# Bourton-on-the-Water mourns beloved geese killed in road accident as calls for memorial grow



In the picturesque village of Bourton-on-the-Water, known as 'the Venice of the Cotswolds', a sense of mourning has enveloped the community following the tragic deaths of two beloved geese. Residents had taken to calling the birds George and Mildred or, alternatively, Harry and Hermione, depending on their personal affection for the pair. This endearing duo had made their home along a stretch of riverbank in the village for about 18 months, where they were a familiar sight to both locals and visitors alike.

On Wednesday at approximately 5:30pm, the geese met a fatal fate on a busy road as they attempted to cross for their routine evening grazing. A van driver struck the birds, leading to immediate chaos as witnesses arrived at the scene. Trevor Clements, 73, who lives close by, recounted seeing "feathers everywhere" upon returning home. "The police were here and cars were backing up from the spot where the poor birds had been hit," he told the Daily Mail. The aftermath revealed evidence of the collision in the form of remnants of blood and feathers.

In the wake of the incident, locals have voiced their sorrow, and discussions are in motion to create a permanent memorial for George and Mildred at the site of their passing. Many community members have already laid flowers at the scene as a sign of respect. A post on the village's Facebook page encapsulated the shared grief, stating: "RIP you absolutely beautiful pair...always remembered."

The circumstances surrounding the collision have raised concerns among residents about road safety in the area, particularly since the speed limit is 20mph—one that is reportedly often ignored by motorists. Mr Clements expressed disbelief that such an incident had not occurred sooner, given the road's heavy traffic and frequent violations of its speed limit. "I've seen cars and vans whizzing along this road at speeds of up to 50mph regularly," he remarked, emphasising the potential dangers faced by pedestrians and wildlife alike.

The emotional impact of George and Mildred's loss is felt deeply throughout the village. James Walker, 40, recounted how his daughter would insist on taking a detour after school just to catch a glimpse of the geese. "It won't be the same without our beloved George and Mildred sitting on the bank opposite and paddling in the little river there. We are all absolutely gutted that they're gone,” he said.

Retired midwife Jan Thomson, 86, expressed her own heartache, calling the geese "part and parcel" of life in Bourton-on-the-Water. "They've been our neighbours for 18 months, and I can't believe they're gone," she said. "Life is not going to be the same around here without our beloved George and Mildred." Furthermore, she lamented the possibility of what could have happened if a child had been in the path of the van, pointing to the need for greater driver attentiveness.

Some locals have taken the initiative to ensure that George and Mildred receive a proper farewell. One individual has reportedly sought the services of a pet crematorium, and there are plans for their ashes to be included in the memorial at the future site.

As the village mourns, the memory of these geese, who have become an integral part of the community's charm, will undoubtedly linger in the hearts of those who cherished their daily presence along the riverbank.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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