



The Supporter

Newsletter for Lewes Swift Supporters

April 2024

Dear Lewes Swift Supporters,

Welcome to Swift season 2024!

On 17th April, 28,887 Swifts were recorded flying over the observation point at Falaise de Leucate, on the South-East coast of France above Perpignan – so let us hope that some of them are on their way back to us! Last year, we saw our first two Swifts above Leicester Road on 22nd April, so we have started going out for an evening stroll around our survey area just in case there are some early birds!

Just to remind you that we are welcoming the Swifts with our **“Celebrating Swifts”** season at Lewes Climate Hub, Lewes House 32, High Street, Lewes, from 24th April to 4th May, and we hope to see many of you there. You will be able to find out where the Swifts are nesting in Lewes and how we can all help them. During the season we hope you will contribute to our “Taking Steps for Wildlife” wall collage to inspire other visitors to take action to help our local wildlife to thrive.

“Celebrating Swifts!”
24th April to 4th May

Take part in our Swift quiz to have a chance of winning a Swift nest box or a House Martin cup

Part of the “Taking Steps for Wildlife” season at Lewes Climate Hub 32 High Street

Drop in Wednesdays to Saturdays, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. to share your ideas in our “Taking Steps for Wildlife” wall collage

Find out where the Swifts nest in Lewes and how to help them!

On Saturdays 27th April and 4th May – make a flying Swift!

Visitors may also have a go at our Swift quiz to have a chance of winning a Swift nest box or an artificial House Martin cup. If the lucky winner lives in Lewes, we will also install the box or cup for you free of charge. Don’t worry, all the answers to the quiz will be clearly displayed around the Hub!

On Saturdays 27th April and 4th May, visitors may make a flying Swift to take home. Our *“Supporting our Swifts”* talk by Edward Mayer on Saturday 27th April is now full – thank you to everyone who has booked a place.

On Sunday 28th April, we will be joining the **City Nature Challenge Walk** to record nature. Everyone is welcome to come along and there is no need to book. The meeting point is at Monkey Bizness, Cliffe industrial Estate, Lewes BN8 6JL, at 10.00 a.m., (What3Words: marine.cuts.diverged). You may find out more details on the Lewes Climate Hub website: <https://lewesclimatehub.org/city-nature-challenge-walk>

Nest boxes

On 10th April, Dave Boddington met up with us again to lend his building expertise and long ladders to installing some more Swift boxes and House Martin cups.

All the boxes we installed were from Peak boxes: <https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-swift-boxes>

The House Martin cups were made for us by Paul Stevens.



Installing Swift boxes in Abinger Place, Talbot Terrace, and North Way, and an artificial House Martin cup in St. John's Terrace

If you are interested in installing a Swift box or an artificial House Martin cup on your home, here are some details of what we can offer to support Lewes residents. We usually arrange a visit so we can check that there is a suitable site at least 4.5 metres high, and that there is access for a long ladder.

- If you live next to an existing Swift colony, we can pay for a Swift box and arrange and pay for the installation so that we might help the colony to expand.
- If you don't live next to an existing colony but would still like to provide a Swift nest box, we can give you the same support and advice and it would cost you £48 for a single box and £25 for the installation.
- If you live in an area with a recent record of "natural" House Martin cups, we can offer a free House Martin cup and installation to help the birds to reinstate previous colonies.



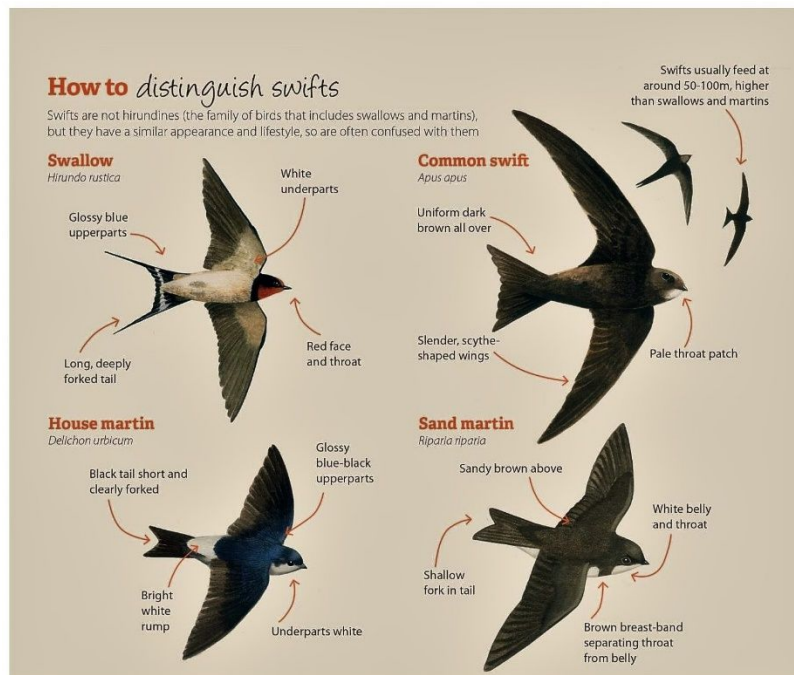
Peak single Swift nest box and an artificial House Martin cup from Paul Stevens

Swift Watch

Please don't forget how important your sightings of Swifts are to us! Over the past few years, Swift Watch sightings have helped us to find new nests which our surveyors are not able to see from the street. You may also be out and about at a different time of day and see something that we cannot see! Here is a reminder of what we would like to know:

- Date and time
- Number of Swifts
- How high they were flying, e.g., just above roof level or high in the sky
- What the Swifts were doing, e.g., screaming, investigating nest spaces, entering a nest

You can send your sightings in via email to lewesswifts@gmail.com, a Facebook post to Lewes Swift Supporters group, or via X/Twitter to @LewesSwifts.



LDC Lottery

Thank you to all the kind residents who have made donations to Lewes Swift Supporters. If you would like to make a donation, please contact us on lewesswifts@gmail.com

You may also support LSS by choosing us as your "good cause" in the LDC Local Lottery:

[Support Lewes Swift Supporters when you play Lewes District Local Lottery - Lewes District Local Lottery \(leweslocallottery.co.uk\)](https://www.leweslocallottery.co.uk)

With best wishes from the LSS Committee:

Mike Ramsey, Chairperson and Surveyor

Kevin Murphy, Recorder and Surveyor

Sharon Hall, Treasurer

Crispin Holloway, Founder Member and Surveyor

Emma Allen, Surveyor

Audrey Jarvis, Secretary, Surveyor and Communications

