

## **These are two stories told by Jennifer Jermine on our walk around the Beacon Park and Minster Pool in Lichfield**

### **Remembering the ducks on Minster Pool**

This happened one winter when I was standing watching the Canadian geese, every sort of duck and plenty of pigeons coping with the frozen water of Minster Pool next to Lichfield Cathedral.

One patch was unfrozen next to Dam Street was half way across the pool. There is a narrow water gulley under the branches which droop down towards the pool from the trees, the trees ran along the end of the gardens of the houses opposite the cathedral. The water gulley allowed all of the ducks and geese to easily paddle around without having to worry about the ice.

There were umpteen people standing on the path and throwing bread to the ducks and geese from the path but this landed on the ice and the only way for the ducks to reach the bread was to waddle across the ice. This proved to be comical for us to watch. The ducks and geese made use of their built in cushion, their feathered chests to get across the ice. They only took a few steps and slipped over sapping their energy in bucket loads.

Next it was the turn of the pigeons. They ate their fill then went peacefully to snooze in the winter sunshine.

Suddenly all hell let loose as the Canadian geese started their loud call 'A-hink-a-honk-a-hink-a-honk' getting ready to fly and startled all the dozing pigeons who took to the sky in chaos.

The duck did 'what ducks do' quaking looking about and wondering what all the fuss was about then came over to the people for more bread.

## **Ducks with attitude!**

This comical event was well on its way as I walked down the pavement of Tamworth Street. The traffic was far heavier than usual and there were many pedestrians. I wasn't far from the bottom of the hill when I found myself walking between two window cleaners and their ladders and buckets.

Every one was chatting and laughing and wondering what about and what they had just seen. I soon discovered what it was. A Mallard Duck who was having a very enjoyable wash in the puddle which had been created next to the curb. He looked us up and down as if to say, 'Do you mind a duck need a bit of privacy when having a bath! The window cleaners and I began exchanged smiles and laughed about the duck in his very public bathroom.

There was also the mother duck who decided to take her family of ducklings across the road at Bird Street from Minster Pool to Beacon Park one bright spring day. She boldly stepped onto the pavement then the road with her young ducklings following behind. The people waited and Traffic stopped until all were safely over the road in the park.