

Kewstoke Parish Council

Saturday 21st December
Free Kewstoke Village
Childrens Christmas Party
For ages 2 - 8yrs

Free entertainment, food and squash
 plus a visit from Santa

At Kewstoke Village Hall
 To book your place by 10th Dec call
 Nancy 516212 or Ken 419331

2pm - 4.00pm

In order to become more environmentally friendly, we will be publishing our future newsletters on the Parish Council website, but if you would like to continue to receive a paper copy, then please fill in the slip below with your details and return to the Parish Clerk at 35 Beach Road or at the Pink Shop.

Name:

Address:



Kewstoke Parish Council Newsletter Winter 2019

Message from the Chairman

Well, where did that year go! Another busy year for Kewstoke Parish Council is almost over. It has been a very productive one though. Under the guidance of the Parish Clerk Mike Hardwick, we have looked into the ways that we do things and where necessary making changes. The world is constantly changing and for us to be effective as a council, we need to keep up and move forward with it. We have dipped our toes into the world of Internet banking. The big traditional banks are less and less geared up for accounts like ours, multiple signatories, changing mandates etc. Even our local branch is now in the town centre. The trial to date is proving to be very successful and it can only be a matter of time before we take the big leap and do all of our banking this way.

As you will see later in this newsletter the www.kewstokevillage.org website has been completely overhauled giving it a new look and making it more relevant to us all. Credit is due to the unstinting work put in by Marcus Tripp and Councillor Karen Jenkins our Media Committee chair. Known to many of you as the moderator of the excellent 'Kewstoke Our Village Our Community' Facebook page.

The improvements to the bus terminus car park in Sand Road have made an impact on the village. Paying to Park has brought about challenges to the surrounding Roads which we have brought to the attention of North Somerset Council and that they are addressing.

The other side of the car park coin, has seen a stunning display of wild flowers in the grounds. This has been further enhanced by the planting of trees and bushes which will help screen the car park from the immediate residents and give the village an asset that we can be proud of. John Sayer our head volunteer will give detail of what we are doing later in this newsletter. Thanks to John & the other volunteer residents that have turned out from time to time to carry out this work.

Our Village orderlies have had another busy year keeping our village and beach clear of litter and debris. We have continued the work of one thoughtful resident that installed modified plastic pop bottles onto the posts on the promenade to hold dog poo bags. Whilst it hasn't completely got rid of dog mess, it's a big step forward. Thanks to Beverley & Janet the orderlies and Ron who shares looking after the toilets with his other job as caretaker of the Village Hall.

In May of this year we had the Parish Council elections that were uncontested. We were joined by Richard Buckley who has lived in the Village for many years and we welcome to our team. This brings me nicely to thanking all of the Parish Councillors that gave freely of their time for their efforts in the past year. They, along with the others mentioned above, do make a difference which I know is appreciated by us all.

Jim MacDonald
 Chairman Kewstoke Parish Council



Inside this issue:
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 Kewstoke Relief in Need
 Planting update
 Meet Richard Buckley
 Mobile Library information
 VAS
 The Newsletter
 Toilets
 Winter recipes
 And much more....

Editorial team:
 Karen Jenkins and Nancy Whyte
 All submissions/enquiries to:
astulind@hotmail.com
 or to 5a Sand Farm Lane
 BS22 9UF

Newsletter Update

The Parish Council newsletter has been published in many guises over many years, printed two or three times a year to keep residents abreast of what is going on in our village. In the last 20 or so years it has been published by the Parish Council and printed first on an old black and white copier, then in colour by an outside printing company and more recently by the Parish Council themselves, using a sophisticated copier that not only prints, but folds and staples the copies. The finished newsletters are then given to parish Councillors who deliver them to every house in the village.

The village website www.kewstokevillage.org has been redesigned to make it more of a 'go to' destination for anyone looking for information about what is going on i.e. bus time tables, green/waste collection days or even to get in touch with the Parish Council via the clerk. There are Parish Council minutes, standing orders etc and pages for local businesses to advertise. There will also be photo galleries of resident's snapshots around the village.

The hugely successful 'Kewstoke our Village Our Community' Facebook page

moderated by Karen Jenkins will be a great signpost to direct members to items of interest as they appear on the website.

The website has been created by Marcus Tripp and he will be constantly updating it to make it's information is useful and relevant to residents.

With the advent of the Facebook page and the new look website, it has got us to thinking about the need for a published hard copy newsletter. It is hugely time consuming to print and deliver.

The Parish Council are paying for a copier that is much too sophisticated for anything normally required in daily use, just to produce a newsletter a few times a year.

