

WYGGESTONS NEWSLETTER

#theheartofthelocalcommunity

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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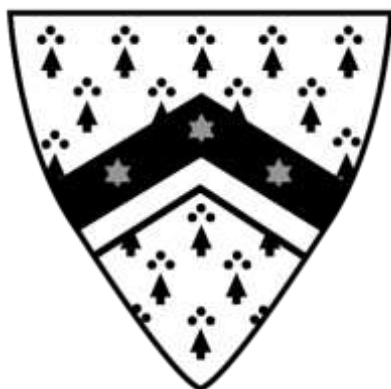
Meet the Governor – It's time to get to know another Wyggestons Governor!

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Garden News – Our grounds are looking fantastic, thanks to our resident Gardening Club. Have a look to see what they've been up to!

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It's a-May-zing – Find out some interesting facts about the month of May!



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The Mending of Thomas Tompkins (part two & three) – A fictional tale of an one individual, in 19th Century Leicester



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Welcome

Welcome to May edition of the Wyggeston Newsletter.

It has been really pleasing to see residents and their families make the most of the recent exceptionally dry weather to use the grounds whilst the lockdown restrictions continue. Although the social events have yet to recommence the increasing number of families and friends is a welcome sight and hopefully an indicator that we are returning to some sort of normality in the summer.

The new development continues apace and with the new Cottages nearing completion we are looking to arranging some open afternoons for residents and staff to “inspect” the new properties in the coming weeks. It will be restricted numbers so make sure you put your names on the list when we advertise the show rounds before they are let to our new residents.

Thank you to everyone who took part in the William House resident’s survey and the very kind sentiments and comments about the staff over the last 12 months – very much appreciated!

We will be feeding back on the results and our intended actions from your comments in the coming few weeks also. There are some major projects aside from the new development planned during 2021 which we will also share with you shortly.

Continuing the series on the ‘Meet the Governors’ we are pleased that our Governor, Theresa Phillips, has agreed to be in the “spotlight” and shared her story with the newsletter.

This issue also includes

- The concluding parts of ‘The Mending of Thomas Tompkins’
- An update from Heather on the Gardening Club
- Residents photos from St George’s Day

Please remember that as this newsletter is as much about residents as the Charity news, we are always looking for new features and content – if you have any idea or a story you would be willing to share please let Melissa know.

Chris

**PLEASE NOTE THE FINANCE OFFICE
WILL BE OPEN TO RECEIVE
PAYMENTS ON
TUESDAY 25TH MAY 2021**



For those residents who have birthdays in May, we would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday!

William House

Dorothy Hall	1 st May
Pauline Clarke	7 th May
Margaret Tonkin	26 th May
June Aitken	30 th May

Agnes House

Margaret Ellmore	1 st May
Jenny Wood	22 nd May
Margaret Smith	28 th May

A special congratulations to Margaret Ellmore for reaching a staggering 108 years of age!

Susan Leighton	14 th May
Aiden Leighton	16 th May
Tony Leighton	26 th May

In Memory



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Mr Brian Page, Wyggestons Governor and friend, on Wednesday 21st April 2021.

Brian had given many years' service to Wyggestons and his wife Jenny writes of his pride in our work and the best wishes he had wished to express to the charity for the future.

Brian will be greatly missed

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends



Cherryleas Development

The new development is progressing well, only a few months until it's due to be completed!



St George's Day 2021



Agnes House Staff and Residents had a great time celebrating St George's Day!



RECIPE CORNER

Why not give these easy seasonal recipes a go!

Spanish Style Cod and Chickpea stew

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 100g diced chorizo
- 1 sliced onion
- 2 sliced garlic cloves
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1 tbsp tomato purée
- 250ml vegetable stock
- 400g tin of drained and rinsed chickpeas
- 2 sliced roasted red peppers from a jar
- 500g cod loin
- Chopped fresh flat leaf parsley
- Crusty bread or rice, to serve



Method

Heat a large non-stick pan, then fry the chorizo and onion for 8 minutes or until soft and caramelised. Add the garlic cloves and smoked paprika and cook for 1 minute. Stir in the tomato purée, vegetable stock, chickpeas and roasted red peppers. Cook for 4-5 minutes until thickened.

