



THE WESTWELL EYE

197

July

2019

The Wheel Normal Menu and Special Deals

+

EVERY WEEK

Wednesday Night: Pie Night

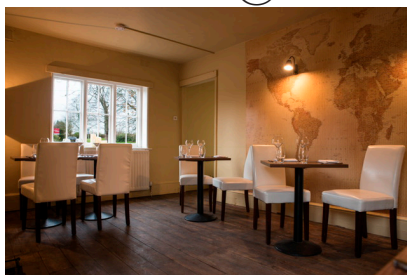
Thursday Night: Tapas

Friday Night: Fish Night apart from:

**Last Friday of the Month: Italian Food
followed by Music!**

Saturday Night: Steak Night

Contact: 01233 712223
info@thewheelinnwestwell.uk



5th July

1st, 15th + 29th July

9th July

The Wheel

10.30am Coffee in The Wheel

1.30pm Art Group

11am Book Club + 8pm Fete Meeting p13

July 2019

SUNDAY	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
4	1 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	2	3 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U G	4 R.F.W 9.15pm Pilates	5 10am Iona Eucharist 10.30 Coffee Wheel	6
7 3rd Sunday of Trinity 8am Holy Communion 3.30-5pm Messy Church parish hall	8 7pm Fitness	9 Book Club - p13 8pm Fete Meeting The Wheel	10 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U G	11 Re.F.T. 9.15pm Pilates 7.15pm WI Meeting	12	13
14 4th Sunday of Trinity 11am Iona Eucharist	15 1.30pm Art Group 7pm Fitness	16	17 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U G	18 R.F.W. 9.15pm Pilates	19	20 7pm Safari Supper
21 5th Sunday of Trinity 11am Family Service	22 7pm Fitness	23	24 10am Chair exercise 11am Fistssteps - Dance as U G	25 Re.F.T. 9.15pm Pilates	26	27
28 6th Sunday of Trinity 11am Eucharist	29 1.30pm Art Group	30	31 Aug 1	2	3	

From the Editor's desk...

The safari supper went off with its usual bang - in other words it was a great success! Thank you to all the hosts and hostesses as well as all those who produced puddings - without you the evening would have been a damp squib.

Read all about the fete on bank holiday sunday 25th August, page 11 and don't forget the meeting in The Wheel at 8pm on 9th July

Keep up to date with the players on page 10.

There is not much to report this month. Let's hope we have some drier warmer weather before the next issue

Carolyn Thorneloe 

Photos on front page

Dance as U Go donors including leader Nathalie Stival and Mary Anne Pitt for Westwell Players, with the Malawi certificate

Leah with the certificate for Myanmar

WI donors Marilyn Warner, who co-ordinated the WI collection, and Joan Richards, with the certificate for Malawi see page 16

Trying on a burka, page 13

The views of any contributor to this publication may not necessarily be those of the editor and team, nor can the Westwell Eye accept any responsibility in connection with any companies or organisations mentioned or any advertiser.

Correspondence to: Carolyn Thorneloe, Gaoler's Retreat, 5, Faversham Road, Lenham, Maidstone, Kent ME17 2PN.Tel: 01622 859376, Email: westwellye@gmail.com

