

A very warm welcome to The Old Piggery and to Kerswell Farm!

We want you to have the most relaxing time with us, so have put together some information that should help you to make the most of your stay and ensure that you don't have the frustrations of not knowing how things work and where things are!

There's a downloadable pdf version of this information on our website – kerswellfarm.uk under 'Accommodation' – The Old Piggery

No longer a working farm, but surrounded by agricultural land and grazing animals, the listed 17th century Kerswell Farm is now managed for wildlife and conservation, as is the adjoining 30 acres. The silence and deep peace is something that all who come here comment upon. Visitors have full access to our 27 acres of species-rich culm grassland, woodland, lakes and meadows. The special habitat provided by the culm grassland, managed in partnership with Devon Wildlife Trust, supports many rare species of flowers such as the marsh orchid and devil's bit scabious, the latter being the only food plant of the endangered marsh fritillary butterfly. In February 2018 we were delighted to have some of our land designated as a County Wildlife Site.

Streams are everywhere, and the unique habitats created by the geology of the area make it diverse and fascinating throughout the year. Wellies are often needed when exploring the land however! The colourful spectacle of the wildflowers and grasses in the Spring and early Summer are unforgettable, and the beautiful old trees in the Devon hedgebanks, festooned with lichens, ferns and fungi are testament to the fresh clean air. The tranquil environment around our four small lakes makes them a perfect spot to relax with a paintbrush, binoculars, camera, a drink and a book or to take a deep breath and just be. Swooping dragonflies and

damselflies over the waterlilies entertain and enchant. The lakes are maintained for wildlife, so the weed that you see provides shelter and food for a variety of species – we clear a proportion of it every other year but otherwise just leave it be.

A wide range of birds visit the farm and the resident barn owls are often in evidence. Two barn owl boxes are high up in one of our barns, and a brood was successfully raised again in 2022. You are welcome to sit quietly and watch the parents swooping silently in and out of the barn in the late Spring and Summer months. The nectar-rich flowers give rise to a wide range of insect life which in turn feeds many birds and small mammals. Deer are also regularly seen.

The land is varied here, with different habitats for wildlife and to give interest to everyone. We've left a sketch of the land on the kitchen table for you; we would be very happy to show you around if you'd like us to and give you some information about the lie of the land and what to look out for in terms of plants and wildlife. We're delighted to be working in partnership with the Devon Wildlife Trust to improve the biodiversity of a large area of our grassland for the benefit of wildlife. If you are interested, do ask and we can show you what's happening.

We're delighted that in January 2021 we were accredited as a Business Partner for the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve for showing commitment to Conservation, Local Development and Awareness Raising. The North Devon Coast Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, just a couple of miles from our farm, are within the Biosphere Reserve area which includes the catchment areas of the Taw and Torridge rivers (our own streams feed into the Torridge), the sand dune system at Braunton Burrows, and an area out to sea including Lundy. The overall vision for the area is that the community thrives through effective participation in developing sustainable lifestyles that are reflected in the enhancement of the environment in which they live and work, and we do as much as we can to promote 'green' practices for ourselves and our guests.

If you have a dog with you:

Dogs are very welcome at Kerswell Farm, and we want them to enjoy their holiday too! We don't currently charge extra for dogs, but we do ask that you use the vacuum cleaner and other cleaning materials to leave the cottage much as you found it, especially if your dog sheds. Please also do a final sweep of the garden before you leave and dispose of any offerings. We've installed a pre-set warm 'pooch shower' at the front of The Old Piggery so that you can sluice off sand or mud before you go indoors. A grey paws towel hangs behind the kitchen door.

Please use a throw if your dog likes to sit on the sofa. If you don't have your own throw with you, there are a couple in a basket next to the sofa; please do use them to protect our furniture. Dogs are not allowed on the beds. We ask that you never leave your dog unattended in the cottage.

