

Free / low cost activities

Fort Nelson

Discover the national collection of artillery at Fort Nelson.

Explore 19 acres of ramparts, outer fortifications, secret underground tunnels, and ammunition bunkers at this fully restored Victorian fort.

Fort Nelson sits on top of Portsdown Hill, near Fareham in Hampshire. It is 10 minutes' drive from Fareham, and 17 miles east of Southampton.

Admission is free.

Opening times-Open daily

Summer (Apr-Oct)- 10am – 5pm

Winter (Nov-Mar)- 10.30am – 4pm

Last admission is one hour before closing

Royal Armouries Museum, Fort Nelson, Portsdown Hill Road, Fareham, PO17 6AN

Monday 24 July

Junior Assault Course

Back by popular demand is our outdoor junior assault course. Watch the kid's burn off some energy on the balance beams, Rope Bridge, crawl nets and tyre walks.

Pay once, stay and play all day- £3.50 pp

Open daily Monday 24 July – Thursday 31 August

Suitable for ages 3+, children must be supervised at all times

Royal Armouries Museum, Fort Nelson, Portsdown Hill Road, Fareham, PO17 6AN

Wednesday 26 July

Pompey's League 2 Trophy on Display-Free Event: - 10:00 -12:00 & 14:00- 16:00

Celebrate Portsmouth's spectacular 2016/17 season and see the trophy they won for finishing top of League 2. Admission is free- why not take the opportunity to also visit the Pompey FC gallery during your visit.

Portsmouth Museum, Museum Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 2LJ

Thursday July 27

Kids Club: Top Banana Circus-11:00 to 16:00

The Boardwalk, Portsmouth, PO6 4TP

Join in with our drop-in session and learn fun circus skills like juggling, diabolo, high wire, devil sticks, hula, poi, pedal-racers and plate spinning with Top Banana Circus. Their workshops are

fun, physical and challenging, and are a great way to help kids increase coordination, flexibility, reflexes, balance, concentration, patience and confidence.

By Bus

It is possible to use the First Bus X4 service which passes Port Solent on the A27, it is then a short walk to the shops and restaurants.

Friday 28 July

Summer Play Festival 2017 - 12pm - 4pm

Landport Adventure Playground , Arundel Street, PO1 1PH

phone - 023 9282 4571

School holiday opening - Monday to Saturday 10am - 5.45pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Come along to one of Portsmouth City Council's six free, exciting adventure playgrounds and discover a world of opportunity for children. No two are the same, so if your child enjoys a stimulating environment with loads of play, an adventure playground is for them. They can whizz along zip lines, cool off in splash pools, get messy in sand-pits, show their artistic talents with arts and crafts, build dens, climb trees, dress-up and much more. Whether it's gardening, construction, discovering wildlife, making friends or simply getting messy with water and sand, there's something for everyone at one of Portsmouth's adventure playgrounds.

Playgrounds are generally aimed at children aged between six and thirteen, but younger children are still welcome if accompanied by an adult. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by dedicated and fully qualified individuals. Children learn countless skills through play, so our play workers encourage children to make their own decisions and take risks, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when they need it. We let children make their own choices about what they want to do and how they want to do it. This motivates them to become independent and boosts their confidence.

Saturday 29 July

Live at the Bandstand :- 13:00 16:00

Live at the Bandstand is a free event. Come down to the Bandstand and enjoy a free day out. The Bandstand, West Battery Gardens, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3NT

Blackfoot Circle, with Marmalade Moonshine and Fainities

Eastney Beam Engine House Open Day:- 13:00 17:00

View a pair of classic Boulton and Watt beam engines and pumps at this special open day. Eastney Beam Engine House is an impressive Victorian building containing a pair of classic Boulton Watt beam engines and pumps restored to their original 1887 condition. Please note there is restricted access and the engines will not be in steam