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Useful Contacts

Telephone Numbers

Age UK	642094
Ashford Volunteer Bureau	633219
Bees (swarming)	
Andy Bithell	740650 / 07933892413
Borough Councillor:	
Larry Krause	01233 643497
CAB	626185
Carers Support Group	664393
Childline Freephone	0800 1111
Cinema	0871 2208000
Citizens' Advice Bureau	626185
Cruse Bereavement Counselling	878225
Doctors (Charing)	01233 714490
(Hayesbank)	624642
Dog Warden	01233 330340
Hospital (William Harvey)	633331
KCC Community Warden for Hothfield, Charing and Challock, Dave Beckley	0797798199
CROP	01622 851200
Library (Ashford)	03000413131
(Charing)	713177
MS Therapy Centre	01227 470876
NHS Direct	0845 4647
NSPCC	0800 800500
Parish Hall Booking	01233 712016
doriscackett@btinternet.com	
Parish Council (clerk, Sue Wood)	623902
Pilgrims' Hospice (Admin)	504100
(Patient enquiries)	504112
PCC Secretary (Heather Lister)	712981
Police (rural matters only – crime should be reported on 101 or 999)	07980978202
Samaritans	610000
Shopmobility	621196
Solicitor (Thorneloe & Co.)	01622 859416
Victim Support	0845 30 30 900
Water Supplies Queries	0333 000 0002
Water Leak Line	0333 000 3330
Wealden Wheels	01233 840000
Westwell Community Website:	
http://www.westwellpc.kentparishes.gov.uk/	

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Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust,

Ashford has a unique shop

Within a few yards of the 'tank' is the 'One You shop' which is operated by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust (KCHFT). Although it does not sell anything, it gives advice and information on aspects of lifestyle which promote good health. This is necessary because in many ways, modern life makes it difficult to be healthy. We may be eating the wrong foods, we may be drinking too much or perhaps smoking and all of these, together with being less active, can adversely affect health. Making the necessary changes is not always easy but essential if living to an old age is to be achieved.

The One You shop, which opened in early 2017, has had over 5000 visitors. It provides information on all aspects of healthy living. Opening times are Tuesdays to Fridays 9.30am until 5.00pm and on Saturdays 9.30am until 1.00pm. When you visit, you will be surprised to see the large number of very harmful chemicals that are an integral part of tobacco smoking and also, the extremely high number of calories in well known popular soft drinks. The team in Ashford, lead by Donna Wilks, runs discussion groups on various aspects of living a healthy life. There is a weight loss group that meets on Tuesdays afternoons and smoking clinics on Thursday and Friday mornings. On Wednesday and Thursday, in the afternoons, there are lifestyle clinics which take into account the wider issues involved in healthy living.

This shop in Ashford is proactive and unique. So far, it is the only one in the country even though the One You campaign is National. It can also be contacted by telephone 0300 123 1220, by email oneyou.kent@nhs.net or visit the website at www.oneyoukent.org.uk

All of this is made possible by the financial support of Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council as well as KCHFT. The shop is shortly to move to bigger premises in the arcade nearer to the town centre. If you haven't yet discovered it, pay it a visit and find out for yourself what it does and what it can do to help you. Remember all advice is free of charge. Should you require further information make a visit to the shop or contact me by email at governors@nhs.net or you can write to me at KCHFT, Governors Support Office, Hermitage Court, Hermitage Lane, Barming, Maidstone, Kent ME16 9NT.

John Fletcher Public Governor-Ashford

Planning applications

The following was approved by the Borough Council:
 19/00519/AS Dunn Street House, Pilgrims Way

No new planning applications have been received.

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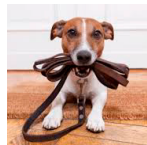
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Excellent Local References

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Village Hall Toilets Twinned

Since Westwell Bookclub generously twinned the ladies toilet at The Wheel with a latrine in Nepal last year, users of the Village Hall have been working to raise money to twin the toilets at the hall through the charity Toilet Twinning.org. Donating £60 to twin a toilet in this country helps fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – a vital combination that saves lives. Having a toilet close to the house makes families feel safer, especially the women and girls who are at risk of attack when having to go out into the bush.

The main ladies and gents have been twinned with a latrine in Myanmar thanks to a generous donation from Leah Hutchison on behalf of Country Funerals. The exact location of the latrine is in NamDin, Ptao, Kachin State; Latitude : 27.36042023 Longitude: 97.55445

The loo in the Cole Room has been twinned thanks to donations from members of The Westwell Wednesday morning Dance as U Go group, individual members of Westwell WI (the WI itself cant donate to such charities) and Westwell Players. The Players elected to sponsor the Cole Room loo, an essential facility during their productions. When asked to choose from the list of desperately poor countries for their twinned latrine, they just had to go - for Malawi - because 'it's got a wee in it'! The latrine is in Bulaula, Rumphu District; Latitude: 10.97256 Longitude 33.73492.