We know that not every resident is 'online'. But judging by the number of Facebook members on the Village site, it appears that most people are.

What we are proposing is an 'opt in' to a paper copy of the Newsletter. There will still be paper copies to be distributed to The Pink Shop, The New Inn & the Sand Bay Tearooms for those wanting to collect one there.

On the back page of the newsletter there is a tear off slip. If you would like to receive your personal copy of the Parish Council Newsletter as you always have, delivered to your door in paper, please fill in the form and return it to the Parish Clerk at 35 Beach Road or you can drop it into the Pink Shop.

We'll see how this works out going forward. If there is an overwhelming desire to keep things as they are, it won't be changed.

In future, you will be able to click the link on the Community page on the website to take you to your own electronic copy of the newsletter with an archive of previous newsletters.

We hope that this will be a small part in moving forward with saving the environment by reducing our paper waste.



Kewstoke Parish Council

First Monday of each month—7.00pm at the Village Hall
General public are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute public participation slot at the beginning of each meeting.

Kewstoke Parish Councillors

Mr Jim MacDonald	01934 642053	Chairman
Mr Tony Morris	01934 414654	Vice Chairman
Mr Russell Adams	01934 645657	Planning Chairman
Mr Mike Hardwick	07836 386244	Clerk to the Council
Mr Tony Horry	01934 628383	Councillor
Mrs Christine Bates	01934 620995	Councillor
Mr Ken Harper	01934 419331	Councillor
Miss Karen Jenkins	01934 221521	Councillor
Mr Richard Buckley	07825 736009	Councillor
Mrs Nancy Whyte	01934 516212	Councillor
Mr Glen Vearncombe	01934 622495	Councillor
Mrs Rose Cunningham	01934 629512	Councillor

District Councillors

Cllr Lisa Pilgrim	01934 261557 / 07935 282129
Cllr Roz Willis	01934 416915

Unless explicitly stated, opinions and comments produced in this magazine, are those of the contributor and not of Kewstoke Parish Council as a collective body.

