



## 'Befriend a Kite' scheme - kite updates since September 2017

**D4 - Zola - Ebchester C of E Primary School** - was seen at the end of January 2018 with six other kites being fed by a resident on the housing estate below Thornley Gardens in Rowlands Gill.

**D5 - Rocket - Amble First School** - was identified on his territory near Sunnyside in late February, he and his new partner WT33 Storm were noted bringing in twigs to refurbish the nest. (Last year he successfully raised two chicks wing tagged N2 and N3).

No other BaK kites have been seen recently.

### **General - 2017/2018 Winter Roost Update**

The roosts started to come together by the end of September.

Our two main roost sites were on the Gibside Estate (seen from the Derwent Walk) and around Pontburn / Hamsterley Mill. Kites were also recorded at both Victoria Garesfield and Lintzford, with smaller pre-roosts at Thornley Gardens, Hollinside Lane and Hamsterley Mill.

In December on a co-ordinated roost count at the two main sites 25 kites were counted on the Gibside Estate and 12 near the Pontburn Viaduct giving a total of 37 kites.

As part of an International co-ordinated Red Kite roost count early in January 58 (57) kites were counted at four different sites (more details of this event is in our latest newsletter - attached).

Only one of our 2017 chicks N2 was recorded at a pre-roost gathering this winter.

We have already started our monitoring of the Breeding season and as always, would be grateful for any sightings of territorial behaviour as detailed in our latest newsletter. But please remember kites are fully protected by law and it is an offence to knowingly disturb their nests and territories.

Any sightings can be reported via our website (or to myself) with the date, time, location and what activity was seen.

We will then get someone from our Monitoring Team to check out these areas.

Thank You

March 2018