There is plenty of space for dogs to run free, but as there is stock grazing all around us, we ask that you keep your dog on a lead on the lane as the farmer often moves stock along it and do take special care if your dog is prone to chasing livestock. As you would anywhere, please pick up after your dog on the paths and in the gardens. Don't worry on rough ground. In the culm grassland, the woodland and the large field, deer are often seen, so be aware of this if your dog is likely to take chase.

Green initiatives

Keen to minimise our carbon footprint, we've taken steps to be as green as possible, utilising the solar power as much as possible for all laundry and cleaning. All our cleaning products are environmentally friendly and good for our private drainage system, and we buy in bulk and refill the bottles to reduce plastic waste. We're proud to be part of the Green Tourism scheme, and we're thrilled to have been awarded the highest status of Gold partner.

The soap in the cottage is handmade using locally sourced ingredients – if you like using it during your stay, do take any remainder home with you.

The rug in the kitchen is from the Devon company Weaver Green and is made from 1,600 recycled plastic bottles – it's quite incredible what can be done with waste plastic.

If you usually compost fruit and vegetable peelings at home and would like to do that at Kerswell Farm, we'd be delighted to add them to our compost heap. There's a compost bucket in the kitchen for you to use.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINT, we have installed a dedicated EV charge point outside the cottage. Please bring the charge

lead for your own vehicle and let us know if you plan to use the charge point as cost will be according to power used.

The Kerswell Farm Visitor's Charter – how to help us be even greener!

Keeping things natural – biodiversity and conservation are key at Kerswell Farm

Energy should be used responsibly. Please turn off lights and turn down heating

Reduce single-use plastics; refill water bottles. Devon water is delicious!

Solar power keeps us warm when the sun shines

Water – turn off taps and be mindful of water usage

Eggs come from the farm across the valley

Local producers and little shops really appreciate your custom

Logs for the wood-burners come from the woodlands and hedgerows at Kerswell Farm

Furnishings and art are all sourced locally

Actively recycle: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Compost

Recharge your electric or hybrid vehicle at our dedicated charge point

Milk comes in glass reusable bottles direct from a local farm

Kerswell Farm Cottages – Our 'Green Policy'

Situated in the heart of the North Devon UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and accredited as one of their Business Partners, following the goal of 'living and working in harmony with nature' is of great importance to us at Kerswell Farm. Forming one of 671 County Wildlife Sites within the Biosphere Reserve, we strive to develop a sustainable lifestyle for our guests as well as ourselves to maintain and enhance our environment.

Every aspect of the management of our land is chosen specifically to further improve the biodiversity of the many species that live here. Sometimes some of the land or the lakes may look somewhat overgrown and new piles of branches may appear in the woodland – this is all intentional habitat creation for different creatures to use as homes and for us to retain and encourage a good balance of species. We work closely with the Devon Wildlife Trust to optimise biodiversity, are constantly enchanted by the variety of wildlife we see daily and know that our guests enjoy it too.

We have given much thought to the way in which we manage our two cottages. Created from redundant farm buildings, they don't take homes away from locals as many holiday cottages might. We want our guests to feel comfortable and cossetted, staying in a place that feels natural and

special. Being considerate of our natural resources and environment helps protect them for future generations and the measures in place at Kerswell Farm to work with the environment rather than against it include:

- utilising natural resources such as solar power (we have 12Kw of PV) for electricity and the use of heat pumps where possible
- optimising water usage by using a highly efficient washing machine for all cottage laundry as well as collecting rainwater, pumping spring water from the lake and using grey water from the house for garden watering. We would ask guests to value the precious resources of water and power, and to thoughtfully turn off taps and lights
- respecting the wider environment, all cleaning and laundry products are phosphate-free and as natural as they can be, we also use everyday products like vinegar, lemon juice and bicarb for some cleaning tasks. The hand-made soap is natural and from a local supplier
- as we are on private drainage, only human waste and toilet paper goes down the toilet – bins are provided for everything else