The framed certificates with a photo of the twinned overseas toilets and their GPS coordinates will be hung in the Village Hall.

There will be news shortly about the twinning of the easy access loo, which means this village will have donated £180 towards the life-saving trio of toilets, taps and training.

Thank you very much to Leah, all the WI and Dance as U Go donors and Westwell Players.

Margery Thomas

1st Charing Scout Group



We've had a very successful AGM in June. We said a sad farewell to Sue Palmer who has been our Group Secretary through our fundraising and building. We are delighted to welcome Marie Norris who is taking over.

Beavers had a brilliant day at Gilwell Park, the home of scouting. Summer term is always a highlight for us as we can spend our evenings outside in daylight. Scouts are starting a big pioneering project and getting ready for camp.

We are delighted that this year three of our young leaders have had their eighteenth birthday and are now adult leaders.

gsl_charingscoutgroup@hotmail.co.uk *Terry Lister*



WESTWELL WI

Our speaker this month, Melanie Gibson Brown, gave us an enlightening talk on 'Suffragettes'. We learned of the absence of any rights for women in the early 18th Century and how this had improved by the end of the century, but still with no say in the country's affairs. This led to the founding of the Women's Rights movement in Britain by Barbara Bodichon. We learned of others who also joined the struggle and whose names are almost forgotten, such as Jessie Boucherett and Millicent Fawcett, and those well-known such as Emily Pankhurst. We learned of the hardship and humiliation endured by many women who were arrested, then force-fed in prison, leading to permanent damage to their health. It made us very mindful of the sacrifice made by all of those women to achieve a level of equality undreamt of two hundred years ago. Our Centenary tablecloth is still a work in progress but members were delighted to see the project as it nears its end, thanks to a major input by Liz Hewitt, following a lot of work by Ivy Clifton.

Natalie Harman is keen to encourage members to produce craft items for our stall at the Summer Fete, so before next month's meeting members will meet earlier, around 6 pm, to share ideas, items they have made or find out what they could make themselves.

We are all hoping for a fine evening on Friday **9th August** for our barbecue at Gail's house, and members were encouraged to buy tickets for this – husbands and partners included.

Tickets are also available for our Quiz Night on Friday **18th October** at a cost of £6.50 per head to include a ploughman's supper. Anyone is welcome to this so any readers of the Eye who wish to join us, please do.

There has been a change of date for the Bat and Trap evening organised by SWAN WI, which is being held at Westwell Parish Hall. This is now on Wednesday **17th July** and as there will be a fish and chip (or sausage) supper, members will need to order their choice.

The competition for a cartoon brought only three entries, so first was Liz Hewitt, second Marilyn Warner and third was Joan Richards.

Anyone wishing to know more about any of the above or the Westwell WI and what it means to be a WI member should email Catherine at westwellwi2015@gmail.com

Marilyn Warner

Next Meeting:- Thursday 11th July.

Speaker:- Up the Creek Ukele Band

Vote of thanks:- Doris Cackett

Hostesses:- Pat Westhead, Samantha Henley and Sue Starkings

Competition:- An Edible Necklace

Time to talk Funeral matters

End-of-life questions? We all have
But who do we ask?

Brief talks by a local:-

Doctor, Funeral Director, Solicitor, Care Manager and Vicar;
lots of time to question and discuss

For carers and seniors - and all

Lenham Community Centre, 5th July

2 - 4 pm Light refreshments provided

When do we talk about dying rather than prolonging life?
How do I organise my money? I'm not religious: can I have a church service?
What's best for a funeral?
Can I choose care options?
And many more questions...