Cut the cod loin into 4cm chunks, then nestle into the sauce. Cook for 3-5 minutes or until cooked through and the fish flakes easily. Sprinkle with chopped fresh flat leaf parsley and serve with crusty bread or rice.

Easy Peach Pudding

Ingredients (serves 4)

- 4 peaches
- 4 tsp raspberry jam
- Half-fat crème fraîche, to serve
- Ginger snap biscuits, crumbled to serve



Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C, fan 160°C, gas 4. Halve and stone the peaches, spoon the raspberry jam into each half, then put on a baking tray and bake for 15-20 minutes, until soft.

To serve, top the peaches with crème fraîche and crumbled ginger snap biscuits.

If you have any recipes requests or any that you would like to share then please let Melissa know!

Part 2

THE MENDING OF THOMAS TOMPKINS

'Restoration'

(You may like to re-read the first instalment of this story before reading on, as the two parts are closely inter-related.)

One Sunday after the service at Bishop Street the Minister came up to Thomas and said: "Tom, would you drop in and see me in the vestry here tomorrow? I've one or two ideas to share with you."

Thus it was that on the following morning Thomas was greeted cheerfully by the minister. "Hello, Tom, come in," he began. "The weather has been a bit better today, hasn't it? Which makes us all feel a bit more cheerful!"

"Yes", replied Thomas, politely, and with as much enthusiasm as he could muster. "I suppose it does".

The pastor went straight to the point. "Have you ever met Canon Vaughan at St Martin's?"

"I don't know him personally," replied Thomas, cheering up a little, "but he did come to school to speak at assemblies."



"Well", continued the pastor, "He is also Master of Wyggeston's Hospital, as well as being vicar of St Martin's. The hospital, as you know, until very recently was next to St Martin's in Peacock Lane, but has now moved to a new site just to the west of the Fosse Way, by the cherry orchards, and I understand they still have one or two vacancies. Might this be the solution to your problem? Why don't you go along to St Martin's on Sunday and have a word with the Canon? I can send a message asking him to look out for you if you wish".

Thomas could only agree to the plan and so on the following Sunday ventured rather nervously into St Martin's. He was greeted courteously by a gentleman in very formal dress, given two books and shown to a seat towards the front.

The choir did almost all the singing – in any case the music was mostly too difficult for the congregation to join in. But this suited Thomas quite well, he was quite content just to listen. There were only two hymns, which he thought was a bit mean. But one of them was an Issac Watts favourite: *Come let us join our cheerful songs*. Thomas made a big effort to be cheerful. The choir sang well, but the quite large congregation didn't seem to make

much effort. Canon Vaughan preached on a text from Psalm 34: *'Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him: yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles'*. Let's hope that's true, thought Thomas. Recently it seemed as if there was nothing but a dark cloud where God was supposed to be.

After the service Canon Vaughan warmly greeted him, took him into a small side chapel and explained briefly about the Hospital. After listening carefully to Thomas describing his circumstances, he concluded that Tom should go and see his colleague Jones the Confrator at the Hospital, who will show him around. "We are very proud of our new Hospital" the Canon added. "I think it will suit you admirably".

Thomas went the next day to see the Reverend Mr Jones. For the sake of the family he really must move out of their house as soon as possible, so he agreed to accept the invitation to join the Hospital community. There were one or two formalities to attend to, but these were soon completed.



Four weeks later... Thomas found himself settling into his quarters in the splendid new Wyggeston Hospital. His living room boasted a handsome bay window with views downhill to the Fosse Way, some 80 yards distant.

His two rooms were simply but adequately provided with all new furniture. There was space for the remains of his precious library and for some other personal items from his house in Jarrom Street, including his most prized possession: a framed daguerreotype of his dear wife Esther.

Thomas was relieved to discover that every inmate was granted a pension of eight shillings a week, this, together with the annuity from the Oddfellows, enabled him to manage comfortably. He was looked after by Lucy, one of the *keepers* as they were called. Lucy, (a curate's widow) proved to be good company as well as a good cook!

All were provided with their own allotment, already planted with two young fruit trees – later a useful addition to their diet. Thomas didn't know much about gardening, but there were other inmates who did. He soon met Percy, a happy character and an experienced gardener, who was quite willing to give both advice and a helping hand.

Thomas found that working in the garden helped him to feel less anxious and enabled him to sleep more soundly at night. Soon he was enjoying his new found hobby so much that he was working on Lucy's patch as well as his own. Lucy, incidentally, preferred to call him Tom.