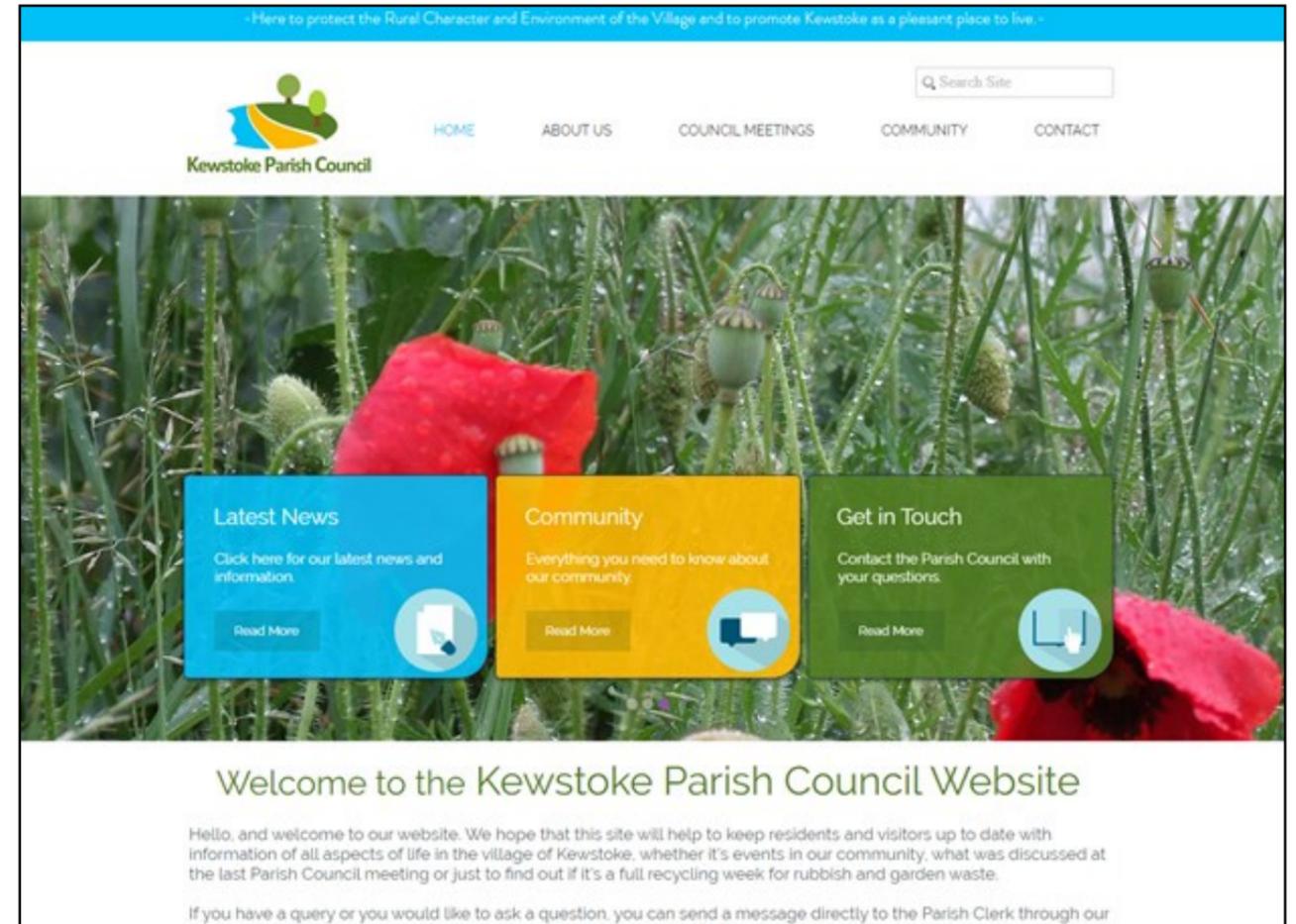


To keep up with news, views and events, join the village page on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Kewstoke/>

Useful email/web Addresses

Kewstoke Brownies	Zoe Plumley	07895110578
Kewstoke Cubs/Beavers/Scouts	http://1stkewstokescouts.org.uk	BS22 9XB
Kewstoke Community Farm		07734 006427
St Paul's Church		01934 624247
St Paul's Church (Admin)	Michelle Cardi	01934 624203
Church Hall Booking	Lorna Tedstone	01934 414366
Village Hall Booking	Sylvia Claridge	01934 515120
Kewstoke W.I.	Anne Field	01934 645391
	Sheila Stitson	01934 412662
Kewstoke Local History Group	Sue Ryall	01934 633407
Kewstoke Cubs/Beavers/Scouts	www.1stkewstokescouts.org.uk	
History Group	sueryall@sky.com	
Weston Town Council	https://www.wsm-tc.gov.uk/	
Kewstoke Chapel	http://www.kewstokechapel.org.uk/Home.html	
St Pauls Church	https://www.achurchnearyou.com/kewstoke-st-paul/	
Somerset Archives and Local Studies	https://www.swheritage.org.uk/somerset-archives	
Food Recipes	http://www.bbc.co.uk/food/	
Queenies Hair Salon	https://www.facebook.com/Queenies-hair-salon-1492301947682789/	
Hatley Garage	https://www.facebook.com/pg/Hatley-Garage-164459070331856/about/	

Kewstoke Parish Council Website



We are hoping that you have all had a chance to take a look at our 'new look' website. In order to make the site user and device friendly, we have updated the whole design and content. The site currently includes latest news; Governance documentation; a Meet your Councillors page; Council agendas and minutes; Village community information and a selection of photos from our wonderful residents. Please keep sending your pictures in via our Village Facebook page if you want yours to be included. If you would like to see any other services or information to be available on the website or have any other comments, then please click on the link on our Contact page to get in touch with our Parish Clerk Mike Hardwick. To view our new site, go to www.kewstokevillage.com

HATLEY
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For car servicing and general repairs, contact Glen on 01934 622495 or sales@hatleygarage.co.uk



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Free quotes for all your painting and decorating requirements. Contact Steve Beasley on: 01934 629512 or 07970490275



Full, part and DIY livery in Sand Bay

For further details, contact Christine on: 01934 620995

Parking Restrictions Update

A report from Alan Taylor at North Somerset Council explaining how their parking officers go about their work.

'We use the "Heat Maps" (see right and below) as they are called to see if there could be a reason why in some areas more notices could be issued than others which could mean for example more signage needs to be installed. The blue dots allow the officers supervisor to see that the correct areas are being patrolled'

On each officer's handset it records the handset location every 5 mins. If the officer issues a notice this is shown in a different colour.

