

The Swan

SATURDAY UPDATE

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

ONLY NINE DAYS LEFT TO JOIN THE BEVY!

A Bevy is the collective noun for a group of Swans and also the name of The Swan's special members club which is automatically open to all those who have invested, loaned or donated during this initial phase of fundraising. We already have around 200 members, but there is always room for more – as long as you make your loan or donation before the deadline of Sunday 7th July.

Bevy membership will include an invitation to a special evening to celebrate our opening, as well as the opportunity to take advantage of occasional discounts and other event invitations and maybe more, so come and join The Bevy for a bevvv!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Rotary Club Summer Fayre, Alexandra Gardens – Saturday 29th June



The Swan will be setting out our stall again on Saturday at the Rotary Club's Summer Fayre in Alexandra Gardens, between 11am and 5pm. You can test your skills at the old school pub game 'Shove Ha'penny' and maybe win a bottle of Windsor Knot - or a sweets for our cygnet supporters. We will also have lots of fun swan themed things to buy



including lights and the popular doggy bandanas.

Pamela Stockbridge has also been able to supply us with lots more of her amazing plants to sell, so if you still have space in your garden, come down and see what we have. Of course, if you are just interested in learning more about what we are up to, getting involved or making a loan or donation and would like to speak to someone, please feel free to come and say hello!

Informal Volunteer Day 2 – Sunday 30th June

Following on from the success of last week's Informal Volunteer Day, we thought we would do it all again this week! Following feedback that everyone appreciated the ability to turn up when they were able to and for as short or long a time as they could, we will be following the same format.

You should have received an email yesterday with more details about the process and the tasks we want to try and achieve.



This is Peter our builder providing a master class to the weekday volunteers on how to cut and insert the insulation. Basic instruction will be provided if you want to give it a go. Please bring a saw, a tape measure, a pen and plenty of patience.

So, please arrive anytime from 11am and there should be someone in the courtyard to help you choose a job from the list for the day and get started.

Opening Event – Saturday 20th July

The most important date for your diary, as mentioned last week, is Saturday 20th July, when we are planning to throw open the doors of The Swan to the public for the first time. This will include the unveiling of the new pub sign, our logo and website(?) which are currently top secret, but we are all very excited to share with you!

As anyone who has ever watched the swans on the Thames will know, it can take a bit of time for them to get airborne, but when they do they are an amazing sight to behold. Our Swan is likely to be no different and although we will definitely be opening for the weekend, this will be our first fledgling flight. We have so many exciting plans for the bar area that, as with our feathered friends, it might take us a little bit more time to get fully airborne too. We hope that our amazing local community and supporters will understand this and will take part in our journey from first take off to full flight.

RECENT EVENTS

Informal Volunteer Day – 22nd June



Last Saturday, in order to help with preparation for major plumbing work, we tried something different and held an informal Volunteer's Day. Despite the quite short notice, around 25 people came down to the Swan and achieved an enormous amount of work, including removal of the old ceiling in bedroom 2, removing the last of the old floors, clearing out the gullies and our old favourite, wire stripping. Many thanks to all of those who came down and donated their time and energy. We hope you enjoyed the day, as well as the beer and sandwiches!

The Swan Lifeline Open Day – 22nd June

When a lost swan decided to visit the pub a few months ago, we had to call on the help of the team at The Swan Lifeline to ensure he did not wander into the

traffic and a great 'Swan' friendship was born which led to us being invited to have a stall at their annual open day.



So, whilst half of the Communications and Events Committee were getting dusty and dirty at Volunteer's Day, the other half were out in the community adding to the funds for our refurbishment, raising awareness of our project with a new audience and learning about the amazing work done at the rescue centre on Cuckoo Island in Eton.

Thank you to all of those who came down to see us (some straight from the volunteer day!) and lent your support to The Swan in Clewer and the Swan Lifeline. We had a lovely (clean!) day in the sun and are looking forward to continuing our relationship with the team at the centre.

QUICK BUILDING UPDATE

Biggest news of the week was that the building inspector gave us the go ahead for the next phase of the renovation. On receiving that on Friday morning, we immediately started laying the floor insulation. We hope to complete that by Monday so we can lay the sub-floor.

The plumbers have been in too and we now have running fresh water. They have put in all the pipes for the heating, connected it all up and tested it. Next week they will work on the two toilets and using the fact that we don't have a ceiling in the bar, prep the first floor.

The ladies loo has received its first coats of paint, remaining plaster board inserted, and the floor leveled. As it is a priority for the grand opening, we aim to be tiling it next week. In the gents, Alan and Gerry have finished the pointing allowing all of the feature brickwork to be sealed. Other work has been done in there too but fair to say we need to have a blitz on it to catch up with the ladies.



Ian our plasterer has been in and completed both ends of the school room. This has also had other work done on it so it is ready for the electricians to come in and put in the lights, power points, etc. We are moving at pace now and will soon be adding the decorative touches and painting it.

Now that it is dry for a period, we have also taken the opportunity to make some external repairs and improvements. For example, the area at the side door wasn't the best. We have installed a traditional slate roof and given the area a good tidy. We need to do further work to make this an entrance to be proud of.



Lastly the cellar. The new air conditioning unit has been installed and just needs to be connected up. The weekday volunteers have got stuck in and done the tanking to keep the cellar dry. This has been a challenge over the last fortnight. We can now get the floor levelled and start installing other equipment. Our bar manager Matt has been overseeing this part of the project.

UNWANTED TOILETRIES?

Did you get any unwanted toiletries for your last birthday or Christmas? Are they taking up space in your cupboard, but it seems wasteful to throw them away? We have the solution for you - why not donate them to The Swan? In preparation for our opening event, we are starting a collection of any toiletry items or bottles. Items must be unopened, with all labels in tact.

We will be putting a box in the office at The Swan from our next volunteer day, so please feel free to bring them down and drop them off whenever the gates are open.

Enjoy the sunshine!

Warm regards,

Will & Richard

For and on behalf of the The Friends of The Swan

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