

CALLING ALL LUDLOW BUILDERS

SWIFTS NEED YOUR HELP.



For hundreds of years swifts have been returning to Ludlow each May to raise young before leaving at the end of July for the long trip back to Africa.



They have a distinctive scythe shape and on warm summer evenings scream around the roof tops.

Swifts like to nest in old buildings and Ludlow has always had plenty for them to use.

They need to be able to get into the eaves of a building to build a small nest on the wall plate.

They are not messy birds – the nests are small, clean and usually hidden from sight.

Swifts lay 2 or 3 eggs and once the young are able to fly they leave. They are only here for a few weeks and only have time to rear 1 brood of chicks – so **success is essential** if they are to thrive.



These photos were taken in Mill Street

There are significant dangers in flying this far to breed and **numbers have declined by over 50%** in the last decade – mainly because of the refurbishment or demolition of historic buildings.

Building to modern standards with **sealed roofs and walls leave no space for swifts.**

Ludlow has some good natural nesting sites and we all need to work to ensure that these are not destroyed when properties are renovated – which is where **we are asking for your help.**

There are a number of options that will not damage the properties, old or new, and will bring a great deal of joy to the house owners as well.

There's lot of information about swifts at www.swift-conservation.org

Turn Over to see some ideas of how YOU can help