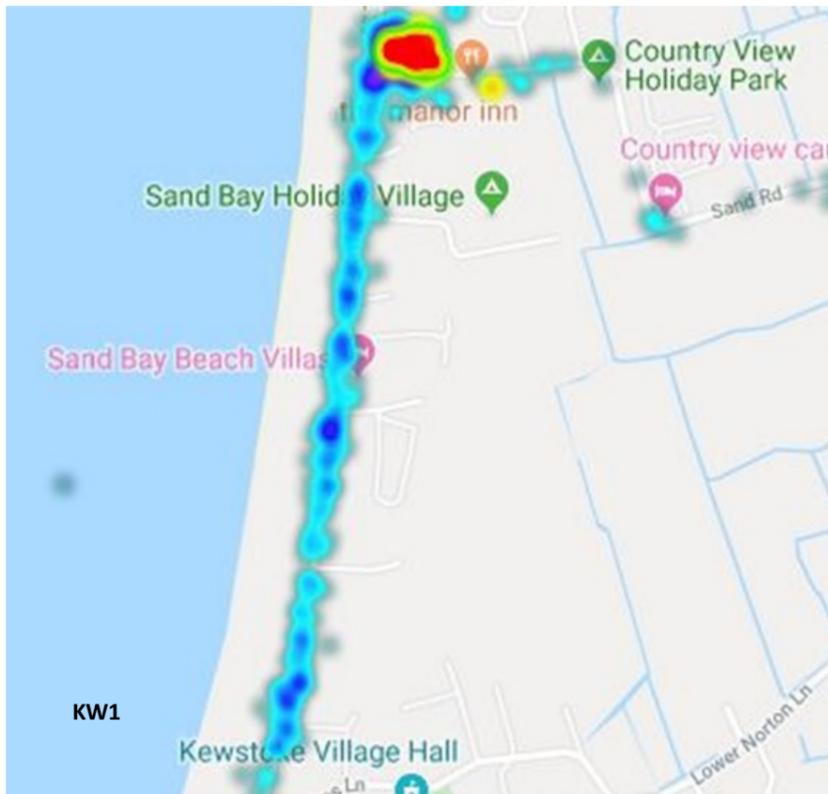
KW1 shows August 2019 from a high level. Blue is the automatic 5 mins log. Yellow is where the officer has logged a vehicle and has to allow a grace time. Red is where we have issued a notice. So, there would always be more blue and more yellow than red. The blue dots tend to join together at this level. When there is a grace time (Not all have a grace time some are instant) usually of 5 or 10 minutes depending upon the contravention this is timed on the officer's handsets. The officers cannot override this time.

KW2 is at a lower level at the bus term car park and shows this in more detail. Some blue dots are not always in the exact location due to poor signal caused sometimes when the officer is in their van.

'In the two car parks I can confirm the following ticket have purchased between April and October 2019

Bus term car park 23,476 of which 1,103 were purchased by pay by phone

Beach Road car park 15,411 of which 927 were purchased by pay by phone'



The 1 and 2 hour tickets are the most popular

153 Penalty charge notices have been issued in the two car parks between April and October 2019 mostly for No ticket displayed. There have also been 6 notices issued on Beach Road for the single yellow line contravention.

Use the link to see common restrictions and what they mean, including—double yellow, single yellow, loading restrictions, limited waiting bays, bus lanes, parking bays, restricted zones etc.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/parking-signs-and-road-markings.pdf>



Mobile Library

Your Mobile Library



Visits Long Ashton, Wick St Lawrence, Kewstoke/Sand Bay, Hutton, Locking fortnightly on Friday

2019/2020	Friday
August	2, 16, 30
September	13, 27
October	11, 25
November	8, 22
December	6, 20
January	3, 17, 31

H = Public holiday – vehicle off road M = Maintenance – vehicle off road

Stops at:		
Long Ashton*	Community Centre	9.30 – 11.30am
Wick St Lawrence	Church	1.15 – 1.35pm
<u>Kewstoke/Sand Bay</u>	<u>Kewstoke village hall</u>	2.05 – 2.25pm
Hutton	Holm Road	3.10 – 3.55pm
Locking	Meadow Drive	4.20 – 5.05pm

*Please note that Long Ashton is a weekly stop

Please note that stops and timings may be subject to change during the currency of this timetable.

- Friendly staff, lots of books, talking and large print books
- Return items you borrow to any North Somerset library
- On-line catalogue and the Internet

01934 426 020
www.n-somerset.gov.uk



Strawberry Gardens



Strawberry Gardens- a new extra-care housing development being built in Yatton

Older people in North Somerset who need extra support on a day-to-day basis could find a new housing development in Yatton becomes their perfect home. North Somerset Council is working with Housing 21 to build Strawberry Gardens, an extra-care housing development with 60 two-bedroom apartments for over-55s. On-site communal facilities include a bistro café, residents lounge, hairdresser

and scooter store.

