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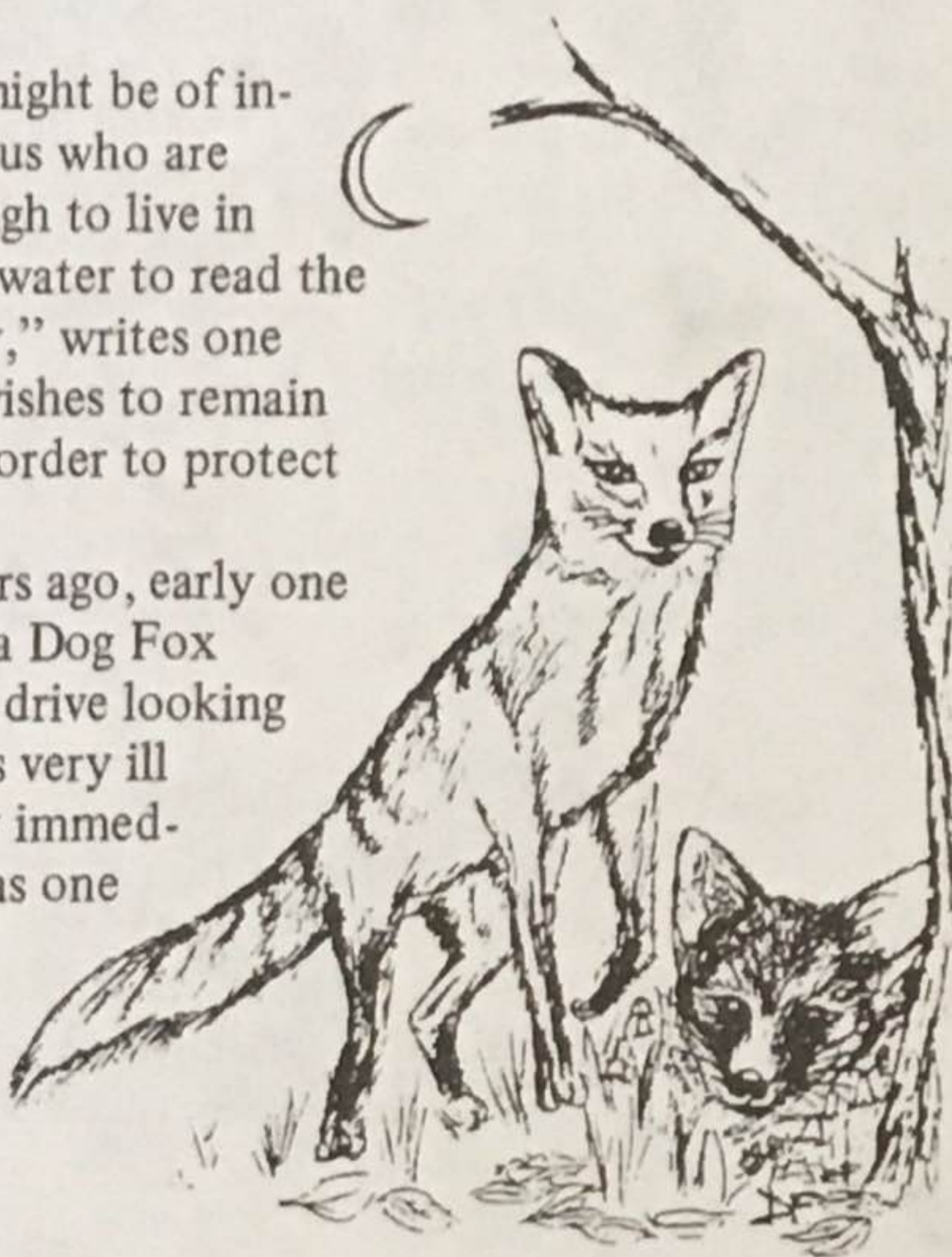
**Nature Notes**

"I thought it might be of interest to all of us who are fortunate enough to live in un-spoilt Loudwater to read the following story," writes one resident who wishes to remain anonymous in order to protect the foxes.

"About 11 years ago, early one morning I saw a Dog Fox walking up my drive looking for food. It was very ill and mangy. My immediate reaction was one of concern and distress. I decided there and then to do something constructive to

alleviate the suffering of these poor animals in their constant struggle for survival, beset as they are by many dangers, such as shooting etc. It is not generally realised that these lovely animals do more good than harm by keeping down rats, mice, voles, etc. In other words let nature deal with its numbers in its own way.

