

## Ice cream recipes: what a scoop

It started as a crush on a beat-up Mr Frosty van but crystallised into a way of life when Morfudd Richards took to the road, whipping up passion for her highly original ice-cream flavours.

By Morfudd Richards

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In 2004 I happened to be looking on eBay when my eye was caught by a 1970s ice-cream van. It was pink and called Mr Frosty, and on a whim I bought it. I paid £500 for the van, unseen, and flew down to Cornwall to pick it up, where it was parked in a rundown car-park close to Land's End. It was in a filthy state: its windows were covered in peeling lollipop stickers and the freezers were dank and mouldy. I began my return journey to London, but within a hundred miles of leaving Cornwall the engine blew up.

Back in London, I joined the Bedford Van Appreciation Society in order to find a replacement engine, drove up to Northamptonshire to pick one up, then found a garage in London that would fit it. Once mobile again, the van was given a resident's parking permit outside my house (to the bemusement of my neighbours), and I set about replacing the interior, holing myself up in its cavernous freezer to remove the fungi feeding on the previous summer's 'whippy' drippings and peeling the faded stickers from the windows. I hired paint-stripping equipment and patiently burnt away the layers of paint on its exterior, hauling in friends to assist, and then we set about giving Mr Frosty its new maquillage.



Mr Frosty's new look is a cheerful confection of flowers and butterflies Photo: VANESSA COURTIER

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Eventually the faded pink exterior was replaced with polka dots on the roof and psychedelic writing on the front and sides, advertising the forthcoming array of flavours – pineapple and chilli sorbet, beetroot and horseradish, Vin Santo ice-cream, poire belle hélène and peach melba, among others. A visit to a theatrical props shop gave me giant butterflies, which were attached to the outside, while the inside was laden with imitation fruit, vegetables, garlands and box trees. The steering wheel and seat were covered in fake dalmatian fur, and an imitation owl and peacock were positioned outwards to gaze at curious passers-by. A giant sticker on the front of the van read, the ice van cometh.

I hadn't really thought about what I would do with the van when I had bought it. Some sort of vague business plan emerged later. Although I had been running my own restaurant, Lola&r