At Strawberry Gardens, 30 of the apartments will be available for affordable rent through North Somerset Council's HomeChoice and adult social care teams. The other 30 are available for shared ownership purchase, through Housing 21. Extra-care housing offers more care and support than sheltered housing and is a real alternative to residential care. An on-site care team is available 24-hours-a-day for emergencies and providing everyday support. Strawberry Gardens will open

in spring 2020. The waiting list for rental at Strawberry Gardens is open. To apply, contact North Somerset Council's Care Connect 01934 888 801. Visit www.n-somerset.gov.uk/housing-for-older-people for information on eligibility criteria. For shared ownership sales, contact Housing 21 on 0345 608 4021, email sales@housing21.org.uk.

Strawberry Gardens, 18 Moorhen Road, Yatton, Bristol, BS49 4GB

Weeds, Wild Flowers & Wisdom



Weeds, Wild flowers and Wisdom

This summer you may have noticed the splendid display of wild flowers in the grassed areas around the refurbished car park and the bus terminus in Sand Road.

"I thought they were weeds" I heard you say! Well yes, there were plenty of those too but amongst them were such wild flower jewels as Red and White Campion, Clover, Yarrow, Annual Poppies and bluest of blue Cornflowers.

This all came as a surprise until it was discovered that North Somerset Council, in an enlightened move, had the newly top soiled areas sown with a grass and wildflower seed mixture. Advice was quickly sought on how to encourage and retain these delights and manage the areas appropriately to continue this for future years. 'Plantlife' a charity specialising in promoting wild flower areas as a more

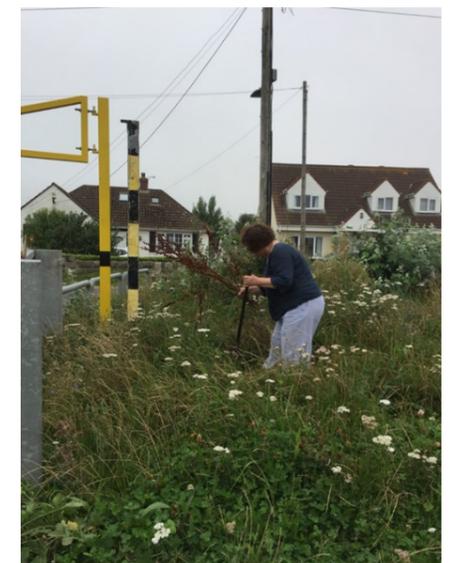
sustainable way of managing communal spaces was consulted (see their ideas on their website). As single grass cut was suggested after the flowers has set seed and this was done at the end of August. Minimal cultivation only required and no fertiliser, but those weeds (nature's rampant survivors) need to be kept in check so as not to overwhelm the wild flowers. Readers should have twigged by now that the 'wisdom' of the title to this piece is that less is more, minimal maintenance and nature allowed its head benefits wild plants and animals and the public purse.

The Parish Council has agreed with North Somerset Council – the landowner- to manage the grassed areas and will receive a proportion of the parking fee revenue to cover this. Tree planting to screen the site has recently been undertaken with Holm Oaks (one of our most stately

evergreens) and infilling with Tamarisk (one of the finest seaside shrubs) along the north boundary and willow and evergreen Elaeagnus Ebbingei fronting Sand Road. Donated specimen trees include a Scots Pine (our only native conifer) Field Maple (a fine red birch with peeling bark), discovered in the Himalayas, and a fine variety of otherwise little loved Sycamore 'Brilliantissium'. A Prunus Avium is planned (our now rare wild cherry) so watch this space or rather the car park!

So far this has been a voluntary effort and it is hoped that it can be kept on this basis ensuring that Sand Bay gets what it wants. We have a small nucleus of volunteers but more are needed to share the load. It has to be said though, that the work when required, is not for the faint hearted because it is physically demanding and the ground is rough and difficult to work. However, if you fancy a rewarding work out or 'gardening' on a larger canvas with bolder brush strokes and would like to help in this endeavour then give your name, telephone number and email address to Mike Hardwick, the Parish Clerk, and we would be pleased to welcome you.

Report from John Sayer



Kewstoke Relief in Need

KEWSTOKE RELIEF IN NEED (REGISTERED CHARITY)

In 1976 the above Charity was founded from the sale of allotments within the Kewstoke Parish. This Charity is run by Trustees who meet 5 times per year and covers the area of Worlebury, Kewstoke and part of Milton.

The Income from this Investment is used to support local people who are experiencing temporary difficulties i.e. Redundancy, Illness, needing Fuel for hospital visits, Food Vouchers, travel costs, white electrical goods. This is only an example of what could be available.

Each case is discussed with the Trustees at the meeting. Urgent cases will be discussed outside these meetings if deemed appropriate.

All cases are confidential within the Trustees.