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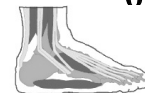
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Westwell Community Watch Scheme

Keeping you Safe and Secure
Neighbourhood Watch

Despite there being a number of burglaries, attempted burglaries and incidents of criminal damage reported across the Borough this last month

I am happy to confirm there were none reported in the Westwell Parish.

This does not mean we can be complacent, care and vigilance are still necessary to protect our property and belongings. A few simple steps will make it more difficult for the bad guys (and girls) and deter their efforts.

Keep your garden tools and furniture locked within secure areas, either behind secure gates or in a shed or garage. Think about investing in security cameras - the new, simple and inexpensive, wifi based, door-bell cameras

(Like Amazon RING) are excellent as they both alert you on your mobile phone wherever you are when someone is around AND records their images for later use by the Police if necessary.

It also helps to let your neighbours know if you are away so they can also be alert.

Police

The Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) is looking for volunteers (Independent Custody Visitors – ICVs) across Kent to visit Custody suites to check on the welfare and conditions of those held in police cells and report back to the PCC.

This can be as often as once a month. In addition, ICVs attend training sessions, between two and four panel meetings a year, and an Annual General Meeting. The time commitment required is around three to five hours a month

All ICVs are asked to carry out at least one night-time visit a year (10pm and 6am).

The PCC's recruitment drive closes on 1st July. -

but I am sure they will welcome late applicants

More information about ICVs, and the application form, can be found here:

<https://kent-pcc.gov.uk/what-we-do/holding-kent-police-to-account/independent-custody-visitors/>

KEEP SAFE & DON'T FORGET: If YOU see anything suspicious
call 999 (if urgent) or dial 101,
use <https://www.kent.police.uk/services/report-a-crime/> or
contact Country Eye to report it
westwell.community.watch@gmail.com

Keep Vigilant
Tony Bartlett
WCWS Co-ordinator

Godinton House and Gardens



Sculpture in the Garden

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Letter to the Parishes

Dear friends,

Napoleon dismissed us as, “a nation of shopkeepers”. Whether or not it was an accurate comment in the early 19th century, I doubt its accuracy today with the dominance of supermarkets and on-line marketing. Rather more accurate might be a description of us as ‘a nation of gardeners’ ranging from landscaped estates to window boxes. Where there are gardeners, there are flower and vegetable shows and, in our churches, flower festivals. I have no talent for flower arranging but I greatly appreciate and respect the talents of those arrangers who, week by week, lift our spirits with the colours, scents and patterns of an arrangement.

The choice of flower can set a mood or send a message. In the 19th century a popular book was, ‘The Language of Flowers’. In it, you were told that if you sent your girlfriend a mignonette you were telling her, “Your qualities surpass your charms”, whilst if she sent you a stephanotis she was giving you a coded message, “Will you accompany me to the east?”

In Old Testament times only kings and courtiers enjoyed the luxury of flower arrangements but the prophet Isaiah warned, “The grass withers, the flower fades but the word of our God will stand forever”

In the New Testament we admire the lilies of the field but also remember the thorns which were used to create Jesus mock crown.

A garden is a battle ground between choice plants and weeds, beneficial insects and ‘pests’. This could be a metaphor for life; a struggle, a need for vigilance but great rewards as we appreciate the blessings that God’s creation and the human talents of gardeners and flower arrangers bestow upon us.

Every Blessing,

Philip Cox 

Cleaning Rota.

I’d like to take this opportunity again to thank Joan Richards, Rosemary Heddle, Wendy Bartlett and Sue Norman for their many years of hard and dedicated help on the cleaning and flower rotas. Now, as they have understandably hung up their secateurs and brooms, we really need some new blood to volunteer. In the meantime, I’ve taken over the whole of July.

HELP! PLEASE!

ALL PEOPLE may wish to note we are an equal opportunities organisation!

