

AND SOME FOR INCORPORATING IN THE BUILDING



Would you like to help? Or at least give it some serious thought? Of course you would as it would enhance your credentials and you can advertise as a swift friendly builder to boot. The swift group would like to build a list of participating builders.

So what to do? Look at the photos which give some possible ideas or ask **Ludlow Swift Conservation**, who will gladly show you some of the ideas that you could try. The remarkable thing is, this is happening all over the UK and Europe. Towns in England, France, Germany, Italy and Spain all have groups who are trying to **help stop swifts sliding slowly into extinction.**

Phone the group on 01584 875031 or 876818 or email swifts@ludlow21.org.uk

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.



These photos were taken in Mill Street

Swifts lay 2 or 3 eggs and when the young are able to fly they leave the nest and do not land again until they are ready to breed in 2 or 3 year's time. The birds 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.

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

Building to modern standards with **sealed roofs and walls leave no space for swifts** and scaffolding can prevent nesting birds reaching their nests.

PVC soffits and cladding are a particular hazard, as are some insulation materials, but simple modifications can be made to allow swifts and bats access. **Please ask us for advice.**

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 lots of information about swifts at

www.swift-conservation.org

Below are a number of ideas that come from builders all over the UK and Europe and can be used if holes in eaves absolutely have to be blocked. However existing **nest sites should not be destroyed** especially as these birds are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act!

Ludlow Swift Conservation Group was set up in 2011 and is working to help maintain the swift population in Ludlow. The group is keen to offer advice and assistance to builders and homeowners.

Phone us on 01584 875031 or 876818 or email swifts@ludlow21.org.uk



Simple wooden nest boxes can be fastened below the eaves – although **swifts are fussy** about both overall size and size of entry hole.

Plans – or boxes - can be supplied by **Ludlow Swift Conservation Group** and are easily fitted at your suggestion or at the homeowner's request.

HERE ARE SOME OTHER IDEAS FOR EXTERNAL BOXES

