



Newsletter

Spring 2025

Thank you for your support!

The Swan Food Project would not be able to operate without our valued supporters, so a big thank you to everyone who helps in their different ways: regular and ad hoc donations, buying swan pellets, buying books in Caffè Nero, and supporting our events.

We received a very positive response to our swan puppet street collection last November, which raised £467.07, including online donations at the time.

We also had a good turnout for The Big Christmas Swan Feed, where people fed the swans for free, but also bought bags of pellets and gave donations. Thank you!

Our next fundraising event will be a Plant Sale near Café Afloat in Diglis Basin, **Monday 5th May, 11:00 till 15:00**. Please pot up your spare garden plants for us, or grow a few extra to share if you possibly can. After the event, the sale will move to Cole Hill for the summer.



Note: Due to changes in terms & conditions, we have new account details for receiving donations via standing order or bank transfer. You can find the new info on our website: <https://theswanfoodproject.co.uk/making-a-donation/>

Avian Influenza



Avian Influenza (AI) came to haunt us yet again, at the end of January, with at least 50 swans lost. It is terribly sad that there is no treatment for AI, but it is encouraging that many that had looked unwell recovered, suggesting that the flock has more immunity now.

A sustained diet will also have helped, and we are grateful that the Council allowed us access within the barriers to carry on feeding the flock, taking the necessary sanitary precautions. A well-fed swan is a stronger swan!

We are glad to report that we haven't seen any new cases since the last death in mid-February, so hopefully we've seen the end of it.

Mirroring and mating



Mature swans visiting the sanctuary for the winter are coming into breeding condition and are leaving for their territories. Young adults will also be on the wing, looking for a territory with their new mate.

This is a busy time of year, with pairing up, nest building, and territorial fights as couples vie for desirable nesting places. There are pairs on different stretches of the canal and in Gheluvelt Park, as well as on pools around Worcester.

The mating routine is a beautiful spectacle, with the pair mirroring each other, dipping their heads in the water and crossing their necks over. The final shimmy when the mating is over is a truly moving sight to behold.

Volunteering – supporting swan welfare

We are a great team of volunteers who help and support each other in various roles. We'd love you to join us!

Feeders: Feeding is central to what we do, and is a wonderful way to learn first-hand about swan behaviour.

We are looking for fit people to work with existing feeders late afternoon/teatime to monitor the swans, clean the feeding area, and give the swans mixed corn. It's once a week, with occasional cover for other members of the feeding team for holidays.

You will be given initial training and on-going support, and will have opportunities to join in with other aspects of project work too.



Supplies Coordinator: A flexible, largely home-based role, ordering sacks of floating swan pellets, commissioning the filling of our handy bags by volunteers, making up orders for the Outlets Coordinator, and acting as a pick-up point for supporters buying 15kg sacks of pellets. These sales help to fund our teatime swan feed, and improve the swans' nutrition.

You need cool, dry storage and access to a computer. Transport useful but not a prerequisite.

For background info, go to:

<https://theswanfoodproject.co.uk/swan-food-outlets/> and <https://theswanfoodproject.co.uk/community-purchase-scheme/>



To apply, or to obtain more information about either of these roles, email Marilyn at: theswanfoodproject@gmail.com or use our website *Contact Us* form.