Sarah Stevenson

Cleaning Sarah Stevenson
Flowers Sarah Stevenson
Brass Sarah Stevenson



Etc

Coffee at The Wheel Inn

Coffee at The Wheel, **Friday 5th July** from 10.30 - 11.45am. All welcome.

WAGS – Westwell Art Group
1st, 15th and 29th July



Book Club May 2019

A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini
There were five of us at this meeting, rather intimate and a very good discussion. The story is about two women in Afghanistan during the period when the Soviets were involved in running the country, and then the fighting which lead to the spread of Mujahideen rule and up to the allied intervention in 2001. It is written with amazing insight into the plight of women and the stories of their survival. The two women are from two different cities, Herat and Kabul, and with about twenty years’ difference in age. Their lives become intertwined and they end up supporting each other with a lot of sacrifice. There is very good characterisation and distillation of cultural and political history with intense description of violence which makes one cringe a lot of the time. There is immediate translation of dialect words which makes it an even more enjoyable read. Excellent simple writing with not a page that makes the reader lose interest. At the meeting we also looked at an Afghan child’s sheep skin waistcoat from the 50s and a woman’s buqa..both mentioned in the book. Afterwards some of us had a lovely lunch at the pub..excellent potato chips!

Our next read is **Andrea Levy’s** last book, ‘The Long Song’, on **Tuesday 9th July**.

Charing Gardeners Society

Our Summer Show is on **Saturday 13th July** in Charing Parish Hall. It’s a celebration of summer, with veg, flowers, plants, crafts and cookery classes. Full details of the classes are on our website. Anyone can enter, bring entries between 9.00 and 11.15am. Come back at 2 pm (free entry) to see the results and enjoy a cuppa, home-made cake and a chat.

Kent Chamber Choir –
Conductor Alan Vincent.

Frank McConnell – guitar

Songs for Summer **7.30pm, Saturday 13th July** St Margaret’s Church, Hothfield
Inspirational music designed to please all tastes with songs and anthems in a wide range of styles from the past and present. Some of Britain’s greatest composers are featured such as Edward Elgar, Ralph Vaughan Williams and the Renaissance genius, Thomas Weelkes. Rarely heard gems from Germany by Fanny Hensel-Mendelssohn (Felix Mendelssohn’s sister) and Clara Schumann (Robert Schumann’s wife) are also included along with Northern Lights by today’s hugely popular Norwegian, Ola Gjeilo.

Virtuoso guitarist Frank McConnell plays a varied selection of solos to delightfully complement our evening of magical music. Tickets at £12.50 (£5 students), including wine and nibbles, available on the door or in advance from Margery Thomas 07870 829659 margerythomas@f2s.com, Hothfield Post Office or Virginia Brown 01233 660559 VirginiaAW@aol.com

Parish News

Westwell Church Services for July
www.g7benefice.org

Friday 5th

10am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 7th: 3rd Sunday of Trinity

8am Holy Communion

3.30pm Messy Church - parish hall

Sunday 14th: 4th Sunday of Trinity

11am Iona Eucharist

Sunday 21st: 5th Sunday of Trinity

11am Family Service

Sunday 28th: 16th Sunday of Trinity

11am Eucharist

Every Tuesday

9am Charing – The Eucharist

7pm Charing Heath – Prayer and Bible Study

Funerals

David Roger Harvey died on Wednesday 8th May aged 84. His funeral took place at St. Mary, Westwell, followed by a service at Charing Crematorium, on Friday 31st May.

*May God enfold David
in his tender love and care.*

Family Church in June

Messy Church, Next Messy 7th July. **Sand castles and other buildings.** No Messy Church in August.

All age service July 21st celebrates good Neighbours. An informal service with coffee and cake. Things to do for adults and children. 11 am at St Mary Westwell.

This month's coffee collection is for Water Aid

The fete will be running on August 25th. The church would welcome donations for Tombola, plants or homemade produce.

Every year we collect items for shoeboxes to send to children in need at Christmas. It's so often a rush to get things sorted by the end of October that this year I thought we could start a little earlier. All the details are in church. Pop in and take a leaflet.

