

SGEG Swift Update - The Shamley Green Swift Project

Great news, your response to The Shamley Green Swift Project's call to volunteer your eaves was fantastic, the goal of twenty households has already been reached and installation will go ahead this November. The response was so fantastic in fact, that a second phase will be arranged for a later date too, so there's still time for your household to be part of the Project.

The Project was started by Kate Elmes Rudd at the beginning of the summer with the aim of ensuring swifts can continue nesting during the breeding season by increasing the number and density of nesting sites available to them in Shamley Green.

Kate is getting in touch now with households who signed-up, and is frustrated she wasn't able to do so over the summer. She had an accident just before the summer holidays began, fracturing her right arm and leg and - at the time of writing - is still in the Royal Surrey with some rather impressive metalwork in her arm and on her leg in particular. She'll be back home, back on her laptop, and back in touch very soon.

If you signed-up your eaves, Kate'll be in touch with some follow-up questions to help ensure a smooth installation. There was so much interest Kate went back to Sarah Davis of Guildford Environmental Forum - the ultimate brains and energy behind these swift projects - to see if she and Hampshire Swifts would be happy to arrange a Phase 2 installation at a later date. They're delighted to do so, so Kate's started collecting expressions of interest for the second phase, the date of which will be dependent on Hampshire Swifts happily busy installation schedule. If you'd like to sign-up your eaves for Phase 2 please email theshamleygreenswiftproject@gmail.com

Swift populations are rapidly declining due to the perfect storm of far fewer airborne insects, climate change, and dramatic habitat loss, resulting in their numbers halving in recent years. It's fantastic to be able to do something simple yet effective in our village to help them find somewhere to nest after they finally reach Shamley Green from their Central African starting point.

Swift fact: Swifts return to the same nesting spot each year, so you'll know that when swifts start nesting in your box you're seeing the same pair each summer. Quite something.



