

WATCHET CONNECTS

July/August 2025



Edition 38

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Editor's Page

Welcome to issue 38 of Watchet Connects

July and August see the annual launching of many of Watchet's favourite events. The new **Garden and Flower Show** will take place on Sunday 20th July. Get your entry forms from the Visitor Centre and fill them in by 16th July in order to take part in the show. The **Moorland Mousie** charity will be fundraising on the Memorial Ground during the show. Donate your undamaged clean, second-hand or new indoor only plant pots, vases or jugs suitable for flowers, either on the day, or beforehand (see page 31 for details). The following weekend, **Watchet Carnival** will bring entertainment and fun to the Esplanade and Swain Street on Saturday 26th and the Memorial Ground on Sunday 27th.

Watchet Summertime will be taking place between 18th and 23rd August, looked forward to by residents and visitors, it will be a week of fun culminating in **music and fireworks** on The Esplanade on Saturday 23rd August. Programmes will be in town and the Visitor Centre soon, see page 2 for more details.

For those who enjoy cooking (and eating), master baker Mark Newman is running some **breadmaking workshops** in the Phoenix Centre in August and September – see page 33 for more details.

Children of all ages are catered for during the summer holiday with activities at East Quay (many of them free) and The Visitor Centre.

Some good news – both Tony Knight and Alan Jones, who have regularly written for St Decuman's Church Magazine, will now be writing articles for us, welcome to both!

Many thanks to Andy Preston who has provided the photo of the *Flying Scotsman* for our cover this time. And thanks as ever to Chris who works hard to make *Connects* look wonderful and Fiona and her team who make sure it comes through your letter box every other month.

The deadline for the **September/October** edition of *Connects* will be **Friday 18th July**. Please send any copy or updates on adverts to editor@watchetcct.co.uk

Contributors please note: to enable us to continue to make **Watchet Connects** free to all residents we accept free of charge editorial entries from local social and not-for-profit organisations up to half a page maximum (around 200 words, or fewer if including images). Beyond that we must ask contributors to support our printing costs by paying the standard advertising rates unless otherwise agreed: see inside back cover.

Watchet Summertime programme out soon!



Dear Watchet Residents

We are super excited planning **Watchet Summertime** week 18th - 23rd August 2025.

As we are still at the planning stage (when this goes to print in May) I can only reveal the following:

Monday 18th – remains **Lego day** with competitions. Times can be booked when you see us at the street fairs beforehand.

Tuesday 19th – **Craft day** focusing on Paper – with sculpture making, making paper and paper activities for all.

Wednesday 20th – **Watchet Town Council Market and Fun day** – more to be announced soon...

Thursday 21st – **Charity day** – the Esplanade will be filled with myriad charities telling you what they do, as well as live music and singers.

Thursday 21st evening – **Disco!!** 60's, 70's and 80's disco on the esplanade – dig out your fancy dress and come and dance the night away.

Friday 22nd – **Collectors Fair** – with a ride on steam train operating on the day and The Esplanade will be lively again, with all kind of collectors, come and shop for treasures.

Friday 22nd Evening – **Night of Lights**, with music, and parades and an opportunity for peaceful reflection.

Saturday 23rd – **Grand Final Day** – markets, entertainment, music galore: of all genres, even Jazz in the afternoon,

Saturday 23rd evening - and in the evening two excellent local bands – **After Party** and, last but not least, **Audio Roulette** as the Main Act!! Interrupted by a **Firework Musical** at 10pm, closing at 11pm.

Come and join us Sunday morning 24th for the big clean up – we might even share breakfast with you.

Bernice Scott-Field

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 18th July

Watchet Climate Group

With global warming and increasing changes in our climate, we can all try to mitigate their effects by reducing our carbon footprint and our use of limited resources:

Increase recycling - avoid waste and use litter bins when out or take rubbish home

Save energy - use a microwave and/or an airfryer if possible to avoid using your oven

Save water - use less at home, only boil what you need, avoid using a sprinkler in the garden, use water butts

Avoid causing countryside fires especially in long dry periods

Reduce the need to buy new: go to a charity shop or to a repair cafe if items can be fixed - look for a local repair cafe (Carhampton, Minehead for example); **Watchet Repair Café** plans to open late summer – look out for details!