Eastney Beam Engine House, Henderson Road, Eastney, Southsea, Hampshire, PO4 9JF

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Natural Printing- In this session participants will be monoprinting, using natural items to mark make our way through lots of prints

Sunday 30 July

Live at the Bandstand:- 13:00 16:00

*Live at the Bandstand is a free event. Come down to the Bandstand and enjoy a free day out.*The Bandstand, West Battery Gardens, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3NT

Fleetingwood Mac, with Veludo Planes

Eastney Beam Engine House Open Day- 13:00 17:00

View a pair of classic Boulton and Watt beam engines and pumps at this special open day. Eastney Beam Engine House is an impressive Victorian building containing a pair of classic Boulton Watt beam engines and pumps restored to their original 1887 condition. Please note there is restricted access and the engines will not be in steam

Eastney Beam Engine House, Henderson Road, Eastney, Southsea, Hampshire, PO4 9JF

Car Boot Sale-07:30 - 14:30

Pier Road Field, Southsea

The car boot sale will be on the field in Pier Road opposite the Hovercraft Terminal on Pier Road.

It is on Sunday mornings (weather permitting) from 7am until 2pm. Pitches are £8 per car and £10 per small van. Sellers can arrive at 6am and all profits will be donated to Rowans Hospice.

The boot sales will take place every Sunday until 24th September unless there is bad weather or a major event.

Monday 31st July 2017

Drop in Hama Bead workshop-10:00 - 17:00

Number 1 Hotwalls, Old Portsmouth

Join Fire Monkey Kendal James at the studio where she's teaching a drop in pixel art workshop that you'll get to make accessories and art using Hama Beads. Arrive whenever you like between 10-5pm. Make sure you've got around 15/20 minutes to make a little thing or 40/60 minutes for lots of items.

Prices will be £3, £7, £12 depending on the size or the amount of things you'd like to make. Multi buy offers available too. All ages are welcome!

Tuesday 1 August

Artillery in Action Show

Fire their imaginations this summer! Experience the power and might of three big guns – the mechanical ballista, the mighty WIBL and the awesome 25-pounder

Daily at 1pm, Tuesday 1 August – Thursday 31 August

Free

Royal Armouries Museum, Fort Nelson, Portsdown Hill Road, Fareham, PO17 6AN

Fun at the Fort

12:00am Tuesday 1 August 2017 -Finishes at: 12:00am Thursday 31 August 2017

There'll be plenty of fun events to keep the children entertained and active at our fully-restored Victorian fort.

Kids will be able to have a go on the Junior Assault Course and throughout August can experience the noise and power of the big guns at the Artillery in Action show.

Who Do You Think We Are?

New for this year is the opportunity to get your hands on some amazing objects from the Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds. We're bringing some of our special handling collection to Hampshire for the summer. Find out about the museum and the treasures we look after for the nation.

Activities will focus on the five themed galleries at our Leeds Museum – War, Tournament, Hunting, Self-Defence and Oriental – and the origins of the Armouries. Every day throughout the holidays there will be handling sessions and themed activities suitable for all the family.

Junior Assault Course

Back by popular demand is our outdoor junior assault course. Watch the kids burn off some energy on the balance beams, rope bridge, crawl nets and tyre walks.

Pay once, stay and play all day- £3.50 pp

Open daily Monday 24 July – Thursday 31 August

Suitable for ages 3+, children must be supervised at all times

Royal Armouries Museum, Fort Nelson, Portsdown Hill Road, Fareham, PO17 6AN

Thursday 3rd August

Silly Scott's Magic Show & The Creation Station -11am - 4pm

Don't miss the fantastic Silly Scott and his fabulously fun magic shows, delighting children by bringing some magic to the summer holidays! Scott's drop-in shows will be at 11am, 12.30pm & 2pm. You can also get crafty and arty with The Creation Station's free drop in sessions between 11am - 4pm and create some colourful summer artwork

The Boardwalk, Portsmouth, PO6 4TP

By Bus

It is possible to use the First Bus X4 service which passes Port Solent on the A27, it is then a short walk to the shops and restaurants.

