack wall and monolith features using the timber collected from the poplars that had to be taken down. These provide homes for insects, reptiles and small mammals. Bird and bat boxes have also been installed with special fittings to allow for them to stay in situ as the trees grow.

Fiona Reardon-Rose said: "The replanting work has had an instant impact on Waterbeach Woods and the woodland will continue to flourish as the trees mature and the local wildlife thrives.

"There are lots of benches and picnic tables, so residents and visitors can take some time out of their busy days to sit and reflect in this natural setting, whilst the little ones explore the woodland and have fun in the play area."

To find out more visit [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology/the-woodland/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/ecology/the-woodland/)



## Opening up the lake

With the first residents settling into their new homes and the weather warming up, Waterbeach celebrated the summer by hosting a series of events to pilot ways to open up the development's 20 acre lake.

The first open day on Sunday, 19 May saw the launch of managed water sports on the lake, App Bikes at the sustainable travel hub and the new lakeside café kiosk.

### Water sports

Cambridge Sports Lake Trust (CSLT), based at Milton Country Park, was appointed to operate wild swimming and paddleboarding taster sessions on the lake on selected days this year. The team provides equipment, supervision, training and coaching with the aim of widening participation in water sports.

Nikki Henrywood from CSLT, said: "Waterbeach lake is a hidden gem offering a different experience to Milton Country Park, with different wildlife and more to explore. We're delighted residents and the local community came along to enjoy time in and on the lake during our exclusive sessions."

Swimming sessions operated from 10-11am on a course around 400m in length, with the ability to shorten your route as needed. Paddleboard tasters ran for an hour, with participants exploring the near parts of the lake in fun, friendly sessions designed for all abilities.

Lake events also took place on 16 June and 21 July. This is the first phase of a future strategy for opening the lake up for wider use. The lake open days will help the team develop permanent approaches and facilities to support the right activities on the lake, happening in a safe way for all.

At this stage, access to the lake is only available through activities booked with CSLT or Urban&Civic.

Outside of these sessions, no swimming or water sports are permitted at this stage of the development. Please always follow the safety signs in place.



Bringing the lake into community use has always been a priority for Waterbeach and we have some great partners that are helping us realise our vision. It was great to see residents and people living in the local area come along to try out the activities and amenities on offer.

We scheduled the lake open days on the third Sunday in May, June and July, so they coincided with Waterbeach Community Market and the Waterbeach Military Heritage Museum being open, so families could come along and make a day of it!

Fiona Reardon-Rose Communications and Partnerships Manager for Urban&Civic



### App Bikes

For those preferring to stay on the land, App Bikes are also available from the sustainable travel hub, with 45 minutes of hire subsidised by Urban&Civic as part of its commitment to encourage active travel around the new development and into the wider area. Take a leisurely ride around the lake and explore the beautiful scenery, pop into the village for a spot of shopping or run some errands. See page 18 for more information.



## Colourful beach huts built by local charity

Cambridge charity New Meaning Foundation, which offers training and employment opportunities to individuals living in poverty or otherwise disadvantaged, was commissioned by the Waterbeach team to design and build three colourful beach huts for the summer open days and beyond.

The beach huts, painted in Waterbeach colours, have been installed with benches and hooks to provide convenient and comfortable spaces for visitors to change before embarking on their swimming and paddle boarding sessions, as well as acting as storage for lakeside activities

The beach huts were built by a team of three from New Meaning Foundation, with six learners on various constructions skills courses helping out to gain practical experience.

John Evans, CEO of New Meaning Foundation, said: "The beach huts were a great project to work on but getting out of the workshop and putting them on the foundations without disturbing newly sown grass seeds proved challenging. Our thanks to the team from Kane's Cranes who helped us get them in place for the first lake open day. They look amazing and we've had really positive feedback from everyone who has seen and used them."

The beach huts are not the only link the charity has to the Waterbeach development. New Meaning Foundation has a workshop on site for building SPACE Micro-Homes for ex-homeless people and has undertaken other commissions for the development including six bespoke planters.

These beautifully crafted planters are part of the traffic management system at the Denny End Road entrance, which were planted with the help of Waterbeach Brownies in the Spring. The Brownies were introduced to the vital role that flowers play in the ecosystem and, after a demonstration of optimal planting techniques, were let loose on the planters. The plants, sourced from local, independent nurseries at Waterbeach Community Market, add a splash of colour in front of the old Guard House.

