



# Newsletter

November 2020

## Thank you!

Let's start with a big "Thank you" to all our volunteers and supporters, whose work and contributions have enabled us to provide three tons of mixed corn for the Worcester swans between April and October of this year.

The corn is an important supplement to the swans' diet, and our regular feeders look out for sick swans at the same time.

They spotted a young swan recently with suspected lead poisoning (picture opposite – note collapsed neck and listless disposition), so organised its rescue for treatment at *Wychbold Swan Rescue*. This is one of several swans that have been helped during the year.

Funds are also used to buy sacks of floating swan and duck pellets, which we either sell on to people who like to feed the swans regularly, or use to fill our small bags to sell.



We now have 10 outlets in Worcester, two in Bewdley. We're happy to say that the following Worcester outlets are still able to operate during lockdown: Cafe Afloat, Commandery Cafe, Housewives Choice, Jandco, Singapore Restaurant and St. John's Post Office.

## What we've been up to this summer

Whilst improving the Worcester swans' nutrition is an important part of what we do, we also work to improve their local habitat and promote their safety. This summer we installed an information board for dog owners on Bromwich Parade, to encourage better dog control on the riverside when swans are about.

**Worcester Swan Sanctuary**

Please put your dog on a lead

The Sanctuary stretches northwards from here to the railway viaduct beyond the main road bridge.

Please, please put your dog on a lead as far as the gate. There may be swans on the path or grass verges. Swans are afraid of dogs. They can injure themselves on the steps trying to escape. They can be bitten, or hurt their legs or spine, particularly in summer when they moult their wing feathers.

When swans are close, walk with your dog on a very short lead. Keep yourself between your dog and the swans. They may hiss because they're afraid but they don't have teeth. Just move on quickly past.

Swans with injured dog bite. Headed on the Swan Sanctuary. Died several days later.

Photo credits clockwise from left: Pauline, Stock photo, Wychbold Swan Rescue (01983 472193), Stock photo.

We also organised two work parties: one to clear the area by the screenhouse to provide a resting place for the swans; and the other to renovate the floating swan and duck island in Diglis, which volunteers built in early 2018 to enable cygnets and ducklings to get out of the water. Materials for the renovation were paid for by volunteers, not TSFP funds.



Between June and August, we gave a placement to a youngster doing his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award during lockdown. He fed the swans several times a week with sacks of pellets donated by the public – a great help to the swans. He picked litter too.



## Ways you can help

TSFP has been liaising with the Council, who are looking at ways to reduce the number of gulls in and around the City. You can help in this by throwing food amongst the swans, where the gulls can't get to it so easily.

If you'd like to help on a financial level, you could consider moving from ad hoc donations to a regular monthly donation.

You might also like to register as a giver with *The Giving Machine*, a charity that generates commission from online retailers, a percentage of which is passed on to registered causes – such as The Swan Food Project!

If shopping isn't your thing, why not register and join us in just logging on each day to click the 'Collect Now' button to generate a small bonus donation for us? Register at:



<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/causes/the-swan-food-project/>

If books are your thing, you could donate your good quality unwanted books – and get your friends to do the same! Contact details below:

Email: [theswanfoodproject@gmail.com](mailto:theswanfoodproject@gmail.com)

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