



The current situation is sad and worrying, and we hope that you are all safe and well. Our commons here bear witness to other times of national emergency when the people of Chislehurst have faced testing times. The Peace Tree

opposite Hornbrook House car park at the top of the High Street (pictured here) was planted in 1919 to commemorate the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War.



The power of the natural world to heal and inspire was recognised then, and some of the fund-raising efforts at the time went towards providing temporary seating on the common for wounded soldiers being treated at the local VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) Hospitals. The appearance of the common was rather different then, more of an open heath than a woodland, but many of the sights the convalescent soldiers would have seen are still the same today.

The photos in these weekly bulletins have been kindly provided by Don Drage, Jonathan Harvie, John Hayhow, Kevin Jennings, Ross Wearn and Mary Wheeler.

We are grateful to them for enabling us to bring you news and views from the common so that, during this time, you can still enjoy the 180 acres on your doorstep.



### **Blackthorn trees.**

The flowers of the blackthorn appear before the leaves and make a beautiful display in early spring. The designer of Chislehurst War Memorial chose the site partly because of the background of thorn trees. They produce inky fruits that can be used to make sloe gin.



**Mallard ducks and their ducklings.**

These were pictured last week on Rush Pond, where there are at least two families



### **Cowslips**

Cowslips are important for wildlife. Their flowers are an early source of nectar for various insects including bees, beetles and butterflies such as the brimstone.



### **7 Spot Ladybird**

This ladybird hibernates during the winter months, and emerges in spring, usually from March to April, in search of food. They eat mainly aphids, and are therefore popular with gardeners.



### **Gorse.**

The flowers provide a bright splash of colour in the depths of winter and continue into June. Gorse, or furze as it was known, has been recorded on the common for hundreds of years. It burns well and, in the past, was collected as fuel. The bushes are dense and provide great protection for birds.

**And finally .....**



Nature's Artwork. There is always something to catch the eye on our wonderful commons.

During this difficult time, we will do our best to continue our work of maintaining the Commons and developing their biodiversity, so that they continue to be a valuable asset for us all.

If you know someone who would like to receive this Newsletter, please ask them to email us at [contactus@chislehurstcommons.uk](mailto:contactus@chislehurstcommons.uk). Please note Due to data protection laws we cannot accept their email address from you.



Chislehurst Commons are proud to display the Green Flag Award logo.

[If you would care to donate, please click here](#)

[or donate online here](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)



*Copyright © 2020 Chislehurst Commons, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website

**Our mailing address is:**

Chislehurst Commons  
The Old Fire Station  
Hawkwood Lane  
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5PW  
United Kingdom

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