- recycling is a passion – boxes and bags to separate out waste are provided for each cottage, as well as food waste caddies with compostable bags. Guests are also more than welcome to put aside fruit and veg waste in the caddy provided for our own compost heap!
- supporting local businesses is important to us and we buy local where we can. Furniture, furnishings and decorative items in the cottages are all locally sourced, including wool duvets and pillows from Devon. Even the art on the walls is all by local artists
- delicious whole milk in reusable glass bottles comes from a local farm, happy eggs from across the fields, bread, scones and dog biscuits from the farmhouse kitchen
- we run a plug-in hybrid car ourselves and have a dedicated electric charging point for guests, utilising solar power when available to charge their own electric vehicles
- all wood for our stoves comes from the maintenance of the landscape and the hedgerows at Kerswell Farm
- our 27 acres of land is all managed for wildlife. It includes more than 10 acres of woodland, offsetting much of the carbon footprint of the farmhouse and cottages

General information

All the instruction booklets for the appliances are in the third drawer down in the kitchen, but a few quick pointers:

Hob: press and hold the 'on' symbol for a couple of seconds to turn on – it's a safety feature and caught us out first time around. Just touch it to turn off.

Nespresso machine: it's simple to operate... First fill the container at the back. Press one of the 'cup' buttons to turn on. Lift the handle and place a pod in the slot, then press whichever size cup of coffee you prefer. The machine will automatically turn itself off after 9 minutes, but you can turn it off manually by pressing both the cup buttons simultaneously.

Milk frother: lift out the insert in the base of the jug. Choose between cappuccino or latte – for frothy milk leave the spring-like circle on, or roll off if you prefer less froth. Wipe out the jug well after use, never submerge in water.

Slow cooker: press the mode button and it will read 'high, 4 hours', press again and it will read 'low, 8 hours'. Use the + or – buttons to change the time and then press 'power'.

There is a First Aid Kit in the 3rd drawer down in the kitchen. We hope you don't have to use it, but if you do, please let us know so that we may replenish it for future guests. Thank you.

Woodburner: to light the stove, we suggest that you use 1 firelighter and about 3-4 pieces of kindling. Light the firelighter and arrange the kindling over the top, then add a few logs. When you first light the fire, or need to give it a boost, the control lever at the bottom opens up to allow more air in by moving to the right and you close it down by moving it to the left. Once the fire is established, use the top lever to make subtle adjustments, again, open is to the right.

We've supplied enough logs for two or three evenings, if you would like more, do ask. We're happy to replenish for a small charge - £3 per basket.

Heating and hot water: there is an oil-fired combi boiler in the kitchen. It will fire up whenever hot water is used. The heating is on all day; the room stat is in the lobby - if you want to turn it down or off, set a lower temperature. There are adjustable thermostatic valves on the radiators to adjust each one if required.

The solar panels generate electricity whenever there is light. Any that is not used is fed into the grid for someone else!

Bedding

All the bedding and bedlinen in The Old Piggery is natural cotton and wool and comes all the way from Devon Duvets! As well as being an insulator, natural wool breathes and wicks away moisture. The soft cotton casing used in all the products allows your body to regulate its own temperature and maintain a balanced and even temperature whilst sleeping. A sleeping environment is created which is unique to each person and this makes wool a perfect solution for partners sleeping under one duvet who each have different body temperatures.

In view of these qualities, most people achieve a more peaceful and deeper sleep, vital when you are on holiday! Studies show that sleeping under wool increases the duration of the most beneficial phase of sleep known as REM (Rapid Eye Movement) and this contributes towards good health, wellbeing and results in happiness.

We hope that you will enjoy sleeping with wool – if you don't, please do let us know and we will provide an alternative for you.

The bedlinen is all laundered and dried outside at Kerswell Farm where at all possible. Whilst it is super-clean and patiently ironed, you may find that a stray insect has left a mark while it's been on the line!

Towels: please bring your own beach towels.

Welfies! We have a range of foam welfies in sizes 4-10 if you would like to borrow some. Just let us know your size and we'll drop them over for you.

Garden furniture: the cushions for the chairs outside are in the shed if they're not on the chairs. Please put the cushions under cover if it is likely to rain. There are sun-bungers in the shed also if they aren't out.