For more details and/or to become involved, please contact:
paul.levy78@gmail.com or ring 01984 632 108

Watchet Town Councillors' Surgeries

If you would like an informal chat with a Town Councillor, why not come to one of the bi-monthly surgeries on July 5th, September 6th or November 1st

Town Council Reception, Harbour Road between 10.30am and noon.
01984 633 344 www.watchettowncouncil.org



Steaming Coasters show cancelled!

Due to circumstances beyond their control, the Steaming Coasters have, very reluctantly, had to cancel their 5th July **One Foot in the Mud** show at the Boat Museum. Full refunds will be given.

But fear not, the troupe will be back soon...
<https://www.facebook.com/steamingcoasters/>

Note to avoid speculation – it's NOT been cancelled because there's not much mud left in the marina!



Watchet Task Force

We have been supporting the town since the 2023 road closure, with grant funding received from Somerset Council, Watchet Town Council and WACET.

Progress so far:

- **New floral displays** in Watchet – 2 new planters, 5 flower poles, 1 stone planter, 1 boat
- **New signage** in Watchet – blue signs for pedestrians directing to shops
- Working with Somerset Council to **improve signage** to Watchet and Blue Anchor
- **Social media** advertising of Watchet - successful campaign under the **Love Watchet** brand
- **Urban Design** work for Watchet – Feria Urbanism commissioned to hold public consultations resulting in a report launched October 2024 with six recommendations with funding to take two sites forward recently secured
- **New Events** for Watchet – to bring people into the town, these include:
Words in Watchet – literary festival started in February 2024 and held again in 2025 and 2026

Somerset Day – festival on 11th May 2024 and again in 2025

Dragon Hunt – from the railway station

Gardening Show – Sunday 21st July 2024, to be held again in 2025

Backyard Theatre – opened October 2024 in the old Anchor skittle alley and now with a rolling programme of shows - see page 12

Eats Festival – on the Esplanade this June 2025

The Feria report identified six projects to study further:

- A Town entrance at Swain Street / Harbour Road junction
- B Harbour Road and car park
- C Swain Street car park
- D Swain Street / Market Street
- E Market Street car park and old toilet block
- F Watchet Waterside Walk - from Splash Point to the West Street Closure

Of the list above, funding has now been secured to take two projects forward: Harbour Road and Swain Street car park. Survey work is being commissioned to understand what lies under the ground which will determine, for instance, if trees can be planted.

Richard Eastham of Feria will be in town again later this year to hold sessions asking people what they would like to see in these two areas which will make them look more attractive spaces to be in. Watch out for notices around town and on social media, and come and take part.

Peter Murphy.



Pictured here is the concept drawing from the Feria Report of Harbour Road



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Knight's Tales

Rachel (*Connects'* Editor) messaged me when the monthly St. Decuman's Church Magazine decided to stop printing after the sudden, very sad, death of our recent Editor John Welhams. In that magazine, I have been writing about past and present Watchet happenings for some time, and she wondered if I would consider continuing a contribution in a similar vein in *Connects*.

Our Church readership all know me, but I thought I would introduce myself to the wider Watchet *Connects* readership. My grandparents lived in Jubilee Terrace, West Street and my father, his two brothers and seven sisters together with an Uncle and Aunt did mean that there were fourteen living in the house. The property remains within the family today with just one resident, my cousin. So, the Knights are a well established Watchet family and respected and active within the community.

At twenty five, way back in 1973, I became the youngest councillor and last person elected to the Watchet Urban District Council and remained on the Watchet Town Council until 1999 (for 6 years as Chair). I was later elected to the West Somerset District Council in 2003 and was Chair, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Planning Committee before standing down 12 years later. Later, District Councillors voted for me to become an Hon. Alderman and this has been extended by the Somerset Councillors. Hon. Alderman is a Courtesy Title, I have a badge to wear at any Civic Event, and am invited to Council Meetings, though I cannot participate. When I pass away, the flags on all Somerset Council buildings will be flown at half mast!! I am still heavily involved with St Decuman's Church, the Christmas Tree Festival (brain child of Sheila Clavey, which goes from strength to strength), Church Tower lighting, and am a long term member of The Watchet Court Leet as well as other organisations supported or run by my direct family.

In my days on Town and District Councils the local County Gazette and Free Press reporters would attend full council meetings and the local community would be fully aware of what was happening. Today much of this has been lost and instead there is much speculation and incorrect information finding its way onto such as Facebook. Some years ago, the late Jenny Hill rang me to suggest I join Facebook to correct so many comments, that still circulate today, regarding for example the Marina project. Maybe in the future I might revisit that topic and other projects I have been involved with such as Knights Templar School, the replacement Railway Bridge, and the Town Cemetery (that took 11 long years of 'struggle').



