

THE WHITE SWAN

Menu | Local | Delicious | Served All Day

Starters & Sharers

Chef's home-made Soup of the Day served with Crusty Bread £5.50

Tasty Fishcake simply served Sweet Chilli Sauce on a bed of Leaves £6.50

Chef's Special Seafood Chowder served with Warm Crusty Bread and Butter £6.50

Nachos with Melted Cheese, Salsa, Guacamole and Sour Cream dip
For One £5.00
For Two to Share £8.00

Deli

Soft Warm Baguettes

A Baked Potato

Or a White Swan Salad with a choice of.....

Prawn Marie Rose	Tuna Mayonnaise	
Cheddar Cheese	Ham	Bacon and Brie
BLT	The Seasonal Salad	Sausages

All Baguettes & Baked Potatoes are simply served with Leaves & Game Crisps £8.50

Additional Sides

| Steak Cut Chips | Garlic Baguette | Onion Rings | Mushrooms | £3.50 Each

| Bread and Butter | Peas | Beans | Leaves | Cheese | £2.00 Each

Hot Drinks

| Tea | £2.00

| Coffee |

| Cappuccino | Latte | Mocha | | Espresso |
| Small £2.25 | Large £2.95

| Hot chocolate | £3.00

| Liqueur Coffees | Hot chocolate | £6.50

Hot From the Oven

Home-made Steak and Piddle Pie, Prime Beef slowly cooked in Local Piddle Ale Topped with Short Crust Pastry £10.50

Pan Fried Liver cooked in a Rich Onion Gravy topped with Crispy Bacon £10.00

Home-cooked Local Pork Sausages served with Sautéed Onion Gravy £10.00
Vegetarian option available.

All of the Main Courses are served with Steak Cut Chips or Mashed Potato and Garden Peas

Small Appetites

| Local Sausage | Burger | Burger with Cheese |
| Fish Fingers | 100% Chicken Nuggets |
| Whole-Tail Scampi | Vegetarian Sausage | £7.50 Each

All of these meals are served with
| Steak Cut Chips or Mash Potatoes |
| Beans, Salad Leaves or Garden Peas |

From the Bay

Large Deep-Fried Fish & Chips cooked in a Beer Batter. Served with a Lemon Wedge, Tartare Sauce, Steak Cut Chips & Garden Peas £10.00

Breaded Whole-Tail Scampi served with a Lemon Wedge, Tartare Sauce, Steak Cut Chips & Garden Peas £10.00

Deluxe Fishcakes simply served on a bed of Leaves with Sweet Chilli Sauce Dip £10.00

Hot From the Chargrill

Chargrilled Steak cooked to your liking, served with Mushrooms, Tomatoes & Onion Rings £16.50

Gammon, Egg, and Chips or Mash served with Garden Peas £10.50

Chicken

Chicken Breast grilled to order with a choice of the following flavours £10.50

| White Swan Cajun Spice | Hunters Barbecue Sauce | Blue Cheese Sauce | Sweet Chilli Sauce | Brie | Plain |

All of the above are served with
| Steak Cut Chips or Mashed Potato |
| Salad or Garden Peas |

Burgers

The White Swan build your own Gourmet Burger served with Steak Cut Chips Leaves & a Free Topping of your choice £10.50

| Pineapple | Blue Cheese | Cheese |
| Bacon | Mushrooms | Onions | Egg | Brie |
Additional Toppings £1.00 each

Desserts

| Dorset Apple Cake | Warm Chocolate Brownie | Home-made Sticky Toffee pudding |

With a choice of
| Cream | Ice Cream | Custard | £5.50
Three scoops of Vanilla Ice Cream £4.00

THE WHITE SWAN

History of The White Swan

Two thousand years ago with the arrival of the Romans in Swanage, (which at the time was named Swanwick.) it was a very different place. There was a cliff from 8 - 10 feet high from Peveril Point (originally named Perilous Point due to the underwater rocky ledge and the tidal surge) to the pier. A lagoon reached from the present sea front to the Triangle Garage, at the top of Victoria Avenue. In 1880 while building the since redundant Swanage Gas Works at the site of the Garage, there was found a stone quay with metal rings inserted to tie up Roman boats (ships ?) Swanage was a safe port where grain from the plains of Salisbury was exported to the Roman Empire. The lagoon's width was from the kerb stones in front of The White Swan to the Ocean Bay restaurant at the far end of the seafront. There is a wall behind the Anchor Inn; where again, Victorians found rings, to tie up boats, while the Victorians were undertaking groundworks as part of their development and construction of Swanage.

The Romans, having soon subdued the few locals and set about organising the quarrying of Purbeck stone. The easiest way to transport the stone was by sea, the stone nearest the sea was the first to be quarried. The lifeboat side of the bay became one huge quarry, mostly soft building stone but also veins of the famous Purbeck marble, which has over fifteen hundred years, ended up in Rome in the pillars of most of the English cathedrals, and the fire places of the great houses of farmers, but people came over the bay with barges to help themselves to stone for building material.

The landing place in the bay was the inlet in front of the position of the present White Swan. There has been an hostelry here ever since, where the seaman spent their time waiting for the tides before they could sail. When the Victorians installed the sewers in Swanage in the 1880's, an old stone quay or pier and groins and a sandy, gravelly beach was unearthed about 9 feet below the present Institute Road.

Over the past two thousand years with the sea washing sand, seaweed and boulders up to the shallow lagoon, it became a lake. A stream depositing silt and debris, to this day, still passes the Church on King's Road. This lake was used to rear swans for food for the Abbots and Higher Churchman in the wide local area. In a great storm in November 1823 it was estimated 15 thousand tons of stones, some up to the size of 3 cwt, were washed over the foreshore. In the same storm, sand and seaweed were washed up to the front door of the Anchor Inn, and beyond.

