



**SOS**  
**SAVE OUR STOCKBRIDGE**  
**And**  
**SAVE OUR SWIFTS**

Update March 2023

First of all we very much hope you approve of our new SOS logo. We felt it encapsulates what we are about and also echoes the Stockbridge Town Hall, Stockbridge Cinema and Stockbridge Music logos.

Secondly we are very sorry to report that a founder member of SOS, Roger Tym B.E.M., has resigned from the SOS committee. He has given sterling service, help and advice to SOS since its inception for which we are extremely grateful. The good news is that he has agreed to continue in a consultant capacity to help and advise SOS and as he is, and has been for many years, a top of the range planning expert we will continue to benefit from his wide expertise and experience.

Thirdly we are of course hoping that the swifts will return to Stockbridge at the end of April. To that end one of our number has

installed a swift calling player – an electronic device that plays swifts calling in their own unique way – and this will be switched on at the end of April in the hope that it encourages returning swifts to nest in one or more of the new swift boxes which were installed two years ago. Apparently once a pair of swifts is enticed into one of the new swift boxes then it is more likely that others will be attracted to other swift boxes. At least that is the theory! So we hope it works and that we shall see swifts wheeling and screeching over the High Street again this summer and that some of them will nest in the newish swift boxes. Keep a look out for them.

You will all know that swifts have reduced substantially in numbers over recent years and that we need to do anything and everything we can do to encourage them to breed in the UK. To that end there is currently a petition which requests that all new houses have swift bricks installed in them. If you would sign the petition, then if there are enough signatories, it will be debated in Parliament. The link is <https://petition.parliament.uk./petitions/626737>

Otherwise we continue to keep an eye on planning applications particularly where they might be in the countryside, outside the Stockbridge Settlement Boundary, in the Conservation Area or near one of our four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). The SSSIs in Stockbridge are the River Test, the Common Marsh, Stockbridge Downs and Stockbridge Fen (which is situated north of the High Street and runs parallel to the A30 between the roundabouts).

Finally we hope you are all keeping well and that you will have a Happy Easter.

Jean Boney

Chair of SOS