At this time of the year, I think a lot about one of the highlights of the Watchet Calendar, which from 1977 until the mid 2000's was the Watchet Carnival Parade. This attracted floats from Nether Stowey and surrounds, Porlock, Carhampton, Williton and, at its height, well over a dozen from Watchet itself as well as walking groups. Things have changed, and the emergence of tighter Health & Safety rules plus the loss of the forty-foot trailers from Street Transport and the Wansbrough Mill have seen numbers decline, and recent entries are now mainly walkers. Back in the past, my group (The Blues Carnival Club) first won the carnival with *Christmas Greetings*. This depicted a Stage Coach with four horses. For many years the large Tableau Section prize was keenly contested between ourselves, The Red Cross and The Mothers Club led by Stella Alexander, though despite our competition Stella and I often worked closely together. On one occasion our Bridge that had been part of *The Yellow Rose of Texas* was recycled to become a part of the Mothers Club's '*Pierrots*' float. '*The Blues*' were based at Parsonage Farm, which was then a pig farm, and one Sunday when we were working on The Mayflower as part of the '*New World Pioneers*' we had to seek refuge on our float as a large boar was on the loose. On another occasion my father alighted from the cab of our lorry straight into a slurry pit!! Lots of memories of fun times; daughter Kirsty being squirted by water pistols from the top of the West Somerset; us getting caught in flags in Liddymore Road and having to be cut out by the police; someone attempting to set fire to the hairs on my legs when I was Little Boy Blue (on the '*Nursery Rhymes*' float) and us all travelling to Minehead on the back of the lorries for their carnival. Memories

Tony Knight

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In Your Garden with Alan Jones

Some of you will be familiar with my articles which have appeared in St Dec's parish magazine for the last 10 years, but following the sad and sudden death of our editor John Wellhams, it has ceased publication.

My background is simple, I have no professional qualification, but I have loved plants since I was given a cactus when I was 10 years old. During national service in the RAF, I discovered you could propagate geraniums quite easily and so began a lifelong love of growing and propagating plants and flowers in gardens from Kent, Surrey and now Somerset. And yes I still have some cacti but not the original one. I have learnt a lot in the last 75 years and forgotten half of it. Throughout these years fashions have changed, but one thing always remains the same, the love of plants and flowers and the wildlife we share our garden with.

Changes in farming practice have devastated the life cycles of many birds and insects. Some of these outcomes could and even should have been foreseen, others have come as a nasty surprise, either way residential gardens now have to play an even greater role in helping many species to survive. Thirty years ago we had 16 species of bumble bee widespread throughout Britain, now all but five face extinction, why? Because each year bumble bee colonies start afresh with a single queen who after hibernating through the winter emerges to form a new colony. The colony relies on nectar to feed the queen and larvae, if nectar is short no new queen is produced, no new queen means no new colony. For hundreds of years fields of wild flowers, particularly red clover, have provided the bumble bees with all the nectar they needed and in return the bees pollinated the farmers' crops. This is why gardens have become so important, it is equally important to grow a wide variety of 'old fashioned' plants, because many of the newer varieties have sacrificed nectar for appearance. Look around your garden, and see what the bumble bees are feeding on and plant some more. In our garden early spring bulbs, primulas, hellebores, pansies, violas and even dandelions get you through March to April, next come late daffs and tulips and fruit blossom along with early clematis, then as spring turns to summer buddleia, lavender, foxgloves, marigolds, fuchsias, daisies, rudbeckia and honeysuckle are all popular, and not just with the bees.

Never have gardens been more important to nature. Lots of readers are helping hedgehogs, let's help the humble bumble bee. You don't have to 'rewild'!

Happy gardening.



Photo by Jackie Williams

Watchet Jumble Trail returns on August Bank Holiday

What is a jumble trail?

A jumble trail is like a town-wide car boot sale — but with added community spirit! Instead of setting up in a field or car park, residents host stalls right outside their homes. Visitors follow a printed or digital map around town, picking up bargains and discovering hidden gems along the way — from vintage clothes and toys to books, plants, and homemade crafts.

Watchet's 1st Jumble Trail was held on Easter Monday (21st April) and it was a huge success! 68 stalls popped up across Watchet, and the atmosphere was buzzing all day. With warm sunshine and friendly faces, people came from all over West Somerset and beyond — including Bristol, Newton Abbot, Lynton, Gloucester, and Yeovil.