There was a Pleasure Garden in one section of the grounds much appreciated by the inmates. In good weather they walked or sat there, chatting, enjoying the country-like fresh air. Wyggeston's Hospital was proving to be a happy, healing place.

Services were held in the chapel each Sunday and some weekdays. Although at first he was not too familiar with the church Prayer Book he soon came to appreciate the rhythm of Thomas Cranmer's flowing English. What he did find strange was the frequent recitation of the Ten Commandments. At Bishops Street chapel the emphasis was much more on the 'deep, deep love' of Jesus: 'pure, unbounded love thou art', they often sung.

The choice of hymns was a bit limited as the barrel organ could only play a small number of tunes. The singing caused some amusement as the speed of the music depended upon how fast the operator turned the handle. Not all managed a constant speed, so sometimes the singing was something of a challenge. But he found the services comforting, especially when sitting next to his new friend Lucy.

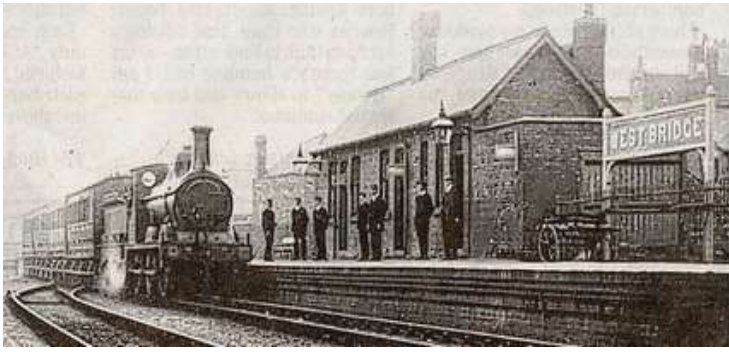


Two years later

As Christmas 1870 approached the Confrater was keen to arrange a concert and made an appeal for volunteers. It was discovered that Percy the gardener was a proficient flautist. So he was persuaded to play some old carols and some of the new songs popular at that time, such as *My Grandfather's Clock*; *I dream of Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair*, and, new that year, the immediately popular hit tune *Jingle Bells*. Mrs Jones, the Confrator's wife, was an accomplished cellist, and the flute and cello together sounded well and provided an excellent accompaniment.

Thomas was asked to read or recite some Dickens. He was rather nervous about this but Lucy was encouraging: "Go on, Tom, have a go!" So the story of Tiny Tim from *Christmas Carol* was recited and enthusiastically received. This encouraged Thomas to the extent that he also agreed to read lessons in chapel quite regularly.

The following winter proved to be very severe with weeks of hard frost and snow. It was comfortably warm in the Hospital with a plentiful supply of coal from the North West



Leicestershire coalfield transported directly to the nearby West Bridge station. But for others in Leicester that winter the situation was increasingly worrying, even desperate.

“I feel so fortunate to be here”, he said to his son Ben on one of Ben’s regular visits, “considering all the poverty in the town just now.” Unemployment had risen sharply, often due to mechanization in the factories, and there were many others too sick to work due to an epidemic of scarlet fever. The good news was that up to now Ben had kept his job at the shoe factory.

It was at this time that Canon Vaughan launched an appeal for a relief fund. A collection taken at the Christmas Concert raised no less than £4.6.1d. The result was most unexpected and proved the generosity of those who themselves were dependant on charity and the help of others.

Life at Wyggeston’s Hospital continued quite smoothly. Thomas had settled well and, although his bad dreams were still rather persistent, he was feeling considerably better. As a bonus he was increasingly enjoyed Lucy’s company, and she, his. In this way the months and indeed two years passed happily.

But something of his old anxiety returned - it was now early 1872 - when he was told that Canon Vaughan would like to see him the next day. Thomas didn’t like uncertainties. They rekindled his old pessimism, always fearing the worst. “O dear!” he said to Lucy, “I hope there’s not some trouble brewing! Have I done something wrong?”