Friday 4 August 2017

Summer Play Festival 2017 - 12pm - 4pm

Buckland Adventure Playground ,Malins Road, PO2 7BA

phone - 023 9283 2611

School holiday opening - Monday to Saturday 10am - 5.45pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Come along to one of Portsmouth City Council's six free, exciting adventure playgrounds and discover a world of opportunity for children. No two are the same, so if your child enjoys a stimulating environment with loads of play, an adventure playground is for them. They can whizz along zip lines, cool off in splash pools, get messy in sand-pits, show their artistic talents with arts and crafts, build dens, climb trees, dress-up and much more. Whether it's gardening, construction, discovering wildlife, making friends or simply getting messy with water and sand, there's something for everyone at one of Portsmouth's adventure playgrounds.

Playgrounds are generally aimed at children aged between six and thirteen, but younger children are still welcome if accompanied by an adult. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by dedicated and fully qualified individuals. Children learn countless skills through play, so our play workers encourage children to make their own decisions and take risks, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when they need it. We let children make their own choices about what they want to do and how they want to do it. This motivates them to become independent and boosts their confidence

Saturday 5 August

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Live at the Bandstand:- 13:00 16:00

Live at the Bandstand is a free event. Come down to the Bandstand and enjoy a free day out. The Bandstand, West Battery Gardens, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3NT

Monkeylove Stunt Team, with Remedysounds and Nath Kassassin

Sunday 6 August

Live at the Bandstand:- 13:00 16:00

Live at the Bandstand is a free event. Come down to the Bandstand and enjoy a free day out. The Bandstand, West Battery Gardens, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3NT

Sam and the Womp, with The Philosipha, Wren and Temples of Youth

Tuesday 8th August 2017

Stay and Play Summer Activities-10:00 - 12:00

Eastney Community Centre, Bransbury Park PO4 9SU

FREE Activities for children and families. Colouring-in, crafts, decorate a biscuit. Free refreshments. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer at all times. No need to book , just come along!

Thursday 10th August

Birds of Prey-11am - 4pm

Flying in from Liberty's Owl, Raptor & Reptile Centre, these stunning birds of prey will be on display between 11am - 4pm and, with their experienced handlers, showcase their beauty and grace with shows at 12pm and 3pm. You will be able to meet the birds at close quarters and experience the thrill of seeing the birds in action.

The Boardwalk, Portsmouth, PO6 4TP

By Bus

It is possible to use the First Bus X4 service which passes Port Solent on the A27, it is then a short walk to the shops and restaurants

Saturday 12 August

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Live at the Bandstand:- 13:00 16:00

Live at the Bandstand is a free event. Come down to the Bandstand and enjoy a free day out. The Bandstand, West Battery Gardens, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3NT

Mr Clean, with UK Ramones

Portsea Event Group - PEG - Carnival 12:00-18:00

Walk starts 12:00 & Carnival Celebrations 13:00-18:00

John Pounds Centre, 23 Queen Street, Portsmouth, PO1 3HN

Sunday 13 August

Live at the Bandstand:- 13:00 16:00

Live at the Bandstand is a free event. Come down to the Bandstand and enjoy a free day out. The Bandstand, West Battery Gardens, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3NT

Funk You, with The Main Street Band

Tuesday 15th August

Stay and Play Summer Activities-10:00 - 12:00

Eastney Community Centre, Bransbury Park PO4 9SU

FREE Activities for children and families. Colouring-in, crafts, decorate a biscuit. Free refreshments. Children must be accompanied by a parent or carer at all times. No need to book, just come along!