Bats: we have many different species of bats residing at Kerswell Farm, and a colony of pipistrelle bats roost in the roof of The Old Piggery. If you hear scratching noises at night, don't be alarmed, they can't get in and are just coming and going as bats do.

Vacuum cleaner: please plug the battery back into the charger after use.

Places to visit nearby

Beaches, walks and coastal villages

We have maps, books and route ideas – if you would like some advice, do just ask. With some notice, we can also provide a lift if you would like to do a coast path walk and don't want to retrace your steps.

For up-to-date and comprehensive information about the area, highly recommend the North Devon Biosphere Reserve web app find it at: www.northdevonexplorer.com

There is a useful page on the South-West Coast Path website for top dog-friendly walks - www.southwestcoastpath.org.uk/top-dog/

Bucks Mills Our nearest beach at low tide and a beautiful one. Only a ten-minute drive away, down a lovely, wooded combe, you find a free car park at the top of the ancient fishing hamlet with streams running along the side of the road. On reaching the sea wall, the old lime kilns are impressive, as are the rock formations and waterfalls behind the stony beach. There is a 'National Trust Artists' Cabin on the steep path down to the beach, occasionally open and well worth a look if it is. The South-West Coast Path passes through Bucks Mills – wonderful woodland

walks with glimpses of the sea in both directions. There's also a wide area of Woodland Trust woodland to explore in the valley with many trails to follow. Park at the free car park at the bottom of the hill.

Peppercombe A perfect Devoncombe, Peppercombe valley is owned by the National Trust and is only accessible on foot. It is a steep walk down through beautiful woodland and past small cottages that are now holiday lets. The beach is rocky but there is some sand at low tide. The red cliffs are unique in the area, and the geology and nature of thecombe is lovely. You must park in a lay-by on the A39 to access Peppercombe, but it is well worth it.

Sandymouth Just over the border into Cornwall is the stunning big Sandymouth beach. Patrolled by lifeguards in the Summer, it's great for surfing or swimming, but also for long bracing walks at any time of the year. You can walk all the way along the beach to Bude at low tide, then back along the cliff path. Good parking to be found, as well as an excellent National Trust cafe open all year round. Dogs welcome. Just along the coast heading north is the quiet beach of **Duckpool** also dog friendly and good at low tide for a run.

Hartland If you like wild, Hartland is for you! The most challenging section of the South West Coast Path, the Hartland Peninsular is stunning. Unspoilt, varied and dramatic. You'll see why the inn is called The Wreckers – many ships have foundered on this shore over the years, and there is a small museum at the quay which is worth a look. A good long walk (about 7 miles) is from Hartland Point (where there is an excellent little outdoor cafe, open Easter to October) to the Quay where you can have lunch at The Wreckers (dogs allowed in the bar) and circle back on a more inland route.

Welcombe Mouth An unspoilt and very dramatic beach with amazing geological features. Carpets of wildflowers in the Spring and early Summer. Sand at low tide. Difficult access though, the last bit of the lane down to the small car park is accessible by 4x4 or by walking, wouldn't recommend it in a nice car. A good option would be to park at The Old Smithy, walk down to the beach and then back for lunch!

Northam Burrows Clamber over the natural pebble ridge (or over the Bailey Bridge) and the fantastic beach stretches before you. At low tide it goes on for ever, and turning right, you can walk for miles, exploring

rock pools and the fabulous views all around. Perfect for dogs. There is a toll road leading to the car park, but only manned during the Summer.

Clovelly Steep, cobbled streets leading down to the harbour. Quaint old fishermen's cottages are well worth a visit, but a good level of fitness is necessary as it really is a climb on the way back up! If you like gardens, taking in a visit to the Clovelly Court Gardens is recommended, there is an honesty box for the entry fee! Dogs welcome on leads. Top tip from locals – if you just want to have a stroll/drink/meal, go after bpm for free entry and total peace!

