

# PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL



2 High Street  
Perth, PH1 5PH

Tel: 01738 475048  
Fax: 01738 475096

---

## Media Release

PR 6128

Draft

09 March 2012

### Homes for people - and swifts!

A recent building conversion in Alyth has resulted not only in new homes for humans, but also for swifts.

Swift numbers in Scotland have seen a sharp drop in recent years, with a key reason for the decline being the lack of suitable nesting places.

Gaps in stonework or spaces under gutters are preferred spots for swifts, and as old buildings are demolished or gaps are filled in, these nest sites are lost. New build homes tend not to offer nesting opportunities, and as swifts mate for life and return to the same place every year to breed, if their nest site is lost they are unlikely to rear any chicks.

In a bid to halt this decline, Perth & Kinross Council's Countryside Ranger Service has been working with businesses and schools in Eastern Perthshire to ensure there are new nestboxes in place in time for the swifts' return to Scotland at the beginning of May.

Hillcrest Housing Association has donated money to the Tayside Biodiversity Partnership to purchase six long-lasting woodcrete nestboxes. In addition, their apprentices are making a number of nestboxes for future use.

Two of the new nestboxes are now to be found on the old auction hall in Alyth, which has been converted into apartments by Errol-based PJ Redford Construction. It is hoped that pairs of young swifts will find and occupy the new 'residences' this Spring. Lorna Redford of PJ Redford Construction said: "I was impressed with the enthusiasm and interest of the Countryside Ranger and was delighted to be able to accommodate the swifts nesting boxes. Here's hoping they have occupants come May!"

The Countryside Rangers will be carrying out the Tayside Swift Survey again during 2012 to pinpoint swift hotspots to help in their conservation. For further information about the survey, visit the Council website at <http://www.pkc.gov.uk> and search for 'swift survey'.

Householders can also help swifts by installing a nestbox on their property, with a wide variety of designs on offer - see [www.swift-conservation.org](http://www.swift-conservation.org) for installation advice.

**ENDS**

**Notes for editors**

Attached with the electronic version of this release is a link to a image showing Billy McGibbon of PJ Redford Construction and Countryside Ranger Daniele Muir with the swift nestboxes at the former auction hall in Alyth.

**For further information please contact:**

**Mary Willis, Communications Officer**

**Tel: 01738 475072**

**Fax: 01738 475096**

**Email: [mwillis@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:mwillis@pkc.gov.uk)**