During the heyday of the stone trade, slabs of stone were hauled from the quarries of Acton, Durlston, Kingston on horse drawn carts through Swanage High Street, which was a cloud of dust in the summer and a sea of mud in the winter, but always full of ruts. The stone was then deposited on the foreshore from the Mowlem to the Peveril where the stonemasons would cut the stone into various building blocks, lintels, pillars, cattle troughs,

grindstones etc. From where it was loaded onto barges and shipped to its destination. These piles of quarried stone were called stone banks; the quarrymen were paid for their stone by the merchants who employed the stonemasons. These merchants sold on the finished products. So after these many years the beach was gradually raised up. Between the 1840's and the 1880's when cement and concrete took over, 150,000 tons of Purbeck stone was shipped out of Swanage Bay every year. The streets of London were paved with stone from Purbeck, and also many buildings, including Pentonville Jail. The barges that took the stone to London docked at Mowlem Dock (now the site of the Millennium Dome) had to be ballasted to return-hence the front of Swanage Town Hall, the clock tower by the pier, and much of the Purbeck House Hotel, plus many other pieces about Swanage and much more at the bottom of Swanage Bay. Swanage was known to the Edwardian tourist as 'Little London by the Sea', because of these relics.

Black Death arrived along the trade routes from China, India and the middle east. Arriving in Europe in 1347, over the next five years it killed 20 million people, one third of the population of Europe. Spread through the air by infected fleas and rats, both of which were abundant in Europe in the middle ages. In 1348 it arrived at Lulworth Cove via rats on board a merchant ship from the continent. No one understood the disease; it killed cows, sheep, goats, pigs and chickens as well as humans. Three quarters of the population of the Isle of Purbeck died. Farms were deserted, animals abandoned, and it took over a century to recover.

The present White Swan was built in the late 1500's but consisted only of the main building from the bar to the back wall behind the cellar. One can presume that some of Oliver Cromwell's troops landed in front of the Swan and passed through Swanage on their way to the siege of Corfe Castle in the 1640's. Additions to the building were added in 1880's when most of Swanage, as you see it now, was built with money earned from the boom of the stone trade. again in the early 1900's when the railway and the paddle steamers brought the surge of the tourist trade to town before the First World War and the Great Depression suppressed the trade.

In the 1810 census the population of Swanage was 1173. The pubs of the time were The White Hart, which stood just past the East Bar, was demolished shortly afterwards. The Purbeck Hotel, was built about this time and was a businessmen's pub. The Old Ship Inn, built in the late 1700's, was replaced in the 1880's, by shop keepers and the estate managers. The White Swan, built in 1585, was a fisherman's and boatman's pub. The Anchor Inn, an old coaching house from the 1600's, where the first mail arrived in the 1850's. The Red Lion, again in 1600's, was the pub of the Royal Navy. Further up the High Street is the Black Swan, the Quarrymens' pub.

Captain Lawrence Oates, a member of Scott of the Antarctic's team who reached the South Pole in 1912, lived in Swanage in the late 1800's. Captain Oates, famous for believing he was holding up the team with his badly frost bitten feet, left the tent in the middle of a blizzard in the middle of the night with the words 'I am just going outside, I might be some time' never to be seen again.

Swanage could call a claim to be Royal Swanage. King John had a hunting lodge at Whitecliff Farm, north of the town, where they hunted deer. Henry VIII watched his fleet review from Ballard Down, hence the pillar of lime stone called 'Old Harry's Rock'. The king who went through six wives during his life time, would have seen six smaller pillars which many have since collapsed. Charles I passed through several times during the civil war in the 1640's and at one time before his capture planned an escape to France from Swanage. Princess Victoria visited Swanage before she was Queen and stayed at the Victoria Hotel, before leaving for the Isle of Wight. Edward VIII arrived at Swanage pier, whilst with Prince Edward and visited Durlston Castle, appearing again when flying a small plane to Weymouth and was caught in a storm and landed in a field near Langton. George VI accompanied by Generals Eisenhower and Montgomery and Winston Churchill watched the fleet of ships and aeroplanes leaving for the D Day landings in June 1944 from Durlston Head. Princess Diana passed through on a tour of the Purbecks in the 1990's.

In 1942 many lines of German bombs dropped on Swanage, one hit The Swanage Dairy which is now Tilly Whim clothes shop next door to the White Swan and demolished the front of their building and the corner of The White Swan pool room. In the 1960s the top of the pub, where the restaurant is now, was then two shops - a child's clothes shop and the first licensed betting shop. This was opened in 1960 by Mr Ferguson. John Wesley the co-founder of the Methodist church stayed in Swanage in October 1774 during his missionary travels around Dorset. The cottage he stayed in was on the north side of the High Street just west of the Town Hall. This cottage was damaged by a German bomb during an air raid the evening of May 14 1941, the cottage was demolished later in the war. A commemorative plaque is visible on the ivy clad gable just past the Town Hall.

Many schools existed in and around Swanage in the mid-1900's. The many students included; Ian Fleming - writer of the James Bond novels; Tony Hancock - comedian; David Mellor - disgraced Politician; Julia Somerville - television news anchor; Lord Nicholas Phillips of Langton Matravellers - Lord of Appeals; Thomas Hardy - the author (honeymooned in Swanage in 1844.) James Mead - economist (who won a Nobel prize in 1977.) was born here. Enid Blyton lived at Studland and built the Purbeck golf course for her husband. The Wilkinsons Sword edge owner also lived in Studland.