



# Newsletter

October 2023

## Dog Attacks

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and keep their pets on a lead when close to wildlife, but even so, there were three dog attacks on swans this summer.

Two occurred along Bromwich Parade opposite the Diglis Hotel, with one swan successfully treated at Wychbold Swan Rescue. The third was a fatal attack on a cygnet by St. John's.

Even friendly dogs are a danger. Swans are afraid and can badly injure themselves fleeing to safety if a dog approaches them, particularly on the boathouse steps.

The Council is currently looking at improving signage to warn owners of the risks of uncontrolled dogs to wildlife.

We believe that with forethought, and goodwill on both sides, we can all share the riverside park harmoniously.



Photo: Vale Wildlife Hospital & Rehabilitation Centre

## Food Store Maintenance



Back in May, we found graffiti on the side of the food store, actually signed by the perpetrators! We removed the writing using paint-safe graffiti remover, and so far we've had no further incidents.

Rust on the roof is now being treated with two coats of bitumen and a coat of heat reflective aluminium paint. In addition, a new tarpaulin has been fixed on the west side of the container, to help keep it cooler.

## Volunteers – we need you!

We currently have three urgent volunteer requirements.

### Corn collection:

We need someone to take turns fetching sacks of corn from Holt Heath for delivery to our food store on Bromwich Parade.

You'd go about once a month, with plenty of notice so you can choose a time to suit you. Usually volunteers bring about 15 sacks, which weigh 20kg each.



## Swan pellets delivery to outlets:



Outlet: The Lemon Tart, Barbourne

A key source of our income is selling small bags of swan pellets via a number of outlets in Worcester.

We need someone to liaise with our outlets, take their swan pellet orders, then deliver the filled bags to them. We have a team of volunteers doing the bag filling.

This is a flexible role that doesn't need to take up a lot of your time.

## Relief swan feeders:

Our team of regular feeders give mixed corn to the swans every afternoon, but it would be a great help to have more volunteers to cover time off for the regulars.

This is an ad hoc role rather than a regular commitment, but full training and support will be provided.



For more details on what we do, visit our website at [theswanfoodproject.co.uk](http://theswanfoodproject.co.uk). If you're interested in any of these roles, please contact Marilyn at [theswanfoodproject@gmail.com](mailto:theswanfoodproject@gmail.com).

## The Big Christmas Swan Feed

Bringing you The Big Christmas Swan Feed at South Quay once more! This is a popular event, enjoyed by people of all ages.

We'll be giving out a whole sack of floating swan pellets for free, between 2:00 - 2:30 p.m. on each of the following days over the Christmas period:

- Boxing Day - Tuesday 26th December
- Thursday 28th December
- New Year's Day - Monday 1st January

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Mel Allcott, will be handing out pellets with us on 28<sup>th</sup>.



Photo of last year's mayor, Councillor Adrian Gregson - [iantennantphoto.com](http://iantennantphoto.com)

Blow the Christmas cobwebs away – come along and share the fun!