



It's May – and the blossom on the Hawthorns, or May, or “bread and cheese” trees as they are also known, fills the air with its heady scent. In the present difficult times, there is much to enjoy on our common land here in Chislehurst.

We will continue to bring you news and views from our beautiful commons while we remain in lockdown.

We would like to thank people who have sent messages and photos in response to our Commons updates. We have also received a poem, written by local resident Anne Pilkington. You can read the poem and view the gallery of photos via a link at the end of this Newsletter.



The level of water in the ponds has fallen with the prolonged dry spell, so this week's rain has been very welcome.

Chislehurst Commons has responsibility for managing 180 acres under an Act of Parliament, but we have no guaranteed funding. We depend on donations and our wonderful Working Party Volunteers to enable us to continue to maintain and develop our precious local common land.

There have been anxious chirps and cheeps at the ponds recently as newly-hatched chicks take to the water for the first time, accompanied by their watchful parents – an exciting and heart-warming sight.



Coot and chicks on Rush Pond. There is also a family on Prickend Pond.



Egyptian Goose and goslings. A pair of Egyptian Geese have been winter visitors in recent years, but last year they stayed and raised two chicks. This year there are 7 goslings on Prickend Pond.



A Moorhen with her chicks. Moorhens spend a lot of their time dabbling at the water's edge or on land, and have even been seen climbing the tree on the island.



A mother Mallard is always on the look-out for danger. There are several broods this year on both ponds.



Always hungry. Both Mum and dad are kept busy with 8 chicks to feed.

Although there is plenty of natural food in the pond, it is tempting to bring food from home for the water birds.

They are very greedy, and will gobble up almost everything you offer. But please don't give them bread, pastry, biscuits and cakes, which aren't good for them and can harm their development.

Seeds and unrefined grains are better.

Thank you for helping to keep the birds healthy.



And finally



Every few years the floating duck house needs some maintenance. Jonathan, our Head Keeper, wades out to retrieve it, so repairs can be carried out. This ensures that the water birds have another place to nest and roost where they can be safe from predators such as foxes.

A Keeper's life is very varied!

[Click here to read Anne Pilkington's poem and to view the gallery of photos.](#)

Thanks for this week's photos to Don Drage, Peter Edwards, Kevin Jennings, Michael Knight, Ross Wearn and Mary Wheeler.

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. 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](#).

