

The Swan

A NEW SWAN STORY

Dear Friend and <<Partner's First Name>>,

You would think with a bank holiday last Monday there would not be a lot of progress. It's anything but especially when the building team were in over the holidays pushing things forward.

BUILDING UPDATE

Work to the bar area and toilets has continued apace this week, and the concrete pad stones which will support the structural steels have been completed. This is an important milestone for the project, and is the result of a lot of hard work and skill from our builders and volunteers alike.



There are myriad small jobs which need to be undertaken across the site, which would suit volunteers of all shapes and sizes! This week we had hardy volunteers removing barrow loads of unearthed rubble, others preparing for the heating engineers to come in, while up in the school room preparations for decorating have continued.

As always, we offer our warmest thanks to those who have contributed their

time and energy to the project, and we welcome anyone who can offer more of the same.

A NEW SWAN STORY

As anyone who has walked round The Swan will attest, its old walls and floorboards seem soaked in stories. Tales of tantalising tunnels, raucous wedding banquets, barrel races and pet pigs eating leftovers by the fire; the imagination runs wild when you step off Mill Lane and into the old inn.

So it was fitting that this week that The Swan played its part in a new story. Clewer resident and successful actor-turned-producer, Ailish Symons, has borrowed some rooms on the first floor to film a short story from her family's history, transforming them into an artist's abode in 1950s Ireland.

This is one of the bedrooms just before the last volunteer day and then again after the scenery professionals had been in.



Alish is producing this herself as her first short film. The budget is tight covering the full end-to-end from concept, to filming and then post-production. Filming is

due in a couple of weeks time. If you want to contribute to one of our community making a difference, please have a look at her [GoFundMe](#) page.

This is the front bedroom during the volunteers day and now after the crew have sprinkled their magic dust.



Students from the Green Room School's sixth form were invited along to meet Ailish and hear about her life and career, as well as visit the stunningly detailed sets her art team have created in what will become the Swan's letting space. The session was a fascinating learning experience for all involved, and really captured the essence of what we are building; a community hub for people of all backgrounds and experiences to come together and share their passions and stories.



Here's to many, many more.

OUR LOCAL PLASTERING HERO



Ian Gray lives locally with his wife and two children. The Swan will be his local. After taking voluntary redundancy from BA in 2009, he became a successful self-employed plasterer. He has a full range of plastering skills and specialises in skim coat plastering. The photo was taken today when he was skimming where the water tanks will go.

Ian has volunteered for us. For bigger jobs, he has agreed mate's rates which have really helped us. Apart from the home for the new tanks, he is also doing our two new loos in the bar. These will include disabled access so we cater for all members of our diverse community.

You can find out more about all of our [Swan Heroes here](#).

Have a good weekend.

Warm regards,

Will & Richard

For and on behalf of the The Friends of The Swan

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