Tuesday 1 Aug 2017:- 11:00 or 12:15 or 13:30

The Creation Station at Southsea Castle- Kings, Queens and Court

Southsea Castle, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 3PA

Prices-£3 per child or £1.50 with a Leisure Card. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Local favourites The Creation Station will be heading to Southsea Castle for a series of family-friendly workshops. Children can get hands-on with a load of activities, each following a different theme. Each will involve a number of fun things to do, aimed at children aged 2-11.

Wednesday 2 Aug 2017:- 11:00 or 12:15 or 13:30

The Creation Station - Sherlock Holmes-Portsmouth Museum, Museum Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 2LJ

£3 per child or £1.50 with a Leisure Card. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Local favourites The Creation Station will be heading to Portsmouth Museum for a special Sherlock Holmes-themed family-friendly workshop. Children can get hands-on with a load of activities, each relating to everyone's favourite consulting detective. Each will involve a number of fun things to do, aimed at children aged 2-11.

Tuesday 8 Aug 2017:- 11:00 or 12:15 or 13:30

The Creation Station at Southsea Castle- *Sand castles and crabs*

Southsea Castle, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Hampshire, PO5 3PA

Prices-£3 per child or £1.50 with a Leisure Card. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Local favourites The Creation Station will be heading to Southsea Castle for a series of family-friendly workshops. Children can get hands-on with a load of activities, each following a different theme. Each will involve a number of fun things to do, aimed at children aged 2-11.

Friday 11 August 2017

Summer Play Festival 12pm - 4pm

Somerstown Adventure Playground , Waterloo Street, PO5 4HS

phone - 023 9287 3236

School holiday opening - Monday to Saturday 10am - 6pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Come along to one of Portsmouth City Council's six free, exciting adventure playgrounds and discover a world of opportunity for children. No two are the same, so if your child enjoys a stimulating environment with loads of play, an adventure playground is for them. They can whizz along zip lines, cool off in splash pools, get messy in sand-pits, show their artistic talents with arts and crafts, build dens, climb trees, dress-up and much more. Whether it's gardening, construction, discovering wildlife, making friends or simply getting messy with water and sand, there's something for everyone at one of Portsmouth's adventure playgrounds.

Playgrounds are generally aimed at children aged between six and thirteen, but younger children are still welcome if accompanied by an adult. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by dedicated and fully qualified individuals. Children learn countless skills through play, so our play workers encourage children to make their own decisions and take risks, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when they need it. We let children make their own choices about what they want to do and how they want to do it. This motivates them to become independent and boosts their confidence

Saturday 12 Aug 2017

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Umbrella Festival- 11:00 17:00 (free event)

Groundlings Theatre, 42 Kent Street, Portsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 3BS

The Umbrella Festival, based at Groundlings, is a chance to enjoy live music, performances and art and craft stalls, all celebrating the diverse culture of our city. It's free entry so everyone is able to go along and enjoy!

Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2017- 10:00 17:00

Free event for all

Southsea Common, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3PB

Jointly organised by Portsmouth City Council and The Kite Society of Great Britain it promises to be more spectacular than ever with over a hundred invited kite fliers from 4 continents travelling to the event. They come because the Portsmouth International Kite Festival is recognised as one of the best Kite Festivals in the world — in fact it is listed as one of the 23 biggest kite festivals in the world as well as being voted a 'Great of Great Britain' event in the Great Day Out category.

This year, celebrating the 26th Portsmouth International Kite Festival, the theme is 'The Seven Continents' — although Antarctica may be a bit tricky!

Organisers hope to have kites and fliers from six continents of the world. Countries already pencilled in are China, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, North and South America as well as countries across Europe. Plus, of course, kite fliers from Great Britain.

Alongside this amazing flying display there will be a host of other activities to meet a family's needs. These will include a craft tent, stalls, free children's kite workshop and children's rides along with local amusements. Also located on the common will be dedicated kite traders who will be able to provide you with a wide range of kites, from colourful branded kites for children or the young at heart to immense power kites for the more adventurous.

