

Security at Helston Boating Lake on Flora Day 2017



I am raising funds to help pay for professional security at Flora Day next spring, in particular at the Boating Lake. The campaign began after I put a post on Facebook about the plight of a particular swan last Flora Day. She had built her nest by the side of the path next to the funfair and was sitting on 5 eggs. She was incredibly vulnerable. The post was shared over 1,000 times and many people wanted to prevent the same thing happening the following year.

The lake is home to several nesting mute swans that are very vulnerable with the huge numbers of visitors to the lake and the funfair. There has been at least one incident in the past where nests have been tampered with and eggs thrown into the lake, which is not only distressing but is also a criminal offence.

My target is £300 and I am using a Gofundme page, www.gofundme.com/floraday. So far we have raised about half our target but hope to go ahead, with permission from the Council, whatever we raise by next March.

Our hope is that we will be able to employ at least two security guards to remain at the boating lake between midday and midnight. It will ensure the nesting swans are safe, particularly if they have made nests by the path and funfair, but also that the lake will be a more enjoyable place to be on the evening of Flora Day. There is a lot of alcohol consumed and many young people gather at the boating lake. Police presence has generally been minimal, with members of the public so far breaking up fights and diffusing aggressive behaviour.

Anything raised over the £300 target will be used to fund haybales that will be placed on the islands to encourage swans to nest there instead of the paths.

We would also like to set a 'community day' to clear the paths of loose twigs around February to dissuade swans from making their nests along the path. We have had lots of interest in this and the Helston Phoenix Project have expressed an interest in helping with this task.

Rebecca Wilbur.