

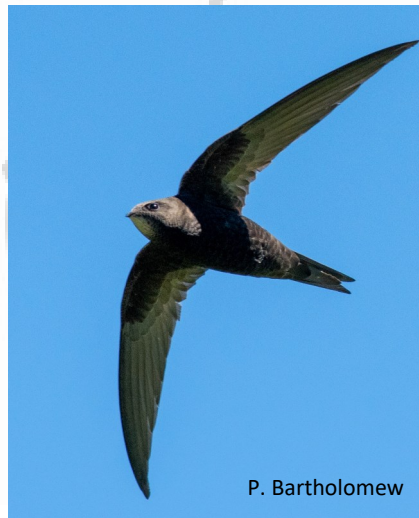
# The Swifts at No30!



Plans to regenerate the B and C listed former Cruickshanks building in Huntly were put in motion by owners Huntly Development Trust (HDT). Being aware this building was home to one of Huntly's largest and perhaps oldest Common Swift colonies, NES Swifts (formerly Huntly Swift Group) in 2020 put forward a proposal of recommendations for protecting this longstanding colony of which generations of Swift had possibly nested over hundreds of years. Survey records had been gathered since 2017 and it was vital that measures were taken to protect the home of this now red-listed species. The regeneration project would span an entire Swift breeding season. NES Swifts mitigation guidance was accepted and incorporated in to a species protection plan.

There are many aspects to Swift protection but conserving well established breeding colonies such as this and providing additional nesting opportunities is essential towards reversing the current rate of decline for Swifts within the urban environment on which they depend.

An iconic bird of summer, the Common Swift relies solely on the urban environment for breeding success, nesting cleanly and quietly. In early May, after completing an 8,000 mile non-stop migration journey from Africa, Swifts will return loyally to the same nesting spot each year. This project is proof that with co-operation and partnership, nesting colonies in our buildings can be protected and enhanced, safeguarding a future for the **Masters of the Sky**.



P. Bartholomew

## Timeline:

- ♦ **2020** Proposal for Swift protection and mitigation put forward to Huntly Development Trust by NES Swifts.
- ♦ **Sept 2021** Scaffold, Eco Wrap and temporary Swift nest boxes installed after Swifts migration to Africa. Refurbishment works commence.
- ♦ **Sept 2022** Temporary nest boxes removed from scaffold after Swifts migration to Africa.
- ♦ **April 2023** Scaffold removed ready for the returning Swifts in May!
- ♦ **April 2025** Swift webcam installed in No30 café area!

The finished build has reinstated all 7 original nesting sites along the front façade and 9 new nesting sites (1 reinstated) are built into the Deveron St elevation. NES Swifts surveys show the Swifts are returning to the building as hoped!