End of Part Two

NOTE: *To be called an inmate was not intended as a put-down. It was a general term, derived from ‘inn-mate’: someone who was your fellow guest over-night in an inn. Later it referred to anyone who shared a house, perhaps as lodger. .Only more recently has the word come to be associated chiefly with prisons! Use the word a little, as I have done in researching and writing this story, and the word becomes less unwelcome, even quite attractive! (JCS)*

Part 3: 'Celebration'

In 1862 Canon Vaughan had founded the Working Men's Institute and Reading Room, later to become Vaughan College. Now, in 1872, the Canon was keen to mark this tenth anniversary with a celebratory concert.

Also, as Charles Dickens had died just a year or two ago, would Tompkins "be willing to present a tribute to Dickens at the concert?", he asked. Thomas didn't take long to make up his mind. "Yes, gladly!" he exclaimed, surprising even himself. He soon decided to concentrate on *Bleak House*, one of his favourite books.

On the appointed evening there was a large and expectant audience. The Mayor and other assorted dignitaries were in the front row, together with his former headmaster. Lucy and Percy and other Wyggeston inmates were in full support. Ben and Betsy brought along Emily and Pip, very proud of their Grandpa.

After a warm introduction from Canon Vaughan, Thomas started quietly, beginning to build his confidence. The main body of his presentation went well and he was drawing towards his conclusion. But then ...he hesitated, there was a momentary pause. What was happening? This was unbelievable! The Hobbs twins, trouble makers on that last fateful day in the classroom, were there - their eyes fixed on him.

Immediately a whole series of images flashed through his memory. He recalled the pain and anxieties of former days; suddenly tormented, he questioned, "*had those boys come to haunt him again?*" His speech became hesitant. He lost the thread of what he was saying. Was he about to fail a second time? For a few brief moments he felt weak and deeply distraught. Then, as he shifted his gaze to Lucy and as she smiled encouragingly, he saw momentarily the face of his wife Esther... He could do it. He *would* do it - for her sake. In an instant he looked back at the two boys. Was it true? They were on the edge of their seats with a look of wonder and expectancy in their eyes. Were they with him? Were they 'rooting' for him; egging him on? Calling on resources he didn't know he owned, he continued...

"The book, then, is wrongly named, for Bleak House was not at all bleak. Far from it, it was a place where there was frequent sunshine, much hope, a concern for others, and genuine love. It was a bright spot in rather a dark often dreary world..."

Now, regaining his strong confident voice, he began to describe the array of characters in this...

“remarkable book, one of Dicken’s greatest achievements. There is Sir Lester Deadlock, the pompous old baronet, and Lady Deadlock, his wife with the terrible secret. Who has not heard of Jo the crossing sweeper with his frequent appeal ‘I ain’t done nofink wrong, I ain’t.’?”

He moved on, drawing towards an increasingly dramatic conclusion...

“John Jarndyce, the master of the so-called Bleak House, who was kind and loving and generous in the extreme, and very much in love with... “

Then the climax; the final *tutti*, his voice strong and triumphant:

“..the one who nursed young Jo when we was suffering from smallpox, consequently contacting smallpox herself; the one whom John Jarndyce loved deeply, the one who, from a sense of loyalty and gratitude agreed to marry him, in spite of being in love with the young doctor Allan Woodcote. I refer to the saintly, self-sacrificial, beautiful, angelic, noble - ESTHER!”

He had done it. He had pronounced her name. This time there was no hesitation; no sitting with his head in his hands. Maybe there were hidden tears, but this time tears of joy and of achievement. There was a spontaneous outburst of applause as Thomas sat down. Eventually Canon Vaughan rose to speak, enthusiastic in his appreciation of Thomas’ excellent presentation. A broken-down schoolmaster was being mended.

Nicholas and Oliver Hobbs came up to him and apologised for the pain they had caused on that day some four years earlier. Hugs of forgiveness were given and received. They were doing well, they reported, and hoped soon to enrol in the new University at Durham to study (“thanks to you, Sir”) English Literature.

When all was over Tom and Lucy walked back to Wyggestons together. Content, thankful, a little tired, but hand-in-hand and happy.

The End
John Seymour
In lockdown
March 2021



Meet your Governors

Over the upcoming months we will be asking the Governors to introduce and tell us a bit about themselves.....

Introducing: Theresa Phillips

Compared to many of the other Governors, I am a relatively new recruit. I was elected to the Board in June 2016 and, since then, have served on the Estates and Finance Committee. I have previous experience of being a trustee as I was on the board of The Royal Society of Health, in London, for 10 years.