Westward Ho! The name is perhaps more interesting than the village, but it has its own charm. There is also the attraction of the North Devon Surf School, established over 25 years ago and a great place to hire surf boards and wetsuits or take some lessons. The beach at Westward Ho! Leading towards Northam Burrows is fantastic at any time of the year.

Appledore Appledore is a very old fishing village with a fascinating history of boat- and ship-building. Fish is still landed here, and it's a lovely place to wander round, sampling the wide array of great places to eat and drink and exploring the tiny old lanes and the tucked-away craft

shops. The Hockings ice-cream van on the quay is an absolute must if you like sublime vanilla ice-cream! Be aware – lots of places are closed on Mondays.

Lundy Island Day trips to Lundy are easy from Kerswell Farm. We can advise or help by booking for you – just ask. Boats depart and return from Bideford or Ilfracombe, depending on the tides. It's a special place for nature-lovers, but dogs are not allowed.

Gardens and inland destinations

Hartland Abbey With a long and varied history, the Abbey and its' gardens and grounds are well worth a visit. The setting is stunning, and the grounds and Blackpool Mill Cottage have been used for the filming of 'Sense and Sensibility' and 'The Night Manager' amongst other productions. Many events are held through the year – check their website or the booklet in the cottage for details. Open Sunday to Thursday only 29th March to 4th October 2020.

Tamar Lakes A 20-minute scenic drive away, Tamar Lakes are a great place for level walks and bird-watching. Hides enable you to try to spot some of the 203 species recorded here. Dogs on leads. A good option for

a walk after heavy rain and a cafe to warm you up in the winter or refresh you in the summer.

Marwood Hill Gardens This magical and very special 20-acre private garden with three lakes is set in a valley tucked away in North Devon only 4 miles from Barnstaple. The gardens are a wonderful haven in which to relax and enjoy the impressive collections of plants, shrubs and trees and experience the views and peaceful atmosphere. A tea-room with lovely views, and dogs welcome. Previous guests highly recommend this garden.

RHS Rosemoor One of the Royal Horticultural Society's flagship gardens, Rosemoor is something special. A scenic 30-minute drive away, it has something for everyone with many special events taking place throughout the year. For garden-lovers it must be top of the list in the area.

Docton Mill Open March to October, the gardens at Docton Mill are a real treat. The wildflower and other gardens have won many awards, as has the tea-room. RHS partner garden every Saturday. Dogs allowed on short leads.

Tarka Trail The Tarka Trail is a pedestrian and cycle way in the North Devon Biosphere Reserve. It runs in a 163-mile figure-of-eight through

landscapes little changed from those described by Henry Williamson in his classic 1927 novel *Tarka the Otter*. Lots of great routes to walk or cycle. <http://www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk/the-tarka-trail.html>. Bikes and electric bikes are available for hire in Barnstaple and at the Puffing Billy near Torrington. It's all beautiful, but some of the less-travelled sections such as that from the great little café serving local food at East Yarde towards the Meeth Nature Reserve are even more special.

Dartington Crystal Less than 30 minutes' drive away is the UK's only remaining glass factory, there's plenty to see, do and buy. <http://www.dartington.co.uk/visit-us/visitor-centre>,

Lydford Gorge Beautiful gorge on the edge of Dartmoor, just an hour away. Fabulous waterfalls, streams, woodland, a truly special place. Bluebells abound in the Spring. National Trust, with two tearooms! Dogs fine on a lead.

Burton Art Gallery and Museum, The Quay, Bideford A delightful free gallery and museum with excellent exhibitions, workshops, crafts by local artists for sale and a French café. Local Tourist Information is also to be found here. It closes at 4pm

Surfing there's a surf school at Sandymouth Beach – wonderful setting and facilities. One of the top surfing schools in the UK is based at Westward Ho! and offers lessons, courses and equipment hire

Pampering... if you fancy being thoroughly spoiled, take a look at the options available at Nurture in Nature, very local in Parkham village and a real treat for all the senses: [Wellbeing & Indulgence | Nurture in Nature](#)

When you find other interesting places to recommend to other visitors to the area, please let us know so that we can add them to the information for future guests...

