

# Settle U3A Birdwatching Group

## About Us

The aim of the Settle U3A Birdwatching Group is to give members the opportunity to enjoy the experience of looking for birds, both locally and further afield.

Enjoyment is the Group's primary objective but it's hoped that, at the same time members will develop both their understanding of how birds live and their skills in identifying individual species.

The Group meets monthly, by Zoom at the moment, but usually meetings are outdoors, with visits to prime birding sites. Indoor meetings are held twice a year, on a variety of issues.

If you are interested in birds or just enjoy watching them this is the Group for you.

Swifts over Giggleswick: with luck we'll be able to record in May where they are feeding and nesting.



## Latest News

Our swifts come back in May so that's where we directed our attention for this month's meeting. We all look forward to the return of these lovely birds, but sadly there are fewer of them each year. The reason for the decline is a shortage of nest sites. More and more buildings are renovated, blocking the holes under the eaves where the birds nest, and as old buildings are pulled down the new ones that replace them make no provision for breeding swifts. The solution is to identify the nest sites so efforts can be made to conserve these precious places, and to get new builds to accommodate swift boxes or nesting bricks. Tanya Hoare of the Sedbergh Swift Group came to our May meeting on 4 May - via Zoom - to tell us how to survey our local patch for breeding swifts and what to do with the data collected. Armed with this information we are now ready to spend the next three months hunting for swifts!

**Contact details:** for more information about the u3a Birdwatching Group and its activities contact Group Leader Les Chandler on [lchandler52@gmail.com](mailto:lchandler52@gmail.com).