

## **Ray Swan, Manager of the Jellicoe Water Gardens from 1982 -1991, tells how white geese dumped in the gardens terrorised a nurse and were adopted through the Swan Lady.**

Somebody brought, somebody dumped some geese there, white geese. And they became, you know what geese are like, you know, and that. I could.. handle them, I could.. They knew me, they're like dogs. They're like talking to a dog. They terrorised people. People were scared stiff to walk along there cos of these..geese. And one particular morning, I used to go Sunday mornings just to empty the litter bins. And.. the geese had surrounded a woman, over by er, it was the Coop then, the Coop. Before it become..Primark. And she was, she was a nurse on her way to.. work. And er, they were, she was absolutely terrified, they were all round her trying to peck her bag and everything. (laugh) So I had to go, I went round and rescued her. You know, told the geese to go and they obeyed me.

And she was alright but..then, it got so bad, that Liz Dawe(?), who used to be called the Swan Lady, er, she found a, somebody up in Bovingdon said they would take the geese. So, we had to catch em. (Laugh) And.. we had to catch em. we caught em down by er, er, not Moor End Road, er Bridge Street. Bridge Street. And I said to all the different blokes I said, Right, one goose each.(laugh) And I thought if I, If I go in first, they don't, the geese don't panic. So I shot in first, grabbed my goose, I got my one, Liz put it in the back of her car in a special Swan bag. And er, of course the person who had the last goose, they were in a, (laugh) and er, he was terrified, and the goose was attacking, you know, and er, the crowd, the crowd were cheering, and clapping and ha ha ha! And that was that, that was er, a funny incident down there!