Local shopping

The milk provided for you comes direct from a farm outside Woolsery. It is whole milk, pasteurised but not homogenised and your bottle can be refilled at the farm. Head north out of Woolsery village and you'll find it on the left-hand side of the road. If you would like to take some home with you, please purchase a new bottle as we only have a limited supply of branded bottles. Alternatively, The Milk Kiosk in Bideford is also good.

G E Honey and Son is a fabulous butcher is in Parkham selling home-grown and locally produced meat. There's a really excellent village shop with Post Office selling great local produce and basic essentials as well as newspapers are not far away in Woolsery, and there are many supermarkets in Bideford – Morrisons, Asda, Tesco, Aldi and Lidl. A large Sainsburys is just off the A39 this side of Barnstaple. We also understand that most supermarkets will deliver to Kerswell Farm. There's a Waitrose in Holsworthy.

Excellent fresh fish available straight from the fish dock in Appledore – The Devon and Cornwall Fish Company. Open Tuesday to Friday 8.30-3 and Saturday 8.30-12. Wooda Road, Appledore.

There's a well-stocked organic shop on the left-hand side of the road leading to Appledore, Marshford Organic Foods.

A small but excellent Farmers Market is held in the Parish Hall in Hartland village on the first Sunday of each month. Well worth a visit!

For shopping other than groceries, Affinity Outlet Village (Atlantic Village) in Bideford has some interesting and very good value outlet stores. Dartington Crystal at Great Torrington also hosts a lovely range of shops which are worth a visit. For crafts and galleries, Appledore is close by and a tremendous place to browse around – most are closed on Mondays.

Bideford is an honest sort of town, not touristy at all, and full of interesting little shops as well as some of the usual high-street

Cakes – I'm happy to bake a cake for you with at least 24 hours' notice
– all priced at £8

- Victoria sandwich cake with jam (and cream if you like, £2 extra)
- Ginger cake
- Farmhouse fruit cake
- Lemon drizzle squares
- Buttery oat cookies (fruit and nuts optional)
- Fruity, nutty, seedy flapjack – great for long walks
- Apple cake, in season
- Iced marmalade loaf cake
- Chocolate brownies, with or without nuts – also available gluten-free
- Orange and almond cake – gluten-free

I have a Certificate in Food Hygiene, so you can rest assured that your food will be cooked in a safe manner.

BBQ: (over winter this is stored in the shed). One pack of charcoal is provided (you'll find it in the BBQ) more available if required. The tools are in the hall cupboard, please clean after use for the next guests.

Eating Out

Recommending places to eat and drink is always tricky and never more so than just now! Here are a few that we have tried ourselves in the past but we strongly advise you to look online to see the current situation re eating and drinking.

The Farmer's Arms, Woolsey (Woolfardisworthy) no expense spared on the interiors of this pub/restaurant! If you're around on a Sunday, their lunch is something rather special... Pricey but the food is excellent. Booking essential, tel 01237 439328 or online at www.woolsey.com

The Bell Inn in Parkham You are assured of a warm welcome, good beer and cider and a good pub menu- check online at www.thebellinnparkham.co.uk for opening times or call 01237 451201 but booking recommended. Be aware that service can sometimes be rather slow

The Coach and Horses, Buckland Brewer Traditional 13thC free house in nearby village, warm welcome and really good homemade food, generous portions tel 01237 451395

The Royal George, Appledore, really lovely food with stunning views, friendly staff and dogs are welcome. Just past The Beaver Inn. Booking essential via their website at www.trgpub.co.uk. A great favourite.

The Bell Inn, Monkleigh 400-year-old thatched pub serving real ales and freshly cooked pub food. Booking advisable, tel 01805 938285

The Royal Plaice, Appledore fish and chips to eat in, take away or have delivered to you in the pub opposite, same applies to **Sylvester's**, also in Appledore where you can take your fish and chips from either place to the very popular pub almost next door, **The Champ**

The Seagate, Appledore Old fishing pub with modern twists. Interesting and varied seasonal menu, booking essential 01237 472589

The Beaver Inn, Appledore An honest to goodness great pub with a very warm welcome and an interesting menu in a lovely location! Head uphill from the car park in Appledore then towards the lifeboat station and you'll find it.