New Meaning Foundation's latest enterprise is Mojo Space, bespoke garden studios created to meet your exact needs and built by a team that includes people on its construction skills training programme. Whether you are looking for extra space for an exercise studio, a craft room, kid's play space or garden office, this is a great way to support a local charity and get a bespoke, cost-effective solution for additional space.

[www.newmeaningfoundation.org](http://www.newmeaningfoundation.org)



It's been so brilliant to work with the New Meaning Foundation team for projects across the site. These new beach huts provide a wonderful pop of colour by the lakeside. When we had the idea we knew that New Meaning Foundation would be the perfect partners for this project.

Helping people to develop construction skills is an important part of the Waterbeach development, and the beach huts are a wonderful example of this, standing proud at the heart of the development.

**Fiona Reardon-Rose** Communications and Partnerships Manager for Urban&Civic





## Evolve café kiosk by the lake

Evolve, which owns and operates a coffee shop and bar in Cambridge Innovation Park in Waterbeach, has launched its new lakeside café kiosk at the Waterbeach development.



The café is open 8am–4pm Monday to Friday and 9am–5pm Saturday and Sunday. Alongside a variety of hot and cold drinks, it serves a delicious array of hot food including paninis, baps, jacket potatoes, pasties and soup as well as sandwiches, cakes, ice cream and snacks.

With views over the lake, open space to run around, games to borrow and a large awning acting as a sunshade and shelter from rain, it's the perfect setting for a refreshment break surrounded by nature.

Over the summer holidays you can enjoy a relaxing time by the lake whilst the kids burn off their energy and play with some of the games available. Dogs are also welcome but please keep them on a short lead and be sure to ask for a free dog treat!

The café is only a two minute walk from Wild Woods play area, which has lots of seating and picnic benches if you want to take your drinks and refreshments to go.

The family-run Evolve Coffee Shop & Bar opened in March 2020 and has gone from strength to strength. A coffee shop by day and a bar in the evening, with pizza, food trucks and live music on selected Friday evenings, the venue is proving popular with people from Waterbeach and further afield.

Mark from Evolve said: "Establishing a thriving coffee shop and bar in Waterbeach has been really rewarding and we're lucky to have lots of regular customers as well as welcoming first-time visitors who've come along to enjoy our coffee, sample the menu and soak up the atmosphere."

"When we were told about the opportunity to have a café kiosk by the lake at the new Waterbeach development we jumped at it. It's a fantastic location and we've had amazing feedback and will be looking to extend our opening hours as the development grows."

To find out more, follow [EvolveCoffeeBar](#) on Instagram.



# New homes

## Cala showcases local suppliers

Cala Homes has brought back its Showhome of Support initiative to Waterbeach, giving local independents a platform to showcase their products, produce and designs to residents and potential homebuyers.

The Cala team has been working with small retailers and creators in and around Cambridge to help accessorise its new show home. This is Cala's second show home to launch at the development, highlighting a further 10 retailers from the local area.

Independents taking part in the initiative, with items on display in the Showhome of Support, include:

**Lost in Vinyl** – a vinyl shop in Cambridge that was formed in 2013, after the owner spent more than 20 years working for other music retailers in the UK.

**Freckleface** – a workshop with several stores throughout the country that specialises in handmade wax melts and candles.

**Cambridge Cheese Company** – a well-established deli that sells hundreds of different artisanal food products.

**Cambridge Distillery** – creating unique gift sets and offering one-of-a-kind gin tasting and crafting experiences.

**Fitzbillies** – a bakery that has been selling delicious pastries for over a hundred years and now has its very own café and coffee products.

**Nomads** – an extraordinary emporium that sells gifts, jewellery, textiles and furnishings.

**Eel Catcher's Daughter** – an independent boutique that sells beautiful homewares and accessories.

**Ely Fudge** – a traditional English fudge retailer that handcrafts and packages its own fudge in Ely.

**Freda & Bert** – a nifty Indie shop that sells special gifts for all.

**Jensen's** – a family-run business selling Scandinavian-style clothes and accessories for men and women.

All featured local businesses have been signposted throughout the show home and promoted on Cala's website.

Jason Colmer, Sales & Marketing Director for Cala Homes, said: "We're thrilled to see our Showhome of Support initiative return to Waterbeach, to continue supporting businesses in the local area

"Last year, as part of the first Waterbeach Showhome of Support, Cala Homes ran an art competition in partnership with the Cambridge Drawing Society to showcase artistic talents in the local area. Simon King-Underwood from St Ives was selected as the competition winner for his charcoal powder piece entitled 'Ridgeline', which is still on display in the show home."