We're excited to announce that the next Watchet Jumble Trail will be bigger than ever, happening on Monday 25th August 10am -2pm (Bank Holiday). We're expecting over 100 sellers to take part! This community event also helps raise funds for the West Somerset Welcome Hub, supporting local events and displaced people in the area. For updates, maps, and sneak peeks at what will be on offer, join our Facebook group: Watchet Jumble Trail. We already have over 460 members! Would you like to take part as a seller? It's just £4 to register your stall.

To sign up, contact Kate Kennedy: watchetwelcomehub@gmx.co.uk or call/text 07964 059 296 (anytime).

'Pin your pond' on the *Ponds Alive!* digital map!

Elizabeth Atkinson, coordinator of the *Ponds Alive!* project for Somerset Wildlife Trust, is asking West Somerset residents to let her know about their ponds so she can create a map of garden freshwater habitats across the region. She has also created a survey for pond-owners so that more detailed data can be collected.

Elizabeth lives in Carhampton and has been running the *West Somerset Wildways* project as a Wildlife Trust volunteer since 2023. Her passion for wildlife ponds has led to the creation of this new project, which is also inviting local community groups to apply for free pond kits.

To find out more, add your pond to the map or take the survey, contact Elizabeth at wswildways@somersetwildlife.org or search online for Ponds Alive!

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 18th July

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Upcoming shows at Watchet's very own 89-seat theatre:

Friday July 11th Let Us Take You to Paris!

Tickets: £15.

Fifi La Mer and Oliver Wilby present French music inspired by Edith Piaf, Charles Trenet, and Serge Gainsbourg. Discover romantic tales and melodies evoking Paris's spirit.



Friday July 25th The Time Machine

Tickets: £10 adults, £8 children under 16.

The Time Machine is a hilarious, family-friendly mash-up of the vintage Science-Fiction stories of H G Wells, that includes dinosaurs!



Saturday August 2nd Barleycorn Tickets £15.

Experience thrilling performances of eerie tales and captivating folk music with six skilled musicians. Riddlestick's musical comedy blends folk horror, traditional music, and village antics, all inspired by English lore and 'Wyrd' 1970s telly.



Saturday August 16th

The Man Who Left the Titanic Tickets £15.

On April 15th 1912, Titanic, purportedly the 'greatest ship', sank. Amid the chaos, managing director of the White Star Line, J. Bruce Ismay, escaped on a lifeboat. This play explores this harrowing night, questioning whether Ismay was justified in his actions or if history should brand him a coward. Acclaimed throughout the UK and Ireland, this thought-provoking play has earned praise for its emotional depth and compelling exploration of human nature.



Crime Fiction Book Club

Now we are in the Phoenix Centre we have room for more members if you are happy to buy each month's book on kindle or second hand. Cost if you are bringing your own book £1.50 inc. hot/cold drink.

We meet 1st Thursday of the month 1.00-2.30pm at Phoenix Centre. If you wish to go on the lending library book waiting list, please let Lori know. There will be a wait as number of books we can order are limited as we have 15 members now. After 3 sessions members need to join U3A Minehead & District or Phoenix Centre. Further info Lori on lorileart001@gmail.com or 07935 318 022.

Arts & Craft Club

Phoenix Centre first Thursday of month 2.30pm £3.00 inc. hot/cold drink. Our projects in next couple of months are needle felting, iris folding cards and artificial flowers. Come along and do your own project of art, embroidery, any type of craft and show others your skills! Parking free in phoenix area of car park. After 3 sessions members need to join U3A Minehead & District or Phoenix Centre. Further info Lori on lorileart001@gmail.com or 07935 318 022.

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Watchet Library July/August 2025

Summer is finally here which can only mean one thing – the return of the **Summer Reading Challenge**, which starts on Saturday 5th July. This year it's all about the **'Story Garden'** and inviting children to explore nature through reading. We'll be having **free** nature inspired craft events on Thursday afternoons throughout the summer holidays including a visit from our friends at the RSPCA, tissue paper flower making, window art and much much more – keep an eye on our Facebook page and in the library itself for more information. Our RSPCA events are always popular so you will need to book but everything else you can just turn up for.