Benefice Service June 30th June

Correction. In the June edition of Pew News and magazines, the wrong venue for the forthcoming Benefice Service was given. (Sorry – my fault!) This service will take place at 10.30am in **EGERTON** church and not in Charing as previously stated. Archdeacon Darren will be coming to preach and it will be an opportunity to celebrate all the excellent lay ministry that takes place throughout the benefice. Please come and join in the celebrations.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Sheila

*Be Proud Of Who You Are
S Raine*

Published: November 2010

I come with no wrapping or pretty pink bows.

I am who I am, from my head to my toes.

I tend to get loud when speaking my mind.

Even a little crazy some of the time.

I'm not a size 5 and don't care to be.

You can be you and I can be me.

I try to stay strong when pain knocks me down.

And the times that I cry are when no one's around.

To error is human or so that's what they say.

Well, tell me who's perfect anyway.

Source: <https://www.familyfriendpoems.com/poem/be-proud-of-who-you-are>

Westwell Fete - Sunday 25th August

Another Great Fun Day for Westwell
to raise money for Westwell Parish Hall and St Mary Westwell

When and where:

Fete 1pm – 5 pm Westwell Playing Field and Hall

Live Music and Food 5pm – 10pm at the Wheel Inn

Where to park:

In the adjacent field by kind permission of the Horne family

All the usual Westwell specials for our Traditional Village Fete:

In the Arena: Dog demonstration and Fun Dog show,

Childrens' and Mums and Dads races

Surprise races

Tug of War,

Visit by the Westwell Cow

Egg Throw

Have a go at: Coconut shy; China smashing, Greasy pole, Mini golf,

Bowling, Nails in wood ,

Win: Great Raffle prizes, Barrow of booze; Tombola prizes;

Get a bargain at Bric a brac, Books, Beauty stall

Local Honey, Produce and cakes stalls,

Childrens Fun: Face painting, Bouncy castle, Games stalls,

Refreshments: Ice cream, Donuts, Barbeque, WI Teas in the Hall

Drinks: Pimms Tent, Westwell Wines by the glass

WI special attraction

And More...

The Fete is an essential fundraiser for our community :

This year 55% will go towards the project to install a loo at St Mary Westwell, so we can have more events in the church; 35% to projects for the village hall and playing field and

10% to Cuddle Cots.

Books and bric a brac unsold go to the Pilgrims Hospice .

Getting ready for the Fete:

The next Fete meeting is on **Tuesday 9th July 8pm** at the Wheel.

Please deliver crockery, books, quality bric a brac to the village hall: we are collecting it all.

Contact Doris on 712016 for access to the hall.

Get ready to bring any the following to the produce stall on Fete Day:

Jars of Jam, jellies and marmalade

Home grown courgettes / marrows, tomatoes, beans etc.

Bags and baskets of fruit: apples, plums, figs, blackberries etc.

Homemade cakes, buns, cupcakes, brownies, biscuits etc.

Contacts: Sue Wood 623902; Doris Cackett 712016; Christine Drury 7796930430.



Westwell Players

.....A MAN..... with the speed of light this message travelled all round the Parish Hall on Tuesday evening where a few of us were already gathered ready to read the script of a pantomime for possible production next November. Sure enough said 'man' came through the door and asked if we were Westwell Players and he came and joined us for coffee and biscuits and later read a part, with great confidence. Hooray! It is so rewarding when someone new comes to possibly join our group and we have already had a married couple join us and now a prospective man as well, our cup runneth over! The reading went well and although we had a few members on holiday we had enough Players present to have each part covered. The pantomime was 'The Emperor's New Clothes' and we had different reactions to the script. I have since read another script by a different author with a lot of rhyming couplets (easier to learn the words!!) and we hope to read this next time. Our next meeting was on Tuesday, 25th June. If you are interested in joining us and helping out in any way, we need a good stage manager and a prompt and curtain puller as well as many other little jobs both on and off the stage and you will receive a very warm welcome if you come along, whether you are male or female, you are needed - so I look forward to hearing from you. If you would like to chat to me, please give me a ring on 01233 714241.

