



## 'Befriend a Kite' scheme - kite updates since September 2018

**D4 - Zola - Ebchester C of E Primary School** - was seen regularly in gardens in both Rowlands Gill and Burnopfield during January 2019. She was seen again in February perched in a tree in Rowlands Gill with a second kite perched nearby. Hopefully this is a good sign for a potential breeding pair.

**D5 - Rocket - Amble First School** - was the star of our Kite Cam last year along with his partner **WT33 Storm** at their nest site near Sunnyside. In January and February 2019 there have been regular sightings of the pair on their territory so things are looking good for this year so far. Unfortunately we have had some technical issues with Kite Cam so it will not be available this year, but we do hope to rectify the problems for 2020.

**F9 - Arrow - Rowlands Gill Primary School** - has been seen in January 2019 in the vicinity of her nest site in Rowlands Gill. Let us hope she is more successful this year.

No other BaK kites have been seen recently.

## General - 2018/2019 Winter Roost Update

As you will see from our attached newsletter - our Winter Roosting numbers were disappointing. The kites seemed well scattered and no main roosts were found, as had always been the case in previous years. It is very difficult to understand the reasons for the change.

One bright spot from our Roost monitoring was that there were two sightings of **WT15 Red Philip** at the Gibside roost early in January 2019.

**Red Philip** has always been the 'Poster Boy' of the kites return to the North East of England. He was one of the original 20 kites released in 2004, making him 15 years old now.

He has led an eventful life over the years, swapping partners and fathering several chicks creating quite a dynasty. On one occasion he flew into a local resident's window, a bit dazed but flew off again shortly afterwards. Another time he survived a Road Traffic Accident in March 2015 and had a period in rehabilitation. His last sighting previous to this January was in October 2017 at a pre-roost in Rowlands Gill, so after no sightings for over a year we had feared he would not be seen again.

He was the subject of a two part article in our FoRK newsletters in Summer and Autumn 2017, giving details of his eventful life. It is great to know he is still around.

We have already started our monitoring of the Breeding season and as always, would be grateful for any sightings of territorial behaviour that you may see. 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 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 2019