If you don't have a clue what the Summer Reading Challenge is – it's exactly that – children are challenged to take out and read six books over the school summer holiday. They collect stickers along the way and once completed they get a medal and a certificate to show how well they've done. It's suitable for all ages and abilities and any book counts. Best of all, it's completely **free** to take part in! Research has shown that reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more important than either parents' educational background or household income and the Summer Reading Challenge helps to maintain children's reading during the summer holiday when engagement can often dip so there's loads of reasons for your child to take part.

Our junk journaling session back in April was wonderful. Who knew that you could use so many different things as part of a journal or that you really don't need to write in one at all to be able to store memories? A relaxed chilled morning with lovely people that we're hoping to be able to repeat in October and maybe get a regular group meeting in the future – watch this space!

Don't forget your library isn't just about books. You can borrow blood pressure monitors, CDs and iPads, we offer printing and photocopying for a small charge and we also have computers that you can use in the library along with a digital drop-in session every Thursday morning if you need some help using your phones, tablets or laptops.

It's still **free** to join and use the library so why not call in and see us today.

Mich & Fiona

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 18th July

Writers' Workshop – The Somerset Storytellers

The **Somerset Storytellers** are coming to East Quay on Saturday 12th July from 10am - 12 noon!

Dive into a nautical-themed writers' workshop - whether it is smugglers or shanties - we promise a fun and creative time. No experience needed just bring your writing material.

This session costs £10, or join us at Dawe's Twineworks in West Coker on Saturday 21st June 10am - 2pm and do both workshops for just £15. Spaces are limited so don't delay. For more information, please contact: somersetstorytellers@outlook.com

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FUN FOR FAMILIES THIS SUMMER

Free, drop-in workshops every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11am — 1pm. Plus, a drop-in foyer activity daily between 10am — 5pm everyday from the 27.07.2025.



DESIGN & MAKE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Workshops for ages 11 — 14 and 15 — 19 on Wednesdays in the summer holidays. More information on East Quay website.



FOOD & DRINK

KITCHEN & BAR: Open daily for breakfast: (9 — 11am), lunch (12 — 3pm). Evening meals and drinks (from 5 — 8pm) on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays (special events on Thursdays). Open for evening meals Tuesday — Saturday from Tuesday 22.07.2025.



EXHIBITIONS

SHOWING IN GALLERY 1 & 2: LIFESCAPE by Alice Ladenburg, which explores how humans perceive, navigate, and are interconnected with the natural world. 24.05.2025 — 31.08.2025.

NEW PROJECTS IN STUDIO 10: DIGITAL PROJECT by Bridgwater and Taunton College Art & Design students, with artist Ama Dogbe. 07.06.2025 — 13.07.2025.

WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE SIXTH FORM — END OF YEAR SHOW. 19.07.2025 — 24.08.2025.



EVENTS

Loads happening this summer — from an Argentinian Supper Club to a Geology & Wine night with Geckoella. Enjoy Courtyard performances including dance by Stacked Wonky, circus, theatre, music, a Ceilidh, and DJs throughout July and August! Check out the Watchet Connects event listings for full details.

www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk 01984 263103

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Watchet Station

Sharp-eyed (and sharp-eared) residents will be very aware that a celebrity guest locomotive has been plying up and down the line since June 28th. **The Flying Scotsman** will be running excursions on some days until July 12th including 3 evening services. The trains will run non-stop between Bishops Lydeard and Minehead and for public safety reasons there may be restricted access to Watchet Station platform when the *Scotsman* is running through. Full details and to book tickets on the WSR website west-somerset-railway.co.uk or ring 01643 870 103.



Photo of the Flying Scotsman at Williton Station by Peter Nicholson

September 20th and 21st is the **Forties Weekend** and the WSR will be hosting lots of events. As always, Watchet will be a hive of activity with hundreds of “re-enactors” in period uniforms and costumes.

For diesel fans, the weekend of August 30th and 31st will celebrate 50 years in preservation of the WSR's Hymek Diesels as they are two of the last four to be withdrawn from service by BR in March 1975.

We are always delighted to welcome **new volunteers** to join our happy team so if you want to see what we do just pop along on a running day and ask a member of staff.

Attention all **model railway enthusiasts**: if you have any unwanted items such as locos, rolling stock, points etc in OO or other gauge please get in touch with Steve on 01984 633 425. All donations help raise money towards the upkeep of our station.