The Italian Kitchen Small family-run Italian in Bideford with traditional pizza oven and a warm welcome. Booking advisable, tel 01237 478623

The Hoops Inn, easily accessible on the A39 and with an excellent menu. The meat is sourced locally from Parkham, and they have a great vegetarian menu. Booking advised 01237 451222 or <https://www.hotelsnorthdevon.co.uk/>

The Union Inn, Stibb Cross Not far away, another traditional pub serving good local steaks and pub grub

The Bush, Morwenstow If you are visiting the wonderful church, coastline and Hawker's Hut at Morwenstow, The Bush is an ideal place for lunch. Food is good. **The Rectory Tea Rooms**, also at Morwenstow are also excellent for lunch, tea or morning coffee.

The Old Smithy, Welcombe – well worth a visit if you're walking around beautiful Welcombe, recommended!

Wi-Fi and mobile signal

Due to our rural location, the Wi-Fi at Kerswell Farm is not the fastest, but it is as good as we can get, and it works!

The wireless connection is **Piggery Wi-Fi** and the code to connect is **Oldpiggery**

Mobile signal is variable, depending upon your provider and where you are. Outside, and the further up the hill the better the signal!

In an emergency, if no-one is in at the farmhouse, please call Elaine's mobile: 07889 746123. If no answer, please leave a message

Useful contacts

Local GP surgery – Dr Tapscott and partners, Hartland Surgery,
66 The Square, Hartland EX39 6BL. Tel 01237 441200

Nearest pharmacy – Asda supermarket at Atlantic Village, Bideford,
EX39 3QU

North Devon Hospital (A & E), Raleigh Park, Barnstaple EX31 4JB.
Tel 01271 322577

Bideford Hospital Minor Injuries Unit, Abbotsham Road, Bideford
EX39 3AG – telephone 01271 322 577 – open 8.30am –
8.30pm (closed Christmas day)

Dentist – My Dentist, Bay View Road, Northam EX39 1AY.
Tel 01237 476786

Vet – Torbridge Veterinary Hospital, 7 Caddisdown Ind Pk., Clovelly
Road, Bideford, EX39 3DX. Tel 01237 472074

Artworks in The Old Piggery

It felt important that all the art on the walls was rooted in North Devon, so all the artists are local.

Golden Droiles in the sitting room is one of many wonderful Devon-inspired wood-cut prints by Julian Witts, and the affiums print is by his wife Susanne. Julian regularly exhibits his work around North Devon and lives in Ilfracombe. (www.julianwitts.co.uk)

The bright little artworks in the lobby between the bedrooms are by Jan Coutu (email: jancoutu@gmail.com) who I met while she was stewarding the artist's retreat in Bucks Miffs.

The evocative trees in the hall are prints of pen and ink drawings by Sarah Woolfenden from Great Torrington. She draws large works then prints them in various sizes – a good selection is available from Gallery Three Nine in Bear Street, Barnstaple.

Josie Ross from Appledore created the lovely embroidery in the double bedroom. She has some beautiful things in her gallery, all made by her – she also made the lampshades and the bathroom mirror!

'Barney the barn owl' was painted by the son of the previous owners of Kerswell Farm – he's a graphic designer and was captivated by the regular sightings of the beautiful owls who nest in one of the barns.

Sarah Jackson, a young artist from Barnstaple painted the Clovelly collage in the twin bedroom and the apples above the fridge are by her friend and associate Corinne Young.

The blackbird in the sitting room is one of mine, inspired by the birds at Kerswell Farm and the feathers are collected from around the property. 'Rock pooling' is in the style of Matisse's cut-outs pictures, and I used hand-made paper from Nepal to create my version, reflecting the vivid rock-pool life at Welcombe Mouth beach.

The pig sketch is by Picasso... (sorry, not local!)

The macrame owl is made by Harriet's Macrame and sits on driftwood from local beaches.