The next day I commenced to put pet food out consisting of doggie mince, high protein cereal soaked in water and made into meat balls about the size of a tennis ball. These were placed at dusk beside one of my Beech trees at the bottom of the garden. Watching carefully for some 20 minutes from my sitting room window I quite suddenly saw the Dog Fox appear. Showing signs of extreme excitement at finding food he picked up 2 "Tennis Balls" and rushed off with them. I did not see him again that evening, but obviously he had returned for some more "Goodies", because before going to bed I checked to see if any of the food was still there, but it was all gone. This feeding is now a nightly ritual, and the lovely red Foxes you may see from time to time in our area I would like to think are perhaps one of my Baby Foxes, as over the last 11 years I have seen three generations appear. They now have an Earth at the bottom of my garden. I never tire of the thrill of seeing them, ears alert, head erect, lying in the beech leaves waiting for me to appear. After all these years they trust me entirely. I have discovered that the Cubs are usually born early in February, when natural food is scarce. At this time they all get double rations."



Mr Bicknell (Flint Cottage) writes to say that he and his wife are most grateful to the kind people in Loudwater House who made a collection which has been sent to the 'Save Our Swans' charity at Windsor.

(Concerning free firewood, he regrets that he was able only to satisfy two of the many residents who responded to his offer in the last Newsletter. He has two elms already felled but as they are massive trees, they could only be removed by someone possessing a very large chain saw and

transport capable of carting the large quantity of wood which would be provided. Details from Rickmansworth 772865).

Hip Hip hooray! one of the muntjacs is still with us. It has been spotted taking its leisurely walk on its old beat from Flint Cottage into Dovecote garden then to Troutstream Way and across the road to gardens opposite. Watch out for your roses Bill Hanman!

**Continuing the saga of Neighbour Watch**

Since the last Newsletter there have been three incidents of crime prevention in Troutstream Way and Kingfisher Lure and two break-ins, one in the Estate and one just outside it. The police were in time to chase and overtake one suspect because a swift telephone call showed them ready. They were pleased to be of help.

The main problem is that people who are used to going about minding their own business (or the dogs!!) find it unnatural to keep their eyes open and their heads up noticing what is happening. And, even when they do notice for example, a car parked in a strange position or strangers looking around where they should not normally be, they are afraid to trust their instincts which are sub-consciously telling them something is amiss – and they are even more afraid to act on them so they delay responding – or decide to do nothing.

This is a time when keeping a watch out is common sense and when the police are giving us an open invitation to phone them about suspicious events it could not only be foolish to put one's head in the sand, it could be seen to be discourteous. We owe it to each other as neighbours to help each other and as mature citizens to help the police.

Mr. Jim Davis, Whisperwood House has written to say that Loudwater has extremely good relations with the local police. There was recently a highly successful Bring and Buy Sale and coffee morning held at Whisperwood House for the Police Dependents Trust supported by more than 150 people. Nearly £600 was raised. Many letters sent in advance and many donations showed the strength of the support in Loudwater for the work of the police. Mrs Davis and Mrs Jean Longman wish to thank their most generous local friends who attended. They hope to organise a similar event next year.

Mr Davis has written the following:—

"The following gentlemen have undertaken to be co-ordinators and are already equipped with the necessary literature:— John Watkiss, John Renshaw, Phil Tyler, R.D. Sheret, John Boon, Jack Cognet, Fred Mitchell and George Pritchard. They are already in the process of visiting their groups and answering any questions they may have. A small proportion of the overall area is successfully covered, which naturally is larger than that covered by the Loudwater Estate. Seven more co-ordinators are urgently needed.

Enthusiasm has been shown by nearly all families so far visited and there is only about 10% who simply do not want to know anything about it.

It is my considered opinion that things will get worse unless this co-ordinated effort is fully implemented through-

out the Estate and the surrounding area of Loudwater. If the scheme can be shown to work I am sure the odd 10% will relinquish their selfish attitude and join in because it will have been shown that it is in their own interest to do so."

It has been requested that the Editor asks that the ladies of Loudwater join the scheme because they are the ones who are most at home and going about the roads in the daytime, especially as the scheme does not involve any danger of physical involvement.

There will be a Police show concerning Crime Prevention in Chorleywood House grounds on Friday 26th October from 6.30 to 9.30 pm.

JOSIE ABBE DA GLEN CHASE

### Watch Out For Sparks!

As bonfire night will soon be upon us and the burning of garden refuse a weekly chore, it becomes a nightmare for neighbours with thatched roofs to their houses. A heartfelt plea has been received concerning firework rockets landing on thatched roofs and a reminder that bonfire smoke contains a high dose of cancer producing compounds. Best to take your bags of leaves to the Household Waste dumps.