I was born in Northampton and grew up in Walgrave, a village between Northampton and Kettering. My family were involved in both the leather industry and farming. I attended Kettering High School for Girls and, since the age of 13, had the ambition to become a vet. This was in the late 50s when girls were not expected to follow such a path so I had to fight tooth and nail to be allowed to take the necessary science subjects. This entailed going to the boys Grammar School as we had no Physics or Chemistry teachers. I was fortunate enough to get the required grades and was admitted to the Bristol School of Veterinary Science. I graduated in 1968 and became a member of the Royal Society of Veterinary Surgeons.

I have had a varied and interesting career. I was in mixed general practice for several years specialising mostly in cattle and pigs. I became a partner in a practice in Norfolk and, with my husband, also ran a pig farm. In 1981 I decided on a career change and joined the State Veterinary Service (SVS). This is a Government service which deals with all the statutory work associated with Animal Health and Welfare, International Trade in animals and their products and Public Health. This took me in many different directions.

I started off in Norwich and then spent 8 years in Orkney, working both there and in Shetland. We bought a farm and bred beef cattle and



sheep. Living in the Northern Isles was quite an experience and one that I wouldn't have missed. After Orkney, I moved to Edinburgh and worked in The Scottish Office advising ministers on Animal Health and Welfare policy. This was at the time of Scottish Devolution

so I was kept very busy. After 5 years I moved back to England to manage the Leicester Division of the SVS and then went on to work on management and policy in the SVS Head Office in Worcester and DEFRA in London. I was heavily involved both in the BSE crisis and the Foot and Mouth outbreak.

I officially retired in 2008 and was fortunate enough to get a contract with the Hong Kong Government to assist in overseeing the equine events at the Beijing Olympics. I was there for 3 months covering both the Olympics and Paralympics. On my return, after a spell of consultancy, I finally hung up my wellies in 2011.



I live in Husbands Bosworth. I am now divorced and have 2 children and 2 grandchildren. My son lives and works in Thailand so I have travelled extensively in South East Asia. My daughter lives in Manchester – not quite so exotic! I spend a lot of time gardening especially on my allotment; I am a Rotarian, a member of the U3A, sing with Lutterworth Choral Society and am in an African drumming group.

I am thoroughly enjoying my involvement in Wyggestons and feel privileged to be part of such an old, prestigious charity helping it to provide a good life for the residents and to secure its future for generations to come.

So that's me in a nutshell!

Garden News

The Summer house has had a face lift – after we had cleared the vegetation from around it and cut some of the branches back to allow more light in, Gary removed the rotten boards and replaced them along with the battens on the roof. He also fixed a new plate on the door so that it closes properly. We then gave it a coat of paint and with some comfy seats in, it is a pleasant place to sit, out of the wind.



Before & After – Wow what a difference!!

The new bay tree (with pansies at its base) was given to Muriel for her birthday, and she asked us to put it on the patio so everyone can enjoy it.

The green pots by the front entrance were kindly donated by Jim and Michael along with the fuchsias that we have planted in them.

John and Margaret Seymour gave us a donation to buy some new shrubs for the border behind the main entrance and these are all doing well.

We would like to say thank you to these residents, and also to everyone who gave us their daffodils, which we have planted with the other spring flowers behind the Summer house, along with some bluebells, also given to us by a neighbour.



At the moment we are kept busy dead heading all the daffodils which have given us a marvellous display over the last few weeks, and our next job will be to do the same with the begonias (also known as Easter lilac or elephant's ears) around the chapel.



A gardener's work is never done, but that, to me, is part of the appeal.

Heather

QUIZ TIME

1. How many of Henry VIII's wives had the first name Ann(e)?
2. What is the name of the Amazon device for reading e-books?
3. Who played the title role in the 1972 movie "The Godfather"?
4. With which sport would you associate Brand's Hatch?
5. What was the name of Napoleon Bonaparte's horse?
6. Alphabetically what is the first of the US States?
7. Who is the lead guitarist for the Rolling Stones?
8. What are the three primary colours?
9. A deficiency of Vitamin D in the diet can lead to which medical condition?
10. Which country both hosted and won the inaugural FIFA World Cup in 1930?
11. Which artist's studio was known as "The Factory"?
12. In which English county would you find the seaside resort of Weston-super-Mare?
13. Which planet in our solar system is NOT represented in the seven movements of Holst's "The Planets" suite?
14. In which ocean would you find the island of Madeira?
15. The Cavaliers and the Roundheads fought on opposing sides in which conflict?
16. Which Northern venue has hosted the World Snooker Championships since 1977?
17. Released in 2012, what was the title of Taylor Swift's first UK number 1 album?
18. How many kidneys does a normal human possess?
19. What name is given to a musical piece for nine vocalists or instruments?
20. Where in London would you find the "Whispering Gallery"?

