



The Supporter

Newsletter for Lewes Swift Supporters

August 2026

Dear Swift Supporters,

Swift update

Here is the updated record of the sites where nest entrances or exits have been recorded in 2026. So far, we have recorded **95 different nest spaces** visited by Swifts. If you have seen some Swifts entering a nest space in Lewes, and you don't think they have been recorded here, please let us know!

Swift site/colony	2026 records	Where are the nests?
Upper Western Road	5	<i>Under eaves</i>
Rear of Western Road	2	<i>In nest boxes</i>
St. Anne's Church	10	<i>Under eaves</i>
Valence Road	5	<i>Three under fascia, two in nest boxes</i>
St. Anne's Crescent	3	<i>One in old air brick and two in boxes</i>
High Street	2	<i>Under eaves</i>
Top of St. Swithun's Lane	8	<i>Under eaves</i>
The Maltings	7	<i>Under eaves</i>
King Henry's Road	1	<i>Under eaves</i>
De Montfort Road	9	<i>Eight in nest boxes and one under eaves</i>
The Avenue	4	<i>Under eaves</i>
Station Street	9	<i>Under eaves</i>
Bridgewick Close, Old Mallng Way	3	<i>Under eaves</i>
St. John's Terrace	2	<i>In nest box</i>
St. Martin's Lane	3	<i>Under eaves</i>
Flea Market	4	<i>Under eaves</i>
Mill Road	2	<i>In boxes</i>
Abinger Place	3	<i>Under eaves</i>
Grange Road	1	<i>Under eaves</i>
Mealla Close	1	<i>Under eaves</i>
Potters Lane	4	<i>Under eaves</i>
Southover High Street	6	<i>Three under eaves and three in boxes</i>
Prince Edward's Road	1	<i>Under eaves</i>
Total number of nest spaces entered	95	

Swift box occupancy

We are delighted that twenty of the nest spaces visited by Swifts this year are in boxes – most of which we have installed!

We are keeping records of ALL birds making use of Swift nest boxes – so if you have had a Sparrow or any other bird that has entered a box near you please let us know!

Some of the Swift colonies on public buildings in Lewes

Marks show nest entrance points recorded this year.