### Mysteries

1. Does anyone know what sort of animal would dig a hole in a lawn one foot in diameter with a curving depth of about one foot in order to feast on a bumble bee nest under the ground? This happened in August.
2. Does anyone know an animal that eats hundreds of wild cherries and leaves spoor like a sheep's droppings made purely of digested and undigested wild cherries?
3. Have you noticed among the greatly increased air traffic over the valley, the huge helicopter that has occasionally flown over the tree tops making enough decibels to frighten one into thinking it was crashing and enough vibration to loosen fragile chimneys? In the Sunday Times of 23rd September, there is a report about the fight that the London Boroughs' Association has been waging to prevent helicopters from operating, which they say "fly low over residential areas without strictly enforced air traffic controls". Workers in offices have complained of 'unbearable noise!' and Simon Randall the association's chairman is asking for a meeting with Patrick Jenkin, the environment minister, concerning the whole issue of helicopter flights over the Capital. Anyone can land a helicopter in their back gardens 28 times a year without any planning permission at all, he says, and his association wants to see "legislation that would give them planning powers to regulate all helicopter flights".

In the Autumn issue of The Chiltern News, Bernard Banfield writes that in January the Chiltern Society gave contra evidence at the inquiry for a proposed heliport at Milton Keynes. As expected, he says, the result has gone against amenity interests and the Inspector has now found for the Milton Keynes Corporation. As a consequence he expects within a few years, frequent low level helicopter flights across the Chilterns to London Airport. The 1984 Inquiry Report and the D.O.E cover letter both state, he says, that improved consultation with all concerned will take place at future helicopter Route Approval Hearings but he goes on to say that "there would be little chance of preventing such a route with heliports open at both ends, but they may be able to secure concessions such as a low maximum of flight movements, use of existing noise corridors eg. M.I., greater flight heights than the projected

300 metres, no service between 11 p.m. and 7 p.m. and a rote variation of routes".

It seems a trifle frivolous to ask, in this context, who is the fortunate owner of a small helicopter that frequently circles low over the valley at weekends making about three turns before beetling off towards the East? And is this just the beginning?

### This and That

Mrs P. Watson of Clearburn, Trout Rise, has been hosting a reading group, on Thursdays from 2.30 to 4.00 pm (cup of tea included). She hopes to recommence in October and has room for a limited number. If you would like to join, please contact Pat on 772286.

Chorleywood Players are presenting "An Inspector Calls" by J.B. Priestly on November 8th, 9th, 10th at the Memorial Hall.

Harry, our Postman for nearly 20 years is retiring in November. We shall miss his cheery face and wobbling bicycle.

### From Mrs Kathleen Richards, Watersmead.

Early in the War my brother came to spend part of his leave with us before going overseas. Mr. Cameron Jeffs took us into the grounds of Loudwater House and showed us an extensive ornamental arrangement of Box edging in the lawn below the Terrace, (Yes there was a Terrace in those days!) He explained that the design spelt out the closing words of the Benedictus - "To guide our feet into the way of Peace". I do not know the probable age of this but wonder if there is anyone in Loudwater who can throw any light on its history. Unfortunately it was thought necessary to root up the whole area to plant potatoes in support of the War effort."

### Welcome to Newcomers

Malcolm and Wendy Ablett and small daughter Emily to Bently, Violet Way.  
Simeon and Miriam Kays to Kaland, Overstream (formerly Muirside).

### Planning Applications

The Appeal by Abbis and Hale against the refusal by Three Rivers D.C. to allow development at the top of Bridle Lane has been turned down on the grounds that it was green belt land and the buildings would be obstrusive and out of character. This was the result of a concerted effort by residents to prevent infilling.

8/444/84 Retention of unauthorised access drive at "The Roundhouse". Loudwater Lane, for A.A. Damar Esq. Enforcement notice appeal.

8/515/84 Erection of one detached dwelling at land rear of Ringway and Southwinds, Cherry Hill, for B.M. Thompson Prp. Ltd.

8/565/84 Two storey and first floor side extension at The Water Garden, Lower Plantation, Sarratt Lane, for A. Moss Esq.

8/571/84 Erection of detached house and double garage at land rear of Loudwater Lodge and Dalilea, Sarratt Lane, for P.F. Sturman Esq.

8/607/84 Erection of one detached house with detached double garage at Plot 1 at rear of Loudwater Lodge, Sarratt Lane, for Peterson Homes.

8/612/84 Single storey side and rear extensions at Lavender Cottage, Chess Hill, for J. Finch Esq.