Answers in the next newsletter!

Answers: 1. The Comets. 2. Nottingham. 3. Elephants. 4. District of Columbia. 5. Gilbert and Sullivan. 6. "Help". 7. Ninety. 8. Asgard. 9. Millie Bobby Brown. 10. (North) Yorkshire. 11. "Emma". 12. Edward IV. 13. Goat. 14. Roker Park. 15. Nicholas Nickleby. 16. Valletta. 17. Anaemia. 18. Brown. 19. Nitrous Oxide. 20. Norwegian.



What is it about May that's so significant? Let's take a look at this a-May-zing month!

The name *May* is the modern-day English adaption of the Latin word *Maius*, which has origins going back to the time of the ancient Greeks. They named the month of May (or Maius) after the Greek goddess of growth. A Roman poet by the name of Ovid had different ideas surrounding the etymology of the naming of May. He claimed that it was from the word *Maiores*, the Latin for “elders,” that the month gained its name. The word *May* wasn't actually used until the middle ages were on their way out, around the 15th Century AD. Up until then, the Roman word *Maius* was still used.

May used to have a very different name in Old English. Back then, the month was referred to as the “month of three milkings.” Unsurprisingly, this meant that during this month, you could milk your cows up to three times per day!

May was once considered an incredibly ill-omened time to get married. There's an adage for it actually, which goes: “*Marry in May and you'll rue the day.*” It's not clear where exactly the saying comes from, but there must have been a pretty good reason not to get married in one of the most beautiful months of the year! May isn't just a bad time to get married, though. There's the Cornish superstition that buying a new broom in May is unlucky. Oh, and apparently, you shouldn't wash any blankets either!

May is a special time for *Star Wars* fans worldwide and always a good reason to re-watch the movies. May the 4th is celebrated as Star Wars day, due to the way the date sounds similar to “*May the Force.*” We won't start the debate over whether the old films are better than the new ones, because we all know the answer to that!

It is said that those born in May have a greater chance of being more successful in life and experience more love. While this may not be scientifically factual, it has been noticed that people born in May understand the importance of love and success more than others.

The Empire State Building opened its doors on May 1, 1931. At the point of its construction, it held the record for being the tallest building in the world. Many other sky-high constructions have since dwarfed it, but it's still an awe-inspiring feature of the New York cityscape!

Back in the day in Europe, it wasn't a good May if you didn't celebrate it with a maypole. In the UK, at least, they were present since at least 1350 AD. Celebrants would erect a long pole and attach flowers, garlands, and strips of fabric to it, around which certain dances would take place.

May is pretty exclusive when it comes to days of the week. No other month in one single year starts or finishes on the same weekday as May. Basically, if the first of May is on a Friday, and the 31st of May is on a Sunday, no other months in the year will start or end on a Friday or a Sunday!

The birthstone for May is the emerald. Emeralds are a type of stone called beryl and typically range from a deep-sea green to a lighter colour. Emeralds are symbols of fertility and rebirth.

May actually has two birth flowers - the Lily-of-the-Valley and the Hawthorn. The Hawthorn flower is a symbol of hope, while the Lily-of-the-Valley represents the return of happiness and sweetness.

May also has two Zodiac signs, Taurus and Gemini. People born under the sign of Taurus are said to be ambitious and smart, yet trustworthy. Those born under the sign of Gemini are said to be passionate, adaptable, and smart

Greeting cards

The card making club have been busy making greeting cards for you to buy. These are available in the library.

Please remember that the proceeds of these cards go to charity so please pay a visit to the library before you pop to the shops to buy a card! Could we also ask that you keep the cellophane bags from these and any other cards you buy as these are reusable!



Thank you

And Finally...

You **MUST** continue to wear a mask once you have been vaccinated, you may be protected but you can still spread coronavirus to others