For more information on Cala's Showhome of Support please visit [www.cala.co.uk/showhomeofsupport](http://www.cala.co.uk/showhomeofsupport)



Waterbeach is just 10 minutes via train to Cambridge and Ely, which are full of brilliant independent retailers, who were more than happy to be featured in our new Waterbeach showhome.

It's great to see so many homegrown brands represented in our new Waterbeach showhome and, with the help of these businesses, we've been able to give Waterbeach a uniquely local feel, which we can't wait to show to potential homeowners.

**Jason Colmer** Sales & Marketing Director for Cala Homes



### About Cala at Waterbeach

An exclusive collection of 1 & 2-bedroom apartments and 3 & 4-bedroom houses can be found at Waterbeach. Cala's comprehensive collection includes detached, semi-detached, and terraced houses to suit first-time buyers, growing families or downsizers, all finished to a high standard with modern specifications throughout.

Cala's show homes are open from 10.30am-5pm Thursday to Monday.

T: 01223 080543



Photography of Cala's Lancaster showhome at Waterbeach

# New homes

## Stonebond celebrate milestone at Waterbeach

Last month Stonebond celebrated the first apartment residents moving into Lancaster House at the gateway to Waterbeach. As they look forward to welcoming their neighbours, Stonebond is launching a collection of new apartments this summer.

### Hawker House

Stonebond's new two and three bedroom apartments are exclusively available under the new government backed Discount Market Sale Scheme.

This is a great opportunity for local residents, or those working locally, to secure a new home at 80% of market value. With homes ready to move into this year, visit the Marketing Suite to find out more and visit the stunning show apartment.



Discover the homes ready to move into this summer with a 5% deposit contribution!\*

### The Campbell

A spacious four-bedroom detached home with stunning woodland views. This home offers an open plan kitchen/dining room, separate living room and a snug or office on the first floor. The second floor provides space for a relaxing master suite with dressing area, en suite and large roof terrace.

### The Harding

This three-bedroom house features a spacious kitchen/diner with Bosch kitchen appliances including a wine cooler, a large breakfast bar and patio door leading to the garden, underfloor heating throughout, two terraces and a double garage with EV charging.

Open daily. 10am-5pm Friday to Wednesday and 11am-7pm on Thursdays

T 01223 901907  
E waterbeach@stonebondltd.com

\*Terms and conditions apply

## Making home ownership dream a reality at Waterbeach

As part of the overall development, Waterbeach will provide 30% of homes as affordable housing, which is available to purchase in a variety of different ways to meet local need. In this edition we focus on Shared Ownership.

The Shared Ownership homes are built by Cala and Stonebond but the sales process is managed by Longhurst Group, which specialises in supporting buyers through the process and in their early years when the property is part rented.

Located sensitively within woodland, parks and green spaces, the first 16 one, two and three-bedroom apartments and three-bedroom homes available are the ideal place for people to put down their roots and realise their home ownership dream.

### About Shared Ownership

Shared Ownership is an affordable, flexible option of purchasing a home and a great way to get a foot on the property ladder if you're currently unable to buy a property outright on the open market.

Shared Ownership is a Government-funded Low Cost Home Ownership (LCHO) product. It allows you to purchase a share in a property, that's affordable to you, whilst paying a subsidised rent for the unsold equity that remains in the ownership of Longhurst Group.

Initial shares can be brought in stages and range from 25 percent up to 75 percent depending on the lease. When the time's right for you, you can staircase and buy additional shares in your home and if your lease allows you can purchase the Freehold interest to own your home outright.

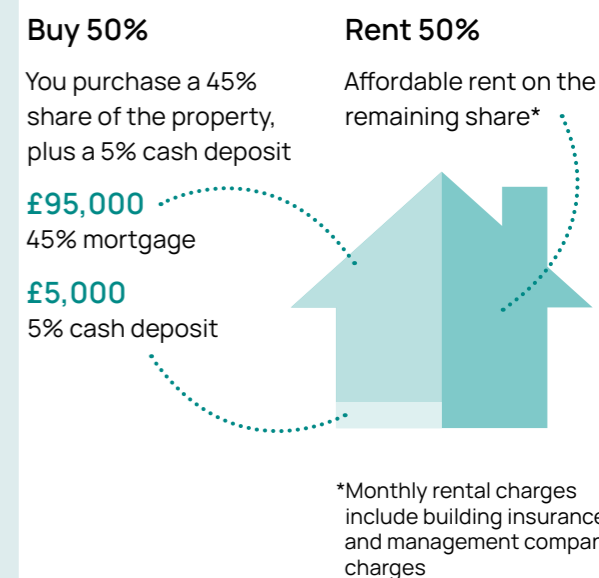
You can register your interest now to be one of the first to know when Longhurst Group's homes are available to reserve. Visit [www.longhurst.group/waterbeach](http://www.longhurst.group/waterbeach) for more information or call The Shared Ownership Shop on 0330 11 33 700.