Mary Anne Pitt 

Panna Cotta

Ingredients

2 ½ sheets gelatine
150ml milk
400ml double cream
60g caster sugar
1 vanilla pod, split lengthways
fresh strawberries, to serve
Strawberry compote, to serve

Method

Add the sheets of gelatine to a bowl of cold water and soak for 5 mins. Pour the milk and cream into a saucepan with the sugar and vanilla seeds (to scrape the seeds out of the pod, use the back of a knife). Stir to combine and bring to a simmer, then remove from the heat. Take the gelatine out of the cold water and squeeze out the excess, then add to the milk mixture. Stir until completely dissolved. Tip into four ramekins and place in the fridge to set for at least a couple of hours.

To serve, turn each ramekin upside-down onto a serving plate. If the panna cotta won't drop out, carefully dip the ramekin in a bowl of warm water to loosen it. Serve with a drizzle of strawberry compote and sliced fresh strawberries.

Serves 4



July on Hothfield Heathlands

The worrying spring drought broke in early June, bringing on the Heath and Southern Marsh orchids at last but probably giving some fledglings a soaking. The bees caught on camera by Val Butcher:-

(Hothfield Heathlands on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/360156841000304/>) nesting in a hollow tree would be well protected. I wonder if they had displaced a woodpecker? Despite the dry spring, Warden Ian Rickards was pleased to see that the very pretty bog bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*) has spread widely, with lots of plants now to the west of the causeway for the first ever.

By July early leavers such as the cuckoo will be heading south and there will be less cheeping and chirruping from young broods of birds. Any rain is welcome (except on volunteer days); Ian Rickards reported that many of the (usually) permanent pools in the main bog had dried up already in May (but have now filled up again). The ponies went off site for a few days in May to have their hooves trimmed. The 72 sheep that arrived on the Extension earlier in the Spring are settling in nicely with signs at all entrances reminding walkers that dogs in these fields should be kept on leads at all times.

Staff and volunteers including regular local volunteers, keen youngsters from school and university students building up their CVs for future careers in conservation have been very busy; three intensive training sessions were given by ecological consultant Alex Lockton, on identifying the flora of the different habitats on the heathland. Botanists from across the county came to these as the habitats are unique in Kent. The methodical botanical survey of the whole reserve got off to a flying start in early June, covering a large section of acid heathland and finding a good selection of the indicator plants including some of the tiny ground-hugging species with names larger than the actual plant (Fenugreek, Bucks horn plantain and clustered clover) many of which can be found on the old football field. A regular walker from Westwell commented that we looked 'very scientific' with clipboards and GPS gizmos, books and identification sheets, as opposed to the usual heavy brush-clearing equipment used by the Green Team volunteers. The surveys continue to the end of the July.

The year-round effort of the Kent Wildlife Trust Green Team was recognised in May by outgoing mayor Jessamy Blanford who awarded them the Borough's Environmental Achievement Silver ward, saying it is no exaggeration that the last bastion of heath in Kent, Hothfield Heathlands, would almost certainly have been lost without them. Congratulations to everyone involved for well-deserved recognition. New volunteers always welcome!

Hothfield Heathland is open to everyone; trails are signposted and marked on entrance maps, long with the location of livestock. The notice the Cades Road car park gives recent wildlife sightings. Please keep dogs in check, especially around children and livestock, and keep them away from the heather and undergrowth where they will disturb sensitive wildlife. Please remove dog mess, including in the Triangle compartment.

For email alerts on the location of the livestock on Hothfield contact Ian Rickards: ian.rickards@kentwildlife.org.uk or 01622 662012.

The next volunteer task day will be on Wednesday 10th July, starting at 10am – all welcome.

Margery Thomas 