



The Supporter

Newsletter for Lewes Swift Supporters

February 2026

Dear Swift Supporters,

We are all looking forward to the return on our Swifts in late April or early May. Meanwhile, here is some information about other Swift events to look forward to in Lewes!

Saturday 9th May - Swift Day at Lewes Climate Hub, 32 High Street

Last year, to launch our six-week Swift-friendly Town for Nature Recovery season at Lewes Climate Hub, we had a wonderful Swift parade to welcome back the Swifts. Responding to popular demand, we have planned another Swift parade on 9th May.

The day will begin at 10.30 a.m. with a pavement parade from the Linklater Pavilion, on the Railway Land, to Lewes Climate Hub. Everyone is welcome to join in, and we hope that, like last year, you will bring a banner, Swift picture, "flying Swift" or anything that celebrates Swifts and our Swift-friendly Town.



At the start of our Swift parade in 2025

Once at the Climate Hub, you may enjoy refreshments while browsing the information about Swifts. Later, at 1.30 p.m., Edward Mayer of Swift Conservation, will be making another visit to us to give one of his wonderful, inspiring presentations about Swifts. The entrance fee, to cover costs, will be £5.00. **Places need to be booked via Eventbrite** and only 30 spaces are available - so if you wish to attend, you need to act quickly!

The Eventbrite link is "Keep the Skies Screaming" - An illustrated talk about Swifts by Edward Mayer <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keep-the-skies-screaming-an-illustrated-talk-about-swifts-by-edward-mayer-tickets-1982966315630?aff=oddtcreator>

If you would like to find out more about Swift Conservation here is a link to their website:

<https://www.swift-conservation.org/>

Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th March, Landport Bottom Discovery Event

Partners in the Changing Chalk project have organised a weekend of free walks and activities for all ages to “walk through history, wildlife and the future of Landport Bottom”

These events are based at, or start at, St. Mary's Church Hall. You may drop in any time between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. and have a go at some downland crafts or take part in guided walks and self-led trails. They will be sharing information about the new management plan for Landport Bottom and how we may all help to care for it. This is an important feeding site for Swifts, Swallows and House Martins!

Explore the whole programme at: <https://www.railwaylandproject.org/discovery-weekend>

Saturday 14th March from 2.00 - 4.30 p.m. “Making a Buzz”

“Making a Buzz” is the Mosaic Project Spring Event at the Railway Land.

The Mosaic Project partners are teaming up with Buzz Club to highlight which insects our gardens and green spaces are supporting and how to help scientists learn more to help to protect them. The afternoon includes several exciting activities that will help to promote our Swift-friendly Town! It will include a presentation from Buzz Club, garden tours, practical sessions to make a bug bunker, bee hotel and hoverfly lagoon, and a hands-on demonstration of how to create a wildflower patch.

Local environmental group representatives, including Lewes Swift Supporters, will be there to chat and provide information.

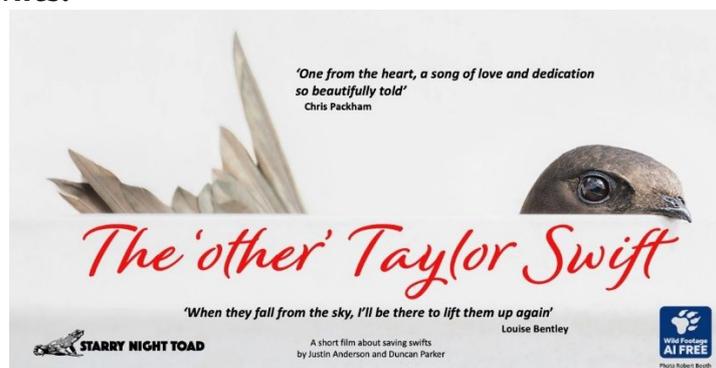
We are proud of being partners in the Mosaic Project with Lewes Urban Arboretum, Wildflower Lewes, the Railway Land Wildlife Trust, and Common Cause.

You may find out more about Buzz Club here: <https://www.thebuzzclub.uk/>

On this site, you may find out about the Mosaic Project and add your nature-friendly garden to the Mosaic map: <https://www.railwaylandproject.org/mosaic-project>



A film about saving Swifts!



Lewes Swift Supporters were contacted by Cllr. Adrian Ross last year to let us know about this wonderful short film, “The other Taylor Swift”, about rescuing Swifts and caring for them until they are strong enough

to complete their migration to Africa. It is endorsed by Chris Packham and the late Jane Goodall. You may see for yourself how lovely the film is by watching this trailer: <https://vimeo.com/1156956887>
The latest news is that Depot Cinema hope to show the film as part of their Climate Action season in June, followed by a Q and A session. If you would like to contribute to the Crowdfunder for the film, here is the link: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/the-other-taylor-swift---a-short-film-project>

Swifts – Mysterious, Prehistoric, Endangered

This delightful book, written and illustrated by Helen Lucy, will be available at all the events shared above. Copies cost just £2.00 and any profits will be used to pay for Swift nest boxes. It is full of useful information and the drawings are beautiful!

Copies are also available from Lewes Climate Hub, Lewes House, 32 High Street, open Wednesdays to Saturdays, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.



Our special Lewes Swift Supporter enamel badges, costing £5.00, will also be available at our events.



Nest box news

You may remember that one of the Swift nest boxes in Valence Road was occupied by breeding Swifts for the first time in 2025. Another double Peak box has been installed near to it, hoping for more Swift visitors in future years.

Later this month, we are installing more Swift nest boxes in Lewes. If you would like to install one at your home, do get in touch and have a look at the advice on our website:

<https://e-voice.org.uk/lewesswiftsupporters/helping-swifts/>
[LSS Installation of Swift Boxes](#)



Surveyor Nick Jarvis installing a second Swift nest box at his home in Valence Road

Get in touch or follow us:

- Email: lewesswifts@gmail.com
- Facebook: Lewes Swift Supporters
- X: @LewesSwifts
- Instagram: @lewesswifts
- BlueSky: @lewesswifts.bky.social
- Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/lewesswiftsupporters/>

Spread the Word!

If you have a friend or relation who might be interested in helping Swifts or learning more about them, please do share this newsletter with them. The more people who know and care about Swifts, the better their prospects will be! Do encourage people to sign up as a member and receive our newsletter and invitations to our talks and walks – a growing membership can also help us when we are making grant applications.

With best wishes from the LSS Committee:

Mike Ramsey, Chairperson and Surveyor
Kevin Murphy, Recorder and Surveyor
Sharon Hall, Treasurer
Crispin Holloway, Founder Member
Georgina Lee, Surveyor
Russo James, Surveyor
Loick Tyson, Surveyor
Audrey Jarvis, Secretary, Surveyor and Communications