Shared Ownership has allowed us to buy our forever home a lot quicker than if we'd bought on the regular open market. It was kind of a no-brainer and probably the best thing we've ever done.

Longhurst Group customer

### Example: Property value £200,000



Find out more about all the homes on offer: [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/homes-at-waterbeach/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/homes-at-waterbeach/)

Or register for updates on the development: [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk)



# Nature

## Creating and enhancing habitats

In the Autumn 2023 edition of the Waterbeach newsletter we introduced the five key habitat areas within the development that will protect and enhance ecology at Waterbeach. In the Winter 2023 newsletter, we took a closer look at the lake and runway grasslands. In this edition, we focus on the former golf course.

### The former golf course

Once an important recreational outlet for service personnel based at Waterbeach Barracks, as well as locals who could secure membership, the historic grass course, bunkers and specimen trees have created an amazing backdrop to this important habitat area.

The neighbouring Snake Pit, used for military training including a tank course over obstacles, grew wild when the Royal Engineers left and has become a rich and diverse habitat.

The grassland, scrub, woodland, hedges, ditches and ponds in this area create habitats for a variety of wildlife species such as bats, small mammals, reptiles, birds and invertebrates.

A key target species in this area is the great crested newt, with habitat creation and enhancement focused on terrestrial and aquatic habitats for this species.

This will be accomplished through new pond creation, enhancement of existing ponds, the enhancement and creation of grassland and scrub, and the installation of shelter features such as log piles and partially underground shelter features called 'hibernacula'.

This will ensure that all newts are concentrated in this core habitat area so they continue to thrive and make this their home.

These areas will be accessible to people, with measures in place to control access so that new habitat areas remain undisturbed. These measures will include dedicated paths and educational trails with information boards.



The amazing landscape and species that made the old barracks their home have always been a fundamental part of the vision for this new part of Waterbeach.

Safeguarding and enhancing these spaces for nature is a huge part of ensuring nature thrives in homes and habitats alongside the new community, achieving over 20% net gain of space for nature throughout the development.

**Rebecca Britton**  
Regional Director, Urban&Civic

### Priority species

There are a range of priority species the habitats at Waterbeach will support. In this edition, we look more closely at great crested newts and water shrews.

#### Great crested newt

Great crested newts are amphibians that breed in ponds during the spring and spend the rest of the year foraging for invertebrates such as insects, slugs, snails, spiders etc in rough grassland, scrub and woodland.

When in the water they appear more brown in colour, with males transforming into dinosaur-like creatures, displaying a jagged crest along their body and a white flashy stripe along their tail. Each great crested newt has a belly pattern as unique as a fingerprint.

Conservation status: The UK population of these newts is of international importance and on the European Protected Species list.

Measurements: Length: up to 17 cm.

Look out for great crested newts between March and October, especially earlier in the season after sunset when they may be seen performing their courtship dances in their ponds.



#### Water shrew

This is the UK's largest shrew and spends most of its time hunting for small fish, frogs, water beetles and snails in wetland features, swimming underwater to catch its prey in the evenings. Water shrews have black and silvery fur with a long-pointed nose.

Conservation status: Legally protected in the UK.

Measurements: Length: 6-10 cm, tail: 4.5-8 cm, weight: 8-23 g.

The water shrew has a venomous bite to help immobilise its prey. It also has red-tipped teeth.



Much of this area will form a future ecology park that will be open for all to enjoy, but some areas will be set apart for more sensitive habitats and species. Working with the Wildlife Trust and other partners, paths and education trails will be designed into the area to help people engage with the nature around them whilst protecting sensitive wildlife areas.



Indicative area of the former golf course

# Connections

Waterbeach has been designed to encourage a healthy, sustainable lifestyle, with the right infrastructure and services being put in place for people to lead low carbon lives as the development rolls out.

The Urban&Civic team is working with [smart journeys](#), the Sustainable Travel Planning Team hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council, to help deliver a place that puts walking and cycling first and encourages people to leave their car at home.



## App Bikes

The transport strategy for the new development contains a range of initiatives to encourage cycling: from the layout of junctions to prioritise cyclists and off-road cycle links between homes and amenities, to bike stores in homes, and access to bikes in key public spaces.