Sunday 13 Aug 2017

Portsmouth International Kite Festival 2017- 10:00 17:00

Free event for all

Southsea Common, Clarence Esplanade, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO5 3PB

Jointly organised by Portsmouth City Council and The Kite Society of Great Britain it promises to be more spectacular than ever with over a hundred invited kite fliers from 4 continents travelling to the event. They come because the Portsmouth International Kite Festival is recognised as one of the best Kite Festivals in the world — in fact it is listed as one of the 23 biggest kite festivals in the world as well as being voted a 'Great of Great Britain' event in the Great Day Out category.

This year, celebrating the 26th Portsmouth International Kite Festival, the theme is 'The Seven Continents' — although Antarctica may be a bit tricky!

Organisers hope to have kites and fliers from six continents of the world. Countries already pencilled in are China, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, North and South America as well as countries across Europe. Plus, of course, kite fliers from Great Britain.

All guests will put on colourful demonstrations of kites including swarms of snakes, frogs, lizards, whales, jesters, fish, salamanders and much more. Also in the sky there will be a wide range of kites to enjoy and admire. These include beautiful single line kites - intricately appliquéd or painted with magnificent designs, amazing cellular kites – flying miracles of structural engineering, awe inspiring 3D soft kites in a magical range of shapes and sizes and skilfully flown kites performing excellent tricks and routines to music. Many of these expert kite fliers have been coming to the kite festival for years and they always put on their best display of beautiful kites both in scheduled arena events and in free flying throughout the event.

Alongside this amazing flying display there will be a host of other activities to meet a family's needs. These will include a craft tent, stalls, free children's kite workshop and children's rides along with local amusements. Also located on the common will be dedicated kite traders who will be able to provide you with a wide range of kites, from colourful branded kites for children or the young at heart to immense power kites for the more adventurous.

Picnic in the Churchyard, Treasure Trail and Music by the Pompey Pluckers- 12:00 14:30

St Mary's Churchyard, Fratton Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 5PA

Bring your own picnic and enjoy the churchyard at this special summer event. There will be treasure trails for the children, as well as music and entertainment from the Pompey Pluckers

St Mary's Church Tower Open to the Public-Free Event

St Mary's Church, Fratton Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire, PO1 5PA

St Mary's Church will open the doors to its majestic tower, so visitors can climb to the top and enjoy unparalleled views of the city, as well as the Church interior.

Thursday 17th August

Beach Party & Disco with Justin from Children's Parties Portsmouth 11am-4pm

Justin from Children's Parties Portsmouth will be joining us with his fun Mini Disco, games and bubble and snow machines! Games will include traditional party games like musical bumps and statues, and some less traditional games like the toilet roll game, horse riding game, pump up the balloon game, hula hoop game and limbo. There will also be sweets for the winners of games, as well as a main prizes for Best Dancer and Best Dressed and each session so make sure you dress in your finest beach attire for the competition! Sessions at 11am – 12pm, 1 - 2pm and then 3 - 4pm but music will be played throughout the day.

The Boardwalk, Portsmouth, PO6 4TP

By Bus

It is possible to use the First Bus X4 service which passes Port Solent on the A27, it is then a short walk to the shops and restaurants

Friday 18 August

Summer play festival- 12pm - 4pm

Stamshaw Adventure Playground , Western Terrace, PO2 8JX

phone - 023 9269 0241

•school holiday opening - Tuesday to Saturday 10am - 5.45pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Come along to one of Portsmouth City Council's six free, exciting adventure playgrounds and discover a world of opportunity for children. No two are the same, so if your child enjoys a stimulating environment with loads of play, an adventure playground is for them. They can whizz

along zip lines, cool off in splash pools, get messy in sand-pits, show their artistic talents with arts and crafts, build dens, climb trees, dress-up and much more. Whether it's gardening, construction, discovering wildlife, making friends or simply getting messy with water and sand, there's something for everyone at one of Portsmouth's adventure playgrounds.