If you are in need or you know someone who would benefit from the Charity please do not hesitate to contact: Sue Lowe, Clerk, through email on susan_lowe@talk21.com stating reasons why support is needed Nancy Whyte, Chair, through email on harnan17@yahoo.com stating reasons why support is needed.

Nancy Whyte
Chair Kewstoke Relief in Need

Meet your Councillor

Hi, I'm Richard Buckley, I joined Kewstoke Parish Council at the last local elections.

I have lived in Kewstoke for 33 years firstly in Manor Gardens and for the last 10 years in Sand Road.

I first moved to Weston-super-Mare in 1969 when my parents moved to the area due to work. I'm married to Mandi and we have two children Ryan and Laura and three lovely grand children.

In later years I worked in Home to School Transport with North Somerset Council as transport

supervisor and then driving special needs children to school and back, this gave me a lot of pleasure, but I have now retired and with lots of time on my hands decided to stand for the Parish Council.

I'm still new to the job but slowly taking it all in and finding my feet, I feel I have a lot to offer to the village and it's community so if you see me about please say hello and if you need any information please don't be afraid to ask and if I don't know the answer I will certainly try and find it for you.



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Roofing and Extensions**

Tony Morris
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0771 205 1931

4. In a blender or food processor, puree the dates with the banana and 100ml (3½ fl oz) of the reserved liquid – remove this until smooth.

5. Transfer to a mixing bowl. Fold into the mixed dried fruit with the polenta and baking powder.

6. In a separate bowl, whisk the egg whites into soft peaks and fold into the fruit mixture using a large metal spoon. Spoon into the lined cake tins.

7. Bake for 45 minutes for individual cakes or 1hour -1½ hours for a large tin. Cover lightly with foil after 30 minutes. A skewer pushed into the centre of the cake should come out clean when it's cooked. Drizzle the brandy or sherry over the hot cake, if using, then leave to cool in the tins on a wire rack.

8. Decorate the top of the cake with a spiral of dried apple slices and some herbs and holly (see main picture) or dust very lightly with icing sugar through a festive stencil (see picture below).



Mushroom Carbonara

Category: Main meal | **Serves:** 2

Prep time: 15 minutes | **Cooking time:** 25 minutes

INGREDIENTS

2 thin rashers, 55g (2oz), back bacon, all fat removed (optional - use dried porcini mushrooms instead for a vegetarian version - see Cook's tip)

225g (8oz) baby chestnut mushrooms, halved

2 eggs

4 tbsp fromage frais

1 tbsp finely chopped fresh chives

85g (3oz) spaghetti

85g (3oz) wholemeal spaghetti

1 tbsp (5g) finely grated parmesan cheese

1 Cut the bacon, if using, into thin shreds. Fry in a non-stick frying pan for 2–3 minutes until golden and crisp. Remove and set aside. Add the mushrooms to the pan with 4 tbsp of water and fry for 5–7 minutes. Some moisture will

come out of the mushrooms, so keep cooking and stirring until most of the liquid has evaporated and the mushrooms are cooked and golden. Stir in the cooked bacon.

2 Beat together the eggs, fromage frais and chives.

3 Put a large saucepan of water on to boil. When bubbling, drop the wholemeal spaghetti into the pan. Return to the boil and cook for 5 minutes. Add the plain spaghetti and continue to cook the spaghetti together until both are tender, about another 10 minutes.

4 Drain the cooked spaghetti and return to the pan. Stir in the egg mixture and continue stirring over a low heat for 1–2 minutes. Serve immediately seasoned with ground black pepper and sprinkled with the Parmesan cheese.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/support/healthy-living/healthy-eating/recipe-finder>



Recipes



Stir-fried ginger beef

Category: Main meal | **Serves:** 2

Prep time: 20 minutes | **Cooking time:** 10-12 minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tsp cornflour
 - 4 tbsp water
 - 1 tbsp reduced-sodium soy sauce (1 tsp dark soft brown sugar)
 - 2-3tsp sunflower oil
 - 175g (6oz) lean rump or fillet steak, cut into thin strips across the grain
 - 1 1/2 tsp Sichuan pepper, crushed
 - 1 small red pepper, deseeded and cut into strips
 - 1 small green or yellow pepper, deseeded and cut into strips
 - 1 carrot, cut into thin matchsticks
 - 55g (2oz) mangetout, trimmed
 - 4 spring onions, chopped
 - 1 fresh red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
 - 2cm piece fresh root ginger, peeled and cut into thin strips
1. In a small bowl, mix cornflour with water until smooth. Stir in soy sauce and sugar; set aside.
 2. Heat 1 teaspoon sunflower oil in a non-stick wok. Add

beef and crushed pepper; stir-fry over a fairly high heat for 3-4 minutes or until beef is browned all over. Using a slotted spoon, transfer beef to a warm plate; set aside.

