General Advice on installing Swift Nest Boxes

Thank you for your enquiry to Lewes Swift Supporters, (LSS), about your wish to purchase and install one or more Swift nest boxes on your property.

You can greatly increase the chance that your box(es) will be occupied by Swifts if you follow certain guidelines. For example, Swifts are more likely to occupy your box if:

- it is on the North side,
- it is a least 4.5m above the ground and
- it has a reasonably clear flight path into the box, (no wires, trees, etc., in front of the box).

If the only available wall is not on the North side but reasonably shaded, for example, through deep eaves, that would be a possibility too. Some of the Lewes Swifts choose to nest under eaves which face in other directions!

The boxes we generally recommend are from Peak Boxes (single, double, or triple for an apex): https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-swift-boxes

Being gregarious, the chances of swifts occupying the box(es) are increased if you play a swift call for a couple of hours a day from May to the end of July: https://peakboxes.co.uk/shop-sound-systems

Here is a link to more detailed advice from Swift Conservation: https://www.swift-conservation.org/Leaflet_1_Swifts_Nest-boxes_at_Your_Home-small.pdf

If you **live in Lewes** and would like further advice, we can arrange for someone to visit your home to advise you on the best place to locate your box(es).

Swifts are **very clean birds** and they do not leave deposits of droppings outside the nest box, as House Martins and some other birds do. The parent birds eat most of the chicks' droppings, possibly for their mineral content, so the nests do not require cleaning out at the end of each season.

These pages on our website may also give you useful information about Swift boxes, Swift callers and when to play them, and other ways in which you might help Swifts:
How can we help Swifts? - Lewes Swift Supporters (e-voice.org.uk)
Swift calling systems - Lewes Swift Supporters (e-voice.org.uk)