

Adrienne Begent

From: adrienne.begent@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk
Subject: FW: Guildhall - swift boxes
Attachments: Guildhall Faversham north face.jpg; Guildhall Faversham east face.jpg

From: pamelahardiman@gmail.com <pamelahardiman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 3:46 PM
To: Town.Clerk <Sarah.Muteham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Guildhall - swift boxes

Thanks so much for the quick reply!

I have consulted with Canterbury Swifts and here is their advice on box locations for the Guildhall:

preference would be the top left hand corner of the north face but only if that tree is not going to spread any wider. At the moment it looks as if that corner still gives a clear flight path in and out. When I checked 'street view' (taken way back in 2009) it looked as if it had a similar spread then; perhaps the council keeps it under control - perhaps it's fully grown - this would need to be ascertained.

Failing that corner, then just around the next side on the east face but still up in the corner looks ok. See coloured blobs on photos below!

I'm attaching the 2 photos which clearly identify the ideal locations.

They recommend the [Schwegler 17](#) box I previously mentioned, but as they need to be installed right under the eaves it would be prudent to measure the overhang to ensure the box is completely covered by the eaves (to prevent predation by other birds). So an overhang of at least 15cm ideally. Alternatively the [Action for Swifts Model 30](#) box has a built in roof.

Boxes come as singles, double or triples.

I should also mention that a small battery powered "Caller" (Around £65) encourages birds to investigate new nest sites. These are automatically timed to call just after dawn for a couple of hours. We have [one like this](#) at the Alex.

Thanks so much for passing it to the Committees. I was forward on our correspondence with SBC separately.

Kind regards

Pam

Pam Hardiman

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From: pamelahardiman@gmail.com <pamelahardiman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 12:39 PM
To: Town.Clerk <Sarah.Muteham@favershamtowncouncil.gov.uk>
Subject: Guildhall - swift boxes

Dear Sarah

I'm getting in touch from The Alexander Centre as I wonder if you might be able to help me.

I programme many of the shows at The Alex but am also a keen bird watcher. I recently worked with the Canterbury Swifts group to install 2 swift boxes on the side of the Alexander Centre. As you may know, swifts are in drastic

decline and are now a red-listed species. As there's an active colony in Faversham, we are doing everything we can to support them. The boxes do need to go high under the eaves and so can be tricky to install. So if we hear of scaffolding being erected for any reason, we are always interested in talking to the owners, as it makes the job 10 times easier. The boxes are very discreet by the way – they come in brick colours or white to blend in with their background and can be painted to match the wall colour. And of course they do not affect the building in any way and can be easily removed.

I'm contacting you now because I see that there is high level scaffolding around The Guildhall – which would make the installation of boxes there very simple indeed. And the timing is perfect as the swifts have all now left on their migration to Africa, and won't be back until May.

I should mention that The Alexander Centre is a Grade 2 listed building and so we consulted with Swale Borough Council, who advised that the installation "*Would not have an adverse impact on the special interest of the listed building*" and so would require neither planning permission nor listed building consent.

The 2 boxes we used are made by [Schwegler](#) and retail at around £73 each. Cheaper models are available but we chose this model because it's made of woodcrete and so extremely long lasting. I'm attaching a photo so you can see how they blend into the wall.

No maintenance or annual cleaning is required. And to clarify – swifts do not create "mess" under the boxes, as house martins and swallows are known to do.

This is such a good news story which I know would generate interest in the local community and local groups such as the Faversham Natural History group.
And what a bonus to the restoration works!

If this is something Faversham Town Council would like to explore I would be happy to meet up to discuss options. I'm sure that Canterbury Swifts would be happy to join us to advise too. They were instrumental in getting the boxes on The Alex and have been incredibly knowledgeable and helpful.

And in the meantime if there's any further information I can supply, just let me know.

Many thanks – I hope this is of interest!

Kind regards

Pam

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