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## Wildlife on my doorstep

Rhian Grey grew up in the High Road next door to Islington Cemetery without really appreciating the abundant wildlife inside its gates. Now she is making up for lost time by photographing the creatures for whom it is home. Some of her fabulous shots have been taken from her own back garden, which is right next to the cemetery. Others are the result of many patient hours waiting for animals to come out into the open.

Rhian said: "I managed to see a goshawk, a buzzard, a green woodpecker and a great spotted woodpecker. After many days in the cemetery and many sightings of foxes I finally got a decent shot of one half asleep on a fallen down tree, before he got up and left. Some other days I got to witness fights between crows and jays which was always interesting to watch."



Photos above and top left by Rhian Grey

## Arthur the fox in the driving seat

Foxes usually keep out of the way of humans but a few of our four-legged friends are bolder than others. Take Arthur, the resident fox of Park Road. Residents regularly see him from 5.30pm onwards pottering from house to house and generally hanging around. Tania Schwartz, who took our photo, says: "He's quite bold and will probably come a little too close! He has a real air of Mr Fox from the story. The name Arthur just came to us, so when we see him we all shout 'It's Arthur!'"



## Foxy makes light work of larceny

Love them or hate them, foxes have certainly been making their presence felt through the summer months. In the most recent East Finchley Allotments newsletter, Dawn Painter collected a number of reports from ploholders about one persistent visitor.

Ian says: "Foxy ran off with my gardening gloves this week as I tea-broke with my neighbours. So beware of putting anything down that may interest him. He got a short distance with my watch too." From Richard: "The fox


has been nicking stuff from my allotment neighbours: gloves, a hand fork, a mobile phone, and it tried to make off with a handbag. They are finding it quite a pest since they can't put anything down. The animal doesn't respond

to being shoo-ed away. It's quite brazen and just stands there!"

Mary writes: "I like the dear old thing. I think he or she just wants to play and is having a laugh. I had a pair of the most beautiful white and black leather gardening gloves. They were so beautiful I never really wore them unless pruning a clean rose. And that sneaky creature stole one; it's a classy fox!"

Lynn reported a little while back that "a reynard ran off with one of my boots which was unfortunate as I'd planned to wear two on the way home. I have since taken to putting items I want to see again out of reach and closing the potting shed door."

On all this evidence, it appears the fox is attracted to leather or well-handled items that have plenty of human scent on them. Spare a thought for the residents of a small German town whose mystery shoe thief turned out to be the local vixen. More than 100 shoes of every kind were found around her den by a forestry worker. The shoeless residents were eventually reunited with their footwear and named the fox Imelda, for obvious reasons.



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