

Fox On The Run

by Alan Miles, Nov. 2014 [[email](#)]

I will never forget this Summer when a regular fox entered our garden, and who we call Charlie. He crouched low by our garden fence, "Hello Charlie", I said to him. He looked back at me as if to say "Sscch", and then immediately leapt over the wall which separates our garden from our neighbour's garden. He then leapt back over the wall into our garden with a ginormous rat in his mouth. Moments later he returned again and crouched by the fence and looked at me, I'm sure these creatures are telepathic because I could 'hear' him saying "Be quiet". He again leapt over the wall and came back again with another huge black rat in his mouth. We don't mind foxes and there is plenty of food for them in the gardens by way of rats, voles, and other small creatures. We are living on their land in a way since the Wanstead Flats are opposite us and are the edge of Epping Forest. If foxes are chased out of our garden, one of wild cats Sid 'takes them on' and boxes them. Sid has become a hero of the place as he chases foxes out of the place. So it is fair to say that maybe foxes do more good than harm in capturing rodents.

In Wandsworth there has been some hoo-ha about urban foxes and I guess that property owners believe that foxes will decrease the saleability of their homes. I confess to listening to the broadcaster Nick Ferrari on LBC Radio, Nick is a regular fox-hater as is the broadcaster who follows Ferrari's programme, the sofa socialist James O' Brien . He also complained of foxes as they ate his chickens which he kept in his garden.

Low and behold I also learnt in the week that there is a man who has been hired by Wandsworth council, who is willing to sit in gardens and shoot foxes (oh, and by the way it is illegal to use firearms in a built-up area!) was advertising his Pest Control agency. This oaf, who laughed about a fox which was shot (and in the process of being shot the fox jumped three foot into the air), and others must realise that the fox is foraging for food for its cubs, who are often left to starve. If he is not careful this Pest Control oaf can also become the 'hunted'.

When we were children we often saw foxes running around Walthamstow and they were fortunate sightings to us, more often than not we saw them in the Billet Road area, and we very much appreciated the sighting of foxes. Nowadays we have culls of squirrels, badgers, and culls of foxes, and all because a few people have some phobia about our wildlife.

Regards

Alan Miles