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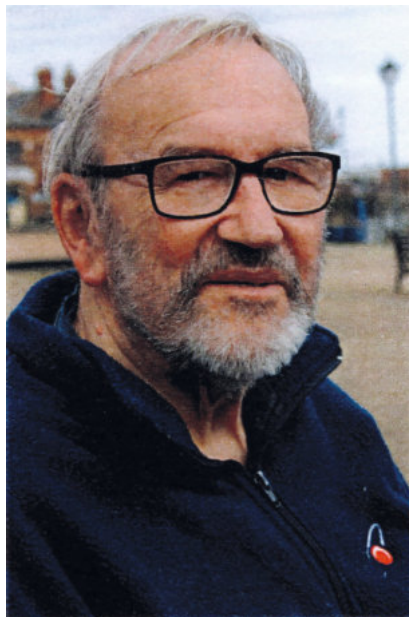
E-mail alvin.beaver@hotmail.com

Professor Eric Robinson Geologist 30/10/1929 – 3/5/2025

Recent visitors to Watchet had no idea that the elderly man on the mobility scooter, often surrounded by enthusiastic dogs, was famous geologist Professor Eric Robinson, for whom a Service of Thanksgiving was held at Watchet Methodist Church on May 29th.

Eric was an eminent scientist and a revered figure in British Geology, with an illustrious career spanning more than 70 years. He went out of his way to be anything but an orthodox academic in his passion to make geology useful, relevant and accessible.

Eric always believed that '*geology is an observation science*'. During a lifetime's dedication he wrote many books and guides, advised and appeared on numerous TV programmes and pioneered geological walks as a new way of bringing stones to life. With as many as 250 people joining him sometimes, he would walk the streets to open their eyes to the stones and fossils to be found in buildings and pavements all around. As an expert on gravestones, he took groups to cemeteries such as Highgate and Kensal Rise to celebrate the history and architectural value of the overgrown tombs and memorial stones. He was invited to travel the world on field trips and expeditions, including to Africa and Russia, and spent time at sea – even going below the waves in a submersible diving bell. He gave courses on conservation at the Architectural Association, was appointed president or chairman of prestigious organisations such as the Geologists' Association and Royal Architectural Society, and worked closely with English Heritage and other historical, conservation and environmental bodies. He mixed with both royalty and the famous – invited to Buckingham Palace and acting as a consultant to Westminster Abbey to uncover a thirteenth century mosaic pavement – but was equally at home teaching his students and working with schoolchildren from the East End of London. Many of his students have gone



continues on next page

on to have impressive careers around the world and kept in touch with the man who inspired them.

Eric was born and grew up in Newcastle – living with his father, a Railway Booking Clerk, and mother in Scotswood. His elder sister, Joyce, died of a ruptured appendix when just a child, and visiting her grave regularly and looking at surrounding gravestones, Eric developed his interest in geology. He won a scholarship to the local grammar school, studying History and English and also teaching himself Latin, though his true love was geology. At the age of 16, Eric was offered places at both Oxford and Cambridge. However, as his father had died when he was 14, never recovering from being gassed in the 1914-18 War, and as University grants at that time were only about £40 a year, this was not manageable for the family. Newcastle University offered £100 a year to undertake a science scholarship, and although he did not have a science background Eric accepted this. His headmaster was furious that he didn't go to Oxford or Cambridge.

While Eric was at university he met his wife Isobel, a teacher and accomplished artist, through a shared involvement in Methodism. They married in Newcastle in 1958. After a three year research study in Northumberland, Eric gained a lectureship at University College London, where he stayed for 48 years. After their move to London Eric and Isobel had three children, Helen, Angus and Alison. Family holidays often revolved around visiting graveyards and churches, the five travelling in Eric's VW campervan with many arguments around who was allowed to sit in the front! The children were forbidden to tamper with rock samples in their father's study and spent weekends exploring the science labs at UCL and going up and down in the wood-lined lifts, hoping against hope to glimpse philosopher Jeremy Benson's preserved head, which was kept in a display case in the entrance hall!



In 2001, Eric and Isobel retired and moved to Riverside Farm in Watchet, to be near their elder daughter Helen. They had visited over many years and loved the town, with its fossils and blue lias. Eric was soon organising local geological walks and lectures and producing guides and literature about the area as well as forging links with many local organisations and projects.