3. Carefully add remaining oil to hot juices in wok; heat over a medium heat until hot. Add peppers, carrot, mangetout, spring onions, chilli, ginger and garlic; stir-fry over a medium-high heat for 3-5 minutes or until softened or cooked to your liking.
4. Return beef and any juices to wok; stir to mix. Add cornflour mixture to wok; stir-fry over a medium heat for 1-2 minutes or until beef is hot.



Low fat Christmas Cake

Serves: Makes one large cake (12 slices) or 6 individual cakes

Prep time: 25 minutes | **Cooking time:** 50 minutes – 1½ hours

INGREDIENTS

300ml (10½ fl oz) herbal tea (choose a "Christmassy" - flavoured herbal tea such as spiced apple, mulled fruits or

gingerbread)
 400g (14 oz) mixed dried fruit
 225g (8oz) stoned dates
 1 tbsp mixed spice
 1 large ripe banana, about 140g (5oz)
 115g (4oz) fine polenta
 2 tsp baking powder (use gluten-free baking powder if you want the cake to be gluten-free)
 2 large egg whites
 1 tbsp brandy or dry sherry, optional
 Equipment: An 18cm (7") diameter, deep round cake tin, or a 900g (2lb) loaf tin, or any deep tin with a capacity of 1.5 litres (55 fl oz) or 6 individual tins, e.g. muffin tins.

1. Heat the oven to 180C / 160C fan / gas mark 4. Line your chosen tin(s) with baking parchment.
2. Put the dried fruit in a large mixing bowl and pour in 100ml (3½ fl oz) of the herbal tea. Leave to soak for an hour, stirring occasionally.
3. Put the dates, remaining 200ml (7fl oz) of herbal tea and the mixed spice into a small saucepan and simmer gently together for 5 minutes. Take off the heat and leave to cool.

Toilets

The Toilets in the Terminus Car Park on Sand Road have been managed for some years now by the Parish Council. The toilets are mainly funded with help from the small concession from the Kiosk now being run by Sand Bay Tea Rooms and the 20p fee to use them. In previous years the toilets have been closed between November & Easter, opening for a couple of weeks around Christmas time. The Parish Council have decided to keep them open all year round. This benefits visitors to our village and does provide some extra income to help fund them. There will shortly be some improvements to the building.



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Tea Rooms

Sand Bay Tea Rooms - A traditional English Tea Room offering a wide variety of homemade soups, sandwiches, toasties, jacket potatoes and many homemade main meals. We have gluten free options available too. We are open all year (check website for times) and have the highest health and hygiene rating from North Somerset Council.

We recently took over the kiosk in the car park where we sell a range of hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice creams. New for 2020 - Walls Mr. Whippy!! (The kiosk is weather dependant) We look forward to seeing you soon!

Matt and Dave



Sunday	11:00 to 4:00
Monday	closed
Tuesday	11:00 to 3:00
Wednesday	11:00 to 3:00
Thursday	11:00 to 3:00
Friday	Closed
Saturday	11:00 to 4:00

81 Beach Road, Sand Bay, Kewstoke BS22 9UQ
 01934 625591



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 Events, room bookings and food.
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info@commodore.eclipse.co.uk

VAS

There are now two Vehicle Activated illuminated speed signs in the village. These have been purchased by the Parish Council.

There was previously one on loan from North Somerset Council for evaluation. These signs are mobile, so as long as the areas in which they are used comply with highways criteria, they can be moved around the village.

The signs are not in themselves the whole solution to speeding motorists. In recent years we introduced the picket fences with road markings at the entry points to the village along with a 20mph speed limit on part of Kewstoke Road and around the village green.

Those intent on speeding may not be influenced by a few signs and road markings, but if it reminds residents and visitors who are going just that little bit too fast, to slow down, they will be a worthwhile addition.



Volunteer Car Scheme

VOLUNTEER CAR SCHEME FOR KEWSTOKE ?

At present there is no GP in Kewstoke so patients have to get to Worle or Weston to see their doctor. If they have no car and no friend to take them then this means catching the bus or going by taxi. Sometimes the bus is not an option because of limited mobility or because of how early the appointment is which means taking a taxi. This can cost up to £15 for the round trip which is a lot for those on a limited income. If regular visits are necessary then these costs can be a real burden.

Other villages in North Somerset have a scheme for taking people to their GP in a private car driven by a volunteer. The cost is a lot less than taking a taxi. These schemes work very well and are a good example of communities helping each other. The drivers always have the option to accept or decline a journey request.