St. Anne's Church



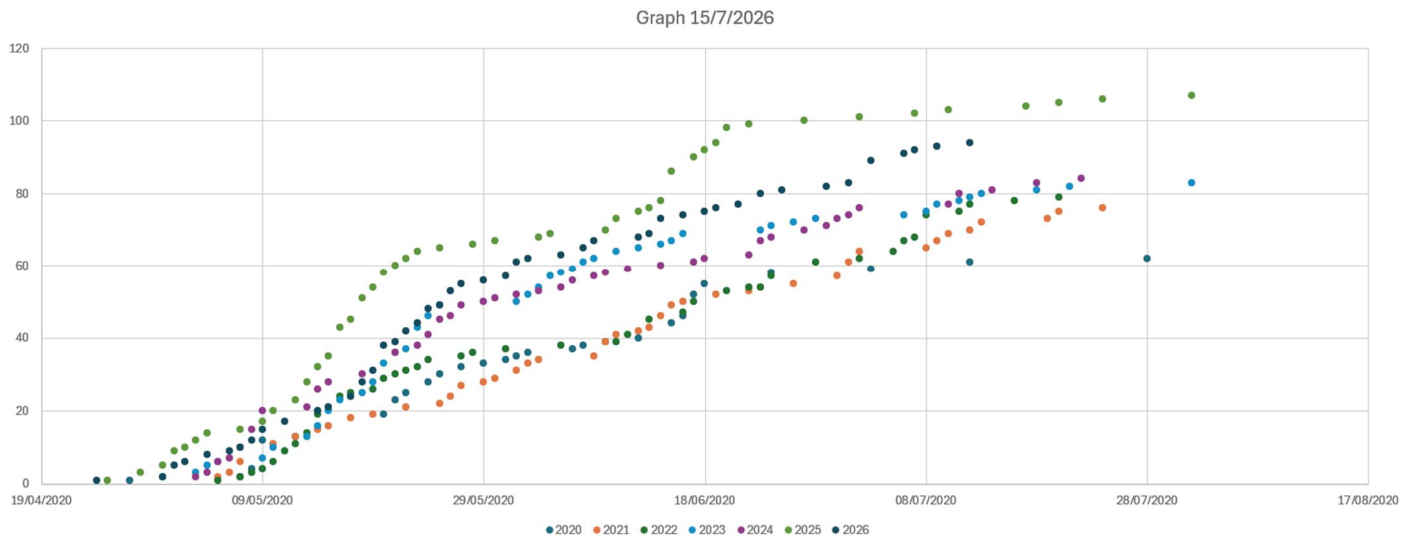
Station Street



The Maltings

Comparison of the number of nest spaces visited year by year

This graph from our recorder, Kevin Murphy, shows that the 95 different nest entrances recorded in 2026 is greater than in 2019 to 2024 - but fewer than in 2025 when Swifts were confirmed entering 107 different nest spaces. Given the extremes of weather the Swifts have endured, this could be seen as a good result. However, any perceptible trend in Swift numbers would have to be viewed over a longer period of time.



Swift Walks 2026

Members of the LSS Committee took turns in leading four guided walks around some of the Swift colonies in Lewes during Swift Awareness Week, 27th June to 4th July. Forty people joined us and, happily, the Swifts were at their best – screaming past us and entering several of the nests.



St. Anne's Church



St. Swithun's Terrace



Western Road

Dates for your diary

We would be very pleased to see you at our next events!

- **Saturday 5th September, 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.**, Lewes Swift Supporters will have a stall at the Societies Fair at Lewes Town Hall. A chance to meet us and ask any questions that you have about Swifts!
- **Tuesday 6th October, from 7.30 p.m.**, Lewes Swift Supporters AGM at the Linklater Pavilion, Railway Land, Railway Lane. After a brief business item and an update on the Swifts of Lewes, our guest speaker will be Kate Bradbury talking about “Gardening for Wildlife”. Kate is an author who has specialised in writing about wildlife gardening. She made her front garden into a haven for wildlife and will share advice from her experiences. The talk will be followed by refreshments.

Thank you to all the surveyors and Swift Watchers who share their sightings with us and help us to monitor the Swift activity as carefully as possible. Every sighting that you send us might help us to find new places where the Swifts are congregating - and perhaps even nesting birds!

Throughout the first three weeks of July, we saw large groups of up to thirty Swifts screaming around our colonies, banging against existing nest sites, and investigating other crevices and gaps under the eaves. “Banging” is when younger or unattached Swifts are scouting for a potential nest site by brushing or tapping against eaves, soffits or any other nooks and crannies. We have even seen them banging against BT junction boxes and the speakers of Swift callers – presumably because the black shape looks like a hole. In the last week of July, we have seen fewer Swifts entering nests and flying around the skies, so it is likely that some of the Swifts have fledged and the chicks and younger birds have begun their migration to Africa.

The parent Swifts usually roost in the nest for a few days once their chicks have fledged. Other Swifts that arrived later, or perhaps had their breeding cycle disturbed, are still returning to their nests. There are usually some still flying around in August so keep your eyes open and let us know what you see!

If you see any Swifts in Lewes, this is what we would like to know:

- Date
- Time
- Address of nearest property
- Number of Swifts
- What the Swifts were doing, for example, flying, screaming, or banging against a potential nest space.



Prospecting Swifts in Valence Road, fly-pasts in De Montfort Road, and one Swift over St. Anne's Church

Get in touch or follow us:

If you live in an area where there is an existing colony of Swifts or House Martins, or where there used to be, do get in touch if you would like a Swift box or an artificial House Martin cup installed at your home. When we have the opportunity to expand existing colonies for these social birds, we are often able to fund the boxes/cups and their installation if your property is suitable.

Just contact us via lewesswifts@gmail.com



Sightings of Swift entries recorded by Swift Supporters: Nick Cooper in St. John's Terrace, Simon Clark in Western Road, Chris Edwards in Prince Edward's Road

Keep in touch!

- 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
Russo James, Surveyor
Loick Tyson, Surveyor
Audrey Jarvis, Secretary, Surveyor and Communications