He became involved with the West Somerset Railway, and through Helen's role at The Seahorse Centre in Minehead, helped people with learning difficulties to design and create the geological wall built on Watchet Station.

continues overleaf

WATCHET JURILEE GEOLOGICAL WALL

Labels from left to right:

- Aluminae
- Top capping of local gabbro and basaltite
- Large dolerites
- Local boulders
- Iron Ore
- Very Oxydized
- Limestone with small chert nodules
- Brecciated Limestone Chert
- Alkhalaz
- Tuffaceous sandstone
- Thin bedded limestone with fossils
- Black shaly limestone (Coal potential)
- Lignite

Scale: 100 million years per inch

together to produce a
 anecdotes about Eric, known as
 a vast body of Eric's work across
 his knowledge. This is known as
 University College London. A lasting

hospitalisations it became evident
one, and he moved to Dunster
here by friends and past students,
responding with colleagues on his
envelopes packed full of

sed at Geckoella on Watchet's East
s paid tribute to him in front of
n his massive depth of knowledge,
itecture, he introduced the public at
ging diverse members of the
nson *was a geologist, polymath*
h by ambition as by an insatiable

inspired and he was a family man,

In May a small group from Watchet visited Saint Renan where they were very warmly welcomed, and treated to a number of entertaining and diverting activities.

Further time was spent enjoying good food and good wine, and of course it was wonderful to make acquaintances and meet old friends once more.



Watchet Social Netball

West Somerset Family History Group

Venue: The Phoenix Centre, cost for members of the society £2, for non-members £4.

What's on in July

Thursday 3rd 7pm Geology and Wine with Geckoella at East Quay Kitchen. £30, book online. Join Andy King for a fun and informative evening of wine sampling and geology, with insights into soils, grapes and wines paired with light bites from the Kitchen.

Saturday 5th (check website for timing) **Stacked Wonky** at East Quay Courtyard return with a brand new, site-specific contemporary dance performance. Free.

Saturday 5th 7pm Washford Memorial Hall. **What Three Words Tour** with John Otway and Wild Willy Barrett. Early Bird tickets £15. Standing (seating available in Annex). Licenced bar. Tickets online Tickettailor.com

Sunday 6th 10am – 4 pm Watchet Street Fair on The Esplanade, Entertainment, and stalls. All welcome.

Thursday 10th 7pm Argentinian Supper Club Cuisine at the East Quay Kitchen. £35, book online. Last supper club before the summer holidays celebrating the vibrant flavours of Argentina. Vegetarian, vegan and allergy friendly options available on request.

Friday 11th 7.30pm Backyard Theatre. **Let Us Take You to Paris** by Oo La La £15. Book online. *See article on page 12.*

Saturday 12th 10am – 12noon Nautical Themed Writers Workshop by The Somerset Storytellers at East Quay. £10 – no experience necessary. Just bring writing material and have a go! Spaces limited: for more information contact summersetstorytellers@outlook.com

Saturday 12th 11am – 12.30pm Plastic Free Watchet Litter Pick Summer Beach Clean and around town. Meet 11am at West Street Slipway, bring garden gloves, we will provide litter pickers and sacks. All back to the Sanctuary for drinks and cake afterwards. Under 16s need to be accompanied by an adult.

Friday 18th from 6pm (weekly throughout July and August) **DJs in East Quay Courtyard** Delicious food, cocktails and mocktails available from the Kitchen. Weather permitting. Free.

Sunday 20th Watchet Garden and Flower Show on The Memorial Ground. Competitions, and garden related stall. Watchet Town Band playing. A lovely afternoon for all. *See article on page 31.*

Friday 25th 150 Years of the Lifeboat July 25th 1875. *See article on page 36.*

Friday 25th 7pm The Time Machine at the Backyard Theatre. An hilarious family friendly mash-up of HG Wells vintage Science-Fiction stories. Songs laughs and twists in the tale... Book online. *See article on page 12.*

Saturday 26th (check website for timings). **Call me Ceilidh!** East Quay Courtyard. Join us with this high energy band, mixing traditional folk with a modern twist. Lively music and fun easy group dances led by a caller. No experience needed, just bring energy and your dancing feet! Free.

Saturday 26th Carnival Fiesta 1pm – 8pm. Live on the Esplanade and in Swain Street, Market Street and other venues in town. Live music, family entertainments all afternoon. The **Global Stars** amazing aerial display at 7.30pm. Don't forget your Grab a Grand Draw Tickets! Watchet Phoenix will be open during the Carnival Fiesta.

Sunday 27th Carnival Fayre Family Fun Day 12noon – 5pm on Watchet Memorial Ground. Family entertainment, children's amusements and a wide variety of stalls – if you would like to run a stall contact info@watchetcarnival.co.uk or Sandie 01984 632 783. Don't forget your Grab a Grand Draw Tickets!



