



Newsletter

April 2022

During the Floods

We almost got through winter with no flooding, but in February Worcester riverside went under water once again. The swan ramp that Canal & River Trust built last year (see *April 2021 Newsletter*) was dislodged, but luckily it didn't float away and has been put back.

Riverside properties of course suffered, not least The Camp House at Grimley. It's well above the waterline normally, with a lovely riverside garden where peacocks and geese wander freely, but it often gets badly hit at flood time, as you can see from this photo of a curious swan at the window of the bar.



(Courtesy of The Camp House - photo from their Facebook page)



The river fluctuates between about 0.45m to over 5m on the Diglis gauge, and can rise with alarming speed.

Fishing Line and Lead

Although high water levels can enable the swans to get out and graze, one of the downsides is that flooding erodes the river banks, unearthing old fishing line, often with lead weights.

Fishing with lead weights of less than 1oz (28.35 grams) was banned in 1987 following concern that increasing numbers of swans were dying of lead poisoning. This line was found only recently, on the bank near Worcester Bridge steps.

We do have occasional cases of lead poisoning, which, if caught in time, can be treated with a course of injections, which draw out the lead.



Volunteering Opportunity

We are looking for volunteers to join the Project swan feeding team.



This is currently a daily activity that is spread across a number of volunteers so that no-one is over-committed and the feeding routine is sustainable.

As well as feeding and monitoring, the role includes cleaning the boathouse steps where the swans congregate (what goes in must come out...) and litter picking around the area, as required.

If you enjoy the outdoors and can make a regular commitment, come and join us!

To obtain a volunteer application form, just email the Project Secretary at:

theswanfoodproject@gmail.com

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Friends of Diglis Fields are organising a Jubilee celebration event in and around the Diglis area on **Sunday 5th June**, between midday and 5 p.m.

They envisage a wide range of activities, including live music (Woo Town and Immy & The Boatman have signed up so far), dancing provided by Dancefest, an informal dog show, children's sporting events, and an accompanied nature walk. The miniature railway will also be operating, and it is hoped to have a flotilla of decorated boats leaving Diglis Basin and cruising the river.

There will be picnic areas, and The Café Afloat is also planning a BBQ. A number of stall holders have been invited to join in, including The Swan Food Project. Come and say Hi!

New Organiser for Buying Sacks of Pellets



For those of you who buy the 15kg sacks of swan pellets from The Swan Food Project, Karl Benz is now organising our Community Purchase Scheme.

It's best to order in advance. We do keep supplies in stock, but sometimes everyone orders at once! The price is still £18.50.

To order, contact Karl on: 07779-240822