

I could write this week about a whole multitude of issues I've been involved in this week, ranging from the crisis at FIFA through to funding initiatives to get our older generations physically active or the promotion of tourism in the UK. Instead I wanted to write about something a little different!

Every year in Aylesford an event occurs which captures the hearts and minds of many. We may tune in to SpringWatch on the TV but here in our very own backyard we have our own little story of the season. Often seen gliding majestically up and down the River Medway a Swan takes to her nest on the banks by Aylesford Bridge. Each year she and her mate set up what they hope will be the safe breeding ground for cygnets, free from attacking foxes or other predators but her biggest threat has always been the rising river.

She and her nest has always brought people to the bridge to stand and watch her. Children and parents stop on their way to and from school to look to see how she is getting along. This year one local man even went and brought straw to help her build up her nest in the hope that it would be better protected from the tides and there she laid 5 eggs and sat patiently, fending off rats with her neck who came to feast off the bread people were throwing her.

Sadly it seems that she has yet again been unsuccessful with rumour sweeping the village that her nest was flooded and the eggs are rotting. Next year there are plans being considered to build her a wooden platform for extra protection. This is what our little Swan does: she captures the imagination of children and adults alike, and it is all here in our backyard not on the TV.