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What's on in August

Saturday 2nd 7.30pm Barleycorn by Riddlestick Theatre Company. A new musical comedy inspired by English lore, folk horror and 'Wyrld' 1970s TV. Backyard Theatre. £15. Book online. *See article page 12.*

Sunday 3rd 10am – 4pm Watchet Street Fair on The Esplanade. Entertainments and stalls. All welcome.

Tuesday 5th 4pm Anchored in Air East Quay Courtyard. A ground breaking aerial theatre show brought to East Quay by **Head over Heels**, a disabled and non-disabled aerial company who push the boundaries of circus. Free.

Saturday 9th – Monday 25th Watchet Phoenix Craft Sale

Tuesday 12th 11am – 1pm The National Trust **VR Beaver Experience**. Free in East Quay Courtyard. A virtual reality experience of Holnicote's beaver wetland. Explore dams, pools, aerial views and daily beaver life. An expert will be there to answer all your beaver questions. Please note: VR not suitable for under 10 years of age.

Friday 15th 11am at the War Memorial, Harbour Road, Watchet there will be a short **Service of Remembrance** with the laying of wreaths to remember all those who gave their lives in the Far East throughout WW2. All Welcome.

Saturday 16th 7.30pm The Man who left The Titanic by Isosceles Theatre. £15. A compelling exploration of human nature. The Backyard Theatre. £15. Book online. *See article on page 12.*

Saturday 16th (check website for timings) Olive Branch East Quay Courtyard. A feel-good tale of friendship and the wonder of the natural world, told through a captivating mixture of physical theatre and martial arts. Free.

Monday 18th – Saturday 23rd Watchet Summertime *See article on page 2 and look for programmes in town.*

Monday 25th (Bank Holiday) 10am – 2pm Watchet Jumble Trail all round town. *See article on page 10.*

Wednesday 27th 2pm The Mushroom Show An exciting and educational show all about the magic of fungi presented by **Scratchworks Theatre**. East Quay Courtyard. Free.

Saturday 31st 11am – 3pm Fossil and Geology Roadshow with **Geckoella**. Free in East Quay Courtyard. Bring along your minerals, rocks, fossils and geological curios. Find out what they are! How old is it? What is it? Test the geologists at Geckoella and try to stump them!

What's On during the School Summer Holidays

Watchet Visitor Centre and Boat Museum

Look out for locally advertised **Seasonal Walking Tours** throughout July to September.

Also, **Rope Making** at the Boat Museum every Saturday during the school holidays 10.30am – 2pm

East Quay Summer Holiday Kids' Make Art Workshops.

Free! (donations welcome) 11am – 1pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the summer holidays
Drop-in workshops for all ages - a *Make Art* series featuring a different material each week:

- Week 1 (beginning 28.07.2025): **Metal**
- Week 2 (beginning 04.08.2025): **Fibre**
- Week 3 (beginning 11.08.2025): **Wood**
- Week 4 (beginning 18.08.2025): **Paper**
- Week 5 (beginning 25.08.2025): **Plastic**

East Quay Design and Make Workshops for Young People

at The Creator Space £8 a session (see web for more info and to book online)
2pm – 4pm on Wednesdays

- Wednesday 30th July: **T-Shirts** (11-14 year olds)
- Wednesday 6th August: **T-Shirts** (15-19 year olds)
- Wednesday 13th August: **Desk Tidy** (11-14 year olds)
- Wednesday 20th August: **Laptop Case** (15-19 year olds)
- Wednesday 27th August: **Laptop Case** (11-14 year olds)

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 18th July

Advance Notices

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st September WSR 1940s weekend and **Watchet 1940s Home Front** 10am – 5pm daily plus extra events.

Saturday 25th October 1 – 5pm Climate Fair 2025 Minehead Methodist Hall. Are you interested in coming along, having a stall or helping with this event? Find out what is going on locally in climate resilience, wildlife protection and habitats, and community involvement. Working for a Sustainable West Somerset - West Somerset Green Forum
The theme for the Climate Fair is ***What can I do to make a difference?***

Diary – Regular Weekly Classes and Events

If you would like your regular class or club featured in this section, please let the editor know at editor@watchetcct.com

First and Third Mondays 10.30am **Knit and Natter** at The Phoenix (7th July and 4th August)

Weekly Mondays 7pm **Watchet Community Choir** meet at The Bowling Club

Last Monday *new day/time/place* **Carers Group** meet at The Sanctuary