In May this year, smart journeys launched a bike hire scheme at Waterbeach, with five bikes installed. These bikes are available at the Sustainable Transport Hub, at the gateway to the development and by the Studio. Further locations and bikes will be rolled out as the development continues.

They are available for anyone to use, you just need to register with the system, and get pedalling.

### How it works:

- 1 Download the free App to your smart phone
- 2 Sign up/log in
- 3 Unlock a bike by scanning the QR code on the bike or selecting the bike in the App. Select your rental rate or membership
- 4 Go for a ride – just remember to lock the bike each time you stop, using the frame lock and cable
- 5 Return the bike – and remember to stop your rental in the App

Don't forget to take a bike helmet with you and ride responsibly.

Urban&Civic is funding the first 45 minutes of each hire, after which it costs £1 for every 30 minutes.

For more information, please visit [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/connections/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/connections/)

## Car sharing

Last year, Urban&Civic worked with smart journeys and Liftshare to design and launch a platform to support new and existing residents in the area to car share. As more members join, there will be more potential matches!

Waterbeach Liftshare helps find matches with other people living locally and travelling to/from similar destinations – as a driver, passenger or both.

Liftsharing helps you to:

- ✓ Save money – share the ride and split the costs. A commuter will typically save over £1,000 a year!
- ✓ Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – be part of the bigger picture and help to reduce global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Liftshare is on a mission to save 1 billion miles, and you can be part of that by simply sharing your commute with someone else going your way.
- ✓ Reduce stress – by cutting congestion and reducing the stress of traveling by sharing a car.

### How Liftshare works

- Download the Liftshare Companion App and join your community: search for 'Urban&Civic' and click to join the Waterbeach community.
- Add your journey: enter your journey details in three simple steps and find out who is going your way. Let the App do the rest and find matches!
- Ask to share: once you've found someone suitable, introduce yourself and arrange how and when to meet. Please do not share your home address; meet at the end of a road or at a local landmark like a post box.
- Travel happy: start sharing! Once you've arranged the details, all that's left to do is meet your new Liftshare buddy and enjoy the ride.

Wherever you're off to, join the car sharing revolution. It's the easy, fun way to cut the cost of travelling. To find out more and sign up, go to [www.waterbeach.liftshare.com](http://www.waterbeach.liftshare.com)



# Community

## Events and activities

Waterbeach has a range of regular activities and events taking place in the sports hall, studio, community rooms, squash and tennis courts. These facilities are managed by Urban&Civic and can be booked by calling 01223 622533 or emailing [hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk)

To find out more, visit [www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/leisure-and-community/facilities/](http://www.waterbeachwb.co.uk/leisure-and-community/facilities/)

## Colourful celebrations at Waterbeach

During the Spring bank holiday weekend, Waterbeach witnessed an explosion of colour and culture with events and activities to celebrate Easter and Holi. With an Easter trail, a colour run and a range of crafts and activities, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

The Easter Trail was open all weekend, with a question sheet available from the Stonebond and Cala marketing suites and the answers scattered around the lake loop and woodland areas. A chocolate treat was waiting for those who successfully completed the trail.

On Sunday 31 March, Indian Community Waterbeach organised a colour run to celebrate Holi, the Hindu Festival of Colour. Over 130 enthusiastic participants joined in the festivities which included Indian cuisine, a narration of the story of Holi by two

Waterbeach Primary School children, craft stalls showcasing traditional arts and a performance from a local Indian dance group that turned into an impromptu warm-up for the runners.

The Communities team also hosted a neighbours' event for our first residents, giving them the chance to get to know each other as they explored the lake, played some games and enjoyed some Easter treats.

Fiona Reardon-Rose from Urban&Civic, said: "We had a wonderful bank holiday weekend, and it was great to see so many people come together to enjoy such diverse activities. The Easter trail and colour run provided a great opportunity to get people out and about, enjoying the community facilities and new spaces coming forward within the development."



# Summer at the Beach

Waterbeach's favourite free art festival celebrates its 10th anniversary!

10am–5pm on the weekends of 24/25 August, 31 August/1 September and 7/8 September 2024

Summer at the Beach, an annual Arts Festival run by a collaborative group of more than 20 artists living and working around Waterbeach, is back and celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

Summer at the Beach promises to be bigger and better than ever! Alongside the multifaceted arts exhibition showcasing a diverse range of work, there will be a series of free, fully accessible, cultural and creative events for all ages and interests.

The event brings together Waterbeach's artistic community to celebrate and share the place that inspires them during the art festival. This year's exhibition will include ceramicists, milliners, textile artists, painters, printmakers, photographers, film makers, sculptors, installation artists, musicians and performers. It's a fantastic opportunity to view the diverse range of art on show and meet the artists.