THERE IS NO SUCH SCHEME IN KEWSTOKE BUT THERE COULD BE IF A FEW VOLUNTEERS CAME FORWARD TO RUN IT !

Drivers would be needed willing to drive to GP surgeries in Worle and Weston and a couple of transport co-ordinators to allocate travel requests to the drivers.

WOULD YOU INTERESTED IN HEARING MORE ABOUT SUCH A SCHEME ?

Contact Bill Wallace

Village Agent
West of England Rural Network

bill@wern.org.uk

ELMSLEY NURSERY

Lower Norton Lane
BS22 9YT
Weston-Super-Mare
01934 415333

Royal Oak Stores

Crookes Lane
Kewstoke
01934 644441
Hours 07:30 - 19:30

13 Sound Studios

13 SOUND STUDIOS is situated in the rural village of Kewstoke and offers excellent recording, rehearsal and video facilities.
07780 353255,
Contact Ken Lintern direct
ken@13musicproductions.com

The New Inn

5A Crookes Ln, Kewstoke,
Weston-super-Mare BS22 9XL
01934 622766

The Grumpy Farmer

Hello again, I'm here with some updates on what's been happening down here on Sand Bay Farm. Many of you visited us when walking around the Scarecrow Trail. I could see the surprise on many people's faces to find a farm tucked away at the end of a narrow drive between the properties along Beach Road. So, if you didn't know where I lived, you do now.

At this point I must congratulate Annie and the team involved in the organisation of the trail event and all those who participated. There were some fantastic scarecrows and I am very much looking forward to the next one. The calendar with all of the photos from the event looks great, so don't forget to purchase one from Annie.

At the moment I'm busy getting the buildings and yards ready to bring in the cattle for the winter. I don't know how wet it is where you are but its very wet down here at the farm. I note from my diary of December 2018 that the cattle didn't come in until mid-December last year, so it's a month earlier this year, which is going to make it a long winter.

I haven't managed to do any of the jobs we normally do at this time of year, like getting last years manure out or hedge trimming etc. Earlier on, there was such a lot of grain about I didn't want to cover it with manure before the cattle had eaten it, but now of course it's too wet to get out on the land and you would make a terrible mess. Luckily the crops were quite heavy this year so have made a fair amount of hay and silage, hopefully enough to see me through the winter, that's of course if we don't get a late spring.

A month or so back, I heard some predictions of a cold spell starting after Christmas and lasting three

months, which could make 2018's 'Beast from the East' feel like a balmy summers day! Faux fur manufacturers trying to boost sales I always say.

If the scientists are right, we will soon be all walking around in shorts and t-shirts and our favourite swimwear, heaven forbid! Of course, it won't happen without the help of the farmer and his belching animals. Farmers seem to get the blame for a lot of things. What they don't like to tell you is that before all this talk of global warming, there were 60 million bison roaming the planes of north America all pumping out methane gas! Today there are roughly about the same number of cattle doing the same, so what has changed? Well I can tell you, humans burning fossil fuels, greed and over population which I'm sad to say isn't going to change any time soon in any meaningful way.

Anyway, back to the farm and a few updates on what's been happening down here. Calving in the spring went okay, all calving in April with no losses. There were one or two barren (not in calf) if you didn't know, and several calving out late July and August, which is not ideal as it puts everything out of time.

This led me to wonder if 'Loxton Commander,' the bull, was still up to his job as he is not a youngster anymore and maybe it was time for him and I to part company. Even farmers get attached to their animals, so me being a big softy made an appointment to call the vet to see how fertile he was. The vet arrived in the yard and the problem was to get Loxton in the cattle crush for the vet to get a sample of his semen. Loxton, weighing in at over a ton doesn't do anything or go anywhere he doesn't want to. But I had a trick up my sleeve, he cant resist a bucket of cake, so that was placed at the end of the crush and

after a big squeeze he was in and ready for the vet to obtain a sample of semen which proved to be not bad for an old boy and I think Loxton enjoyed the whole experience! So he is put with the cows for another summer and I will have to wait until the spring to find out if he has done a good job!

You probably are aware that all cattle have to be TB tested at least once a year or pre-movement tested if they haven't been assessed in the last 60 days, to be sold through a live auction or to another farm. My whole herd test, that's when all the cattle on my holding are tested in the summer when they are all out to grass, means I have to have them all in to the yard when they don't really want to be there. Fun and games at times.

This year two of the cows tested were inconclusive reactors (IRS for short), that meant they had to stay in isolation and be tested again after 60 days, so a tense time. In the end everything was okay and they passed the second test, so back to normal whatever normal is.

I'll end now and wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