Fire safety

We have conducted a fire risk assessment in line with new guidance provided by the Home Office in 2023. The assessment for The Old Piggery is available to view on request.

**IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE – PLEASE
VACATE THE PREMISES
IMMEDIATELY VIA THE EXIT DOOR IN
THE BACK HALLWAY. DIAL 999 AND
ASK FOR THE FIRE SERVICE.**

**PLEASE ALSO NOTIFY US OF THE
SITUATION SO THAT WE MAY ASSIST
YOU**

We ask that you don't bring electrical appliances into the cottage without prior permission. Laptops and phone chargers are of course allowed. Extension cables present both trip and fire hazards and are not permitted. Deep fat fryers are expressly forbidden.

Smoking is not allowed anywhere in the cottage, including e-cigarettes and vaping.

EV charging – there is a dedicated charge point for your use in your parking area. Please inform us prior to use so that we can monitor units used. There will be a charge according to usage, dependant upon current market prices for electricity. Use of domestic EV charge cables is not permitted.

Fireworks, Chinese lanterns, firepits and portable BBQs are explicitly forbidden anywhere at Kerswell Farm, as they present not only a fire hazard but also a nuisance to other guests and wildlife.

Boring but important stuff...

As we have private drainage, it's important that nothing other than toilet paper goes down the toilet. We're sure you'll understand why...

Smoke alarms: the smoke alarms are very sensitive to aerosols (hairspray, deodorants) as well as smoke. Do please bear this in mind. They are extremely loud when they go off and are mains powered so you can't just remove the battery. If one does go off, please make absolutely sure that there really is no fire, and then if necessary, use the umbrella in the hall to press the button on the smoke alarm to turn it off!

The lakes: it goes without saying that water can be dangerous, so please do take great care around our lakes. They are deceptively deep in places and the silt around the edge is also deep and can be difficult to get out of! We can't take any responsibility for accidents, so we ask that you respect the water and the wildlife and don't try and swim.

Please feel free to use the shed to store anything during your stay.

The nearest fuel station is at Asda in Atlantic Village. Take the A39 towards Bideford and turn right at the first roundabout. Turn right into

Affinity Village and the fuel station is right there. As an alternative, there is also a BP station a little further down the same road.

Rubbish and recycling: Devon is very keen on recycling. Food waste is separated out into the caddy you'll find under the kitchen sink. Please use the compostable bags provided and put any full bags into the larger caddy by the bin outside. **We'll collect on a Tuesday evening to take up the drive for collection on Wednesday.** Please put all glass in the bin with the blue lid, **clean (rinsed)** recyclables in the green lidded bin together with paper and cardboard. Black bag in the metal bin is for everything else except food waste and recycling and is only collected every two weeks. Thanks so much, it really helps us if you can do this. If you'd like to separate your fruit and veg peelings for our compost heap, please use the compost caddy under the kitchen sink.

What3words... if you use this app for locating places, our three words are: **bribing, princely, stick.** This is at the top of our drive, absolutely no reflection on what you might find when you get to us!!!

Home-produced preserves

There is a well-stocked dresser in the farmhouse full of marmalade, jams and jellies. Fruit is all grown or foraged by us or locally by friends. All subject to availability

Marmalade, jams and jellies, £3.00 per jar

Current selection:

Seville orange marmalade

Blackcurrant jam

Tutti frutti (five fruits) jam

Crab-apple jelly

Sweet cucumber pickle

Date, apple and onion chutney

All jars are recycled where possible, so sizes may vary slightly. If you're buying as a gift, do let me know and I'll select the nicest looking jars for you!

When it comes to leaving Kerswell Farm...

We'd appreciate it if you could be heading off by 10am unless we've agreed a later time with you.

Please empty all bins in the cottage and separate waste.

Leave any unused food that you don't want to take home – we'll either use it ourselves or donate to a local homeless charity.

If you have dogs, please do a final check of the garden and dispose of any little offerings.

We hope that you will have thoroughly enjoyed your stay!