Alongside the exhibition, Summer at the Beach will also be staging a range of free creative events and workshops on a drop-in basis. This will include a creative space with free art materials for you to create your own artwork, a book swap, live music sessions and free workshops.

The Repair Café will also be fixing household appliances, sewing repairs, electrical items, computers, bicycles, gadgets and other bits and bobs 11am–2pm on Saturday 31 August. Please book a slot for your item in advance by emailing [waterbeach@repaircafe.org.uk](mailto:waterbeach@repaircafe.org.uk).

Refreshments will be available from the famous Pop-up Café, whose range of delicious, homemade cakes and snacks have been a deserving highlight of previous years.

Gideon Pain, local artist and event coordinator, said: "We're delighted to be back at Waterbeach in August/September for our Late Summer at the Beach. As well as some old favourites, we have some exciting new talent to showcase as well as lots of events and activities to inspire enthusiastic amateurs and the next generation.

"Our thanks to Urban&Civic, master developer of the Waterbeach development, for the use of The Terraces for Summer at the Beach again this year."

Summer at the Beach can be accessed off the Denny End Road entrance in Waterbeach. Follow the distinctive red and yellow signs or [What3Words ///straddled.thrillers.performed](https://www.what3words.com/straddled.thrillers.performed)

The Terraces are approximately a mile from Waterbeach Train Station if you are walking or cycling, and free parking is available for cars and bicycles. This year, Summer at the Beach is expanding out across the site at Waterbeach, and some workshops will be held in the beautiful setting by the lake in the new development. Check out the full timetable for individual sessions.

For detailed descriptions and timings of all events, visit the Summer at the Beach Facebook page and website: [www.summeratthebeach.art](http://www.summeratthebeach.art)



## Supporting active communities

Waterbeach has been designed to support an active and healthy lifestyle using a range of best practice masterplanning and guidance from organisations including Sport England and NHS England.

In the Autumn 2023 edition of the newsletter, we introduced the Living Sport team, who will be delivering the Active New Communities project in Waterbeach. The project aims to work with new and existing communities to help connect people to ways they can lead more active lives.

A number of initiatives have been launched so far.

### New Squash Club

Following a squash activation event at Waterbeach last year, Waterbeach hosts fortnightly Squash Club nights from 7pm–8.30pm every other Wednesday. Whether you are an experienced player or picking up a racquet for the first time, all abilities are welcome.

The Squash Club has two leagues – for beginner and experienced players – that are reset at the start of each month. To find out more or join at the start of the following month, please email [Caroline.Ward@urbanandcivic.com](mailto:Caroline.Ward@urbanandcivic.com)

### Taster sessions

During April's Waterbeach Community Market, the Living Sport team hosted a range of free activity taster sessions for children at the Studio. As well as sports including Pickleball, Curling and Boccia, there were giant games such as Jenga as well as soft archery.

Caroline Ward, Communities Development for Waterbeach, said: "It is fantastic to see so many different sports available at Waterbeach. From Tennis and Rugby Tots to Walking Football and Pickleball, all age ranges and abilities are catered for. The taster sessions organised by Living Sport helped us showcase some of these activities to help recruit new members.

"On 6 July we hosted a successful taster session day for Waterbeach and Milton Rainbows, Brownies and Guides with 65 girls enjoying over six hours of sport!"

### Pickleball

Pickleball is fast becoming one of the most popular racket sports in the UK. It combines aspects of tennis, badminton and ping pong on a court the same size as badminton doubles. It can be played with two or four players who hit a perforated, hollow plastic ball with paddles over a net until one side is unable to return the ball or commits a rule infraction.

Natalie Griffiths, who also runs Tennis 4 Tots classes at Waterbeach set up the initial Pickleball class on Tuesday mornings back in February and, due to demand, she now has three sessions a week: 11am–midday on Tuesdays, 6.30–7.30pm on Thursdays and 1–2pm on Fridays.

Waterbeach Sports Hall was recently the venue for a hotly contested tournament between Waterbeach Pickleball Club and visitors from Ely, who narrowly won the trophy. More sessions and tournaments are planned, so if you are a complete beginner or are looking to improve your game, there are plenty of opportunities.

For more information or to book a session, go to <https://tennis4tots.co.uk/adult-pickleball-sessions> or search 'Waterbeach Pickleball' on Facebook.

### Walking Football

Following a successful pilot in January, Walking Football is back at Waterbeach Sports Hall from 1–2pm on Thursdays. Sessions are for adults over 30 years old. All abilities welcome. Sessions are delivered by fully qualified coaches. No need to book – just come along. £5 per session.

### Monthly Wellness Walks

On the last Monday of each month Caroline will be leading a family friendly wellness walk. Meet at 1pm at the Community Room or 1.30pm by the lake.

To find out more about activities at Waterbeach, visit <https://waterbeachwb.co.uk/category/events/>

# Community

## Waterbeach Independent Lending Library



Waterbeach Library has been run by volunteers for over 20 years, and can be found at the back of the primary school, next to the modern two storey block. As well as over 10,000 books, the library has seating areas, a printer and free Wi-Fi, so is a great place to go and read or do homework.

If you already have a Cambridgeshire County library card, you can use it in Waterbeach Library. If you're registering for the first time (and anyone living in the county can register), just pop in with a proof of address and fill in a form.

Using the library is free. As well as borrowing books from the branch, you can order any book in the County library system and pick it up at Waterbeach at your convenience. You can also return books borrowed from other County libraries.

Your library card also gives you access to the County Library's online system, where you can borrow e-books, and renew and order books from home. Fines are charged for books returned late or lost, and these are used to buy new books for the library.



### Summer Reading Challenge

Every year, Waterbeach Library runs the Summer Reading Challenge. Sign-up started on 13 July and each child is challenged to read a minimum of six books over the summer. Urban&Civic has sponsored a prize for each book finished. A certificate will also be awarded to those who completed all six of their chosen books at the end of the summer holiday. It's a great way to keep kids entertained while off school and keep up reading skills. Each child will need his or her own library card to borrow the books.

The library is open all year round at the following times:

Monday: 2.45-5pm  
Wednesday: 2.45-5pm and 6-8pm  
Friday: 2-5pm  
Saturday: 10am-midday

If you have any queries, please email [waterbeachlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:waterbeachlibrary@gmail.com)



# Days out

## Wicken Fen

This year marks the National Trust's 125th anniversary at Wicken Fen, its first nature reserve. The first two acres of land were bought in 1899 and the reserve now extends across over 2,000 acres. It is one of Europe's most important wetlands and supports over 9,000 species including a spectacular array of plants, birds and dragonflies.

The Fen is at its best in the summer, with lots of flowers and insect life. The Summer Nature Trail is the longest route around the Sedge Fen and, having been given time to rest to allow the delicate peat soils to recover, it is open until the end of September. It's a special part of the reserve, full of lush green foliage, fen plants and flowers. This circular route is approximately 2¼ miles long and is a beautiful place to look out for marsh orchids, dragonflies and butterflies.

Until 1 September, there is a new Dragons and Damsels family trail around the boardwalk in celebration of Wicken Fen becoming a British Dragonfly Society hotspot site. The trail is filled with games, quizzes and activities to learn more about the dragonflies and damselflies found on the Fen. £1 per trail sheet, which includes a gift to take home (usual admission to Sedge Fen applies).

Boat trips and bike/trike hire are in full swing and a great way to explore the reserve with friends and family. If you'd like more information about what is on offer, the Visitor Centre team can always help and are available from 10am to 5pm daily on 01353 720274.

There is also a variety of family-friendly events throughout August and September (all of which can be booked onto via the Wicken Fen website):

**Pond Dipping:** delve into the watery world to find out what is living beneath the surface on 9, 12 and 21 August.

**Evening Boat Ride:** trips at 4.30pm and 6pm on 8 and 22 August.

**Bug Hunters:** family fun for those who like to discover creepy crawlies and catch crickets on 2 and 5 August.

**Butterfly Fun:** Discover and Do: marvel at their beautiful bodies under the microscope plus cut, stick and stencil some amazing butterfly-themed crafts on 7, 16 and 19 August.

**Minibeast Superheroes:** sensory challenges and active play ideas, perfect for those with lots of energy, includes a make-and-take medal on 14, 23 and 28 August.

Until the end of August, the visitor centre, gift shop and boardwalk will be open on Thursday evenings until 8pm and the pizza van will be serving wood fired pizzas and cold drinks on Thursdays (5-8pm), Fridays (5.30-8pm), Saturdays (12.30-3pm, 5.30-8pm) and Sundays (12.30-3pm).

For the latest information, call the Visitor Centre team from 10am to 5pm on 01353 720274 or visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen)



© National Trust Images / James Beck



© National Trust Images / Simon Stirrup

## Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey

The Farmland Museum, which sits within the grounds of Denny Abbey, tells the 850-year story of farming and life in the Cambridgeshire Fens. It is open Thursday to Sunday from March to October and has a range of indoor and outdoor exhibits, interactive displays and family events and activities.

### What's on

The team has a packed schedule of events for visitors this year! Families have already enjoyed a traditional May Day celebration and gone back in time to the 1940s, but there's lots more in store too!

Coming up is a busy summer of fun with a different themed free or low-cost activity and craft session every Thursday and Friday. The ever-popular Knight Club will be back, and you can try your hand at making Tudor tiles or have a go at doing the laundry as a Victorian would!

Over the August bank holiday, a wonderful Heritage Craft event is planned and then at the end of September, Grantanbrycg will transform the site into an Anglo-Saxon camp for the weekend.

### Volunteering

The Farmland Museum is run by a small team of staff, supported by a wonderful group of volunteers, who help with everything from gardening and cleaning, to delivering tours and greeting visitors. Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and have fun! This year, they would like to welcome more volunteers to help sell tickets and serve customers in the gift shop.

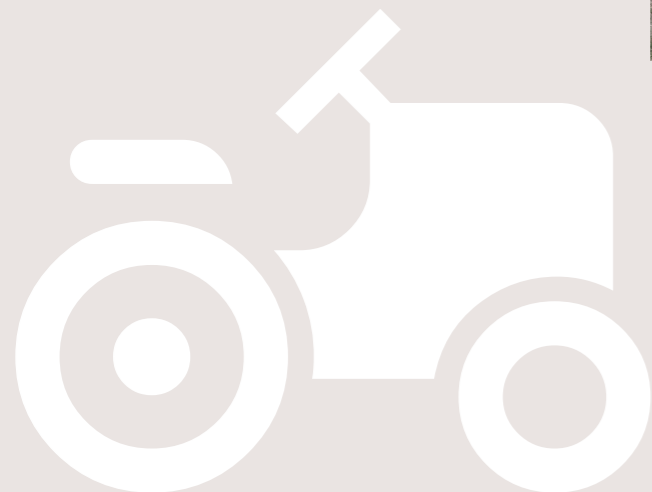
The customer service volunteers enjoy chatting to visitors, while playing an important role in running this local heritage site. If you think this is something you'd enjoy too, they are looking to expand their weekend customer service team. Can you spare anything from two hours to a full day on Saturdays or Sundays? It could be every week or just once a month. If you'd like to know more, email [info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@farmlandmuseum.org.uk).

### Repeat visits

All admission tickets to The Farmland Museum and Denny Abbey provide free entry for 12 months, so do check last year's as it might still be valid!

Keep an eye on its Facebook page and website for the latest information on everything that is going on.

[www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk](http://www.dennyfarmlandmuseum.org.uk)



## Anglesey Abbey, Gardens and Lode Mill

Discover the many layers that Anglesey Abbey, Garden and Mill have to offer and explore the fascinating history that stretches from 12th century priory to 20th century home

The Rose Garden at Anglesey Abbey is in bloom and boasts 60 beautiful beds of roses now. Thanks to a generous donation from David Austin Roses, it has another 19 cultivars in the garden and some 180 new roses this year.

Head over to Anglesey Abbey for an activity-packed Summer of Play every day until 1 September. It's a great day out for the whole family, with activities including bubble shows, crafts and archery. They also have five interactive play zones for children to enjoy throughout the summer holidays - a disco den, games area, book nook, creative corner and a trundle track for toddlers on East Lawn.

Ticketed events include the 9-hole crazy golf course from 27 July-11 August (£5 per person, scorecards included), archery sessions in the Arboretum from 20 and 27 August (£4 per person, no need to pre-book) and the outdoor theatre performance of Hamlet by The Lord Chamberlain's Men on Saturday 17 August at Anglesey Abbey.

Throughout the summer and into September, try out the new Garden Office Café, located by the house and looking onto the stunning Rose Garden. Having opened on 19 July, this is a popular spot for visitors to pick up a hot drink and a bite to eat before carrying on with their walk or taking a moment to sit down and relax in the new outdoor seating area in the courtyard.

To plan your visit or book tickets, please head to: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/anglesey-abbey)



© National Trust Images / Mike Selby



© National Trust Images / Rob Stothard

---

Urban&Civic is the Master Developer for the Waterbeach Barracks and Airfield site; one of the largest brownfield sites in the country.

Urban&Civic

If you would like to meet the team, discuss any ideas or issues about the development, have a tour of the site or look at the community facilities, then please get in touch:

T 01223 622533

E [hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk](mailto:hello@waterbeachwb.co.uk)

W [waterbeachwb.co.uk](http://waterbeachwb.co.uk)