Playgrounds are generally aimed at children aged between six and thirteen, but younger children are still welcome if accompanied by an adult. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by dedicated and fully qualified individuals. Children learn countless skills through play, so our play workers encourage children to make their own decisions and take risks, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when they need it. We let children make their own choices about what they want to do and how they want to do it. This motivates them to become independent and boosts their confidence

Saturday 19th August

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Thursday 24th August

Balloonatic Balloon Shows & Workshop-11:30 to 16:00

The Boardwalk, Portsmouth, PO6 4TP

Join the madcap antics of the crew from Balloonatic as they make some amazing balloon creations and then join them at the workshop to learn how to create your own! Shows at 11.30 & 3pm with the workshop at 1 – 2pm.

By Bus

It is possible to use the First Bus X4 service which passes Port Solent on the A27, it is then a short walk to the shops and restaurants

Friday 25 August 2017

Summer play festival- 12pm - 4pm

Portsea Adventure Playground m Aylward Street, PO1 3PB

•phone - 023 9275 3237

•school holiday opening - Monday to Saturday 10am - 6pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Come along to one of Portsmouth City Council's six free, exciting adventure playgrounds and discover a world of opportunity for children. No two are the same, so if your child enjoys a stimulating environment with loads of play, an adventure playground is for them. They can whizz along zip lines, cool off in splash pools, get messy in sand-pits, show their artistic talents with arts and crafts, build dens, climb trees, dress-up and much more. Whether it's gardening, construction, discovering wildlife, making friends or simply getting messy with water and sand, there's something for everyone at one of Portsmouth's adventure playgrounds.

Playgrounds are generally aimed at children aged between six and thirteen, but younger children are still welcome if accompanied by an adult. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by dedicated and fully qualified individuals. Children learn countless skills through play, so our play workers encourage children to make their own decisions and take risks, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when they need it. We let children make their own choices about what they want to do and how they want to do it. This motivates them to become independent and boosts their confidence

Saturday 26th August

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF

Thursday 31st August

Silly Scott & The Creation Station- 11:00 to 16:00

The Boardwalk, Portsmouth, PO6 4TP

Don't miss another chance to join fantastic Silly Scott and his fabulously fun magic shows at 11am, 12.30pm & 2pm. You can also get crafty and arty with The Creation Station's drop in sessions between 11am - 4pm and create some colourful summer artwork.

By Bus

It is possible to use the First Bus X4 service which passes Port Solent on the A27, it is then a short walk to the shops and restaurants

Friday 1 September 2017

Summer play festival- 12pm - 4pm

Paulsgrove Adventure Playground , Marsden Road, PO6 4JB

•phone - 023 9222 1527

•school holiday opening - Monday to Saturday 10am-5.45pm (closed for lunch 1-2pm)

Come along to one of Portsmouth City Council's six free, exciting adventure playgrounds and discover a world of opportunity for children. No two are the same, so if your child enjoys a stimulating environment with loads of play, an adventure playground is for them. They can whizz along zip lines, cool off in splash pools, get messy in sand-pits, show their artistic talents with arts and crafts, build dens, climb trees, dress-up and much more. Whether it's gardening, construction, discovering wildlife, making friends or simply getting messy with water and sand, there's something for everyone at one of Portsmouth's adventure playgrounds.

Playgrounds are generally aimed at children aged between six and thirteen, but younger children are still welcome if accompanied by an adult. Adventure playgrounds are staffed by dedicated and fully qualified individuals. Children learn countless skills through play, so our play workers encourage children to make their own decisions and take risks, safe in the knowledge that help is at hand when they need it. We let children make their own choices about what they want to do and how they want to do it. This motivates them to become independent and boosts their confidence.

Saturday 2nd September

Aspex- Family Saturdays drop-in 11am - 1pm - Free

The Vulcan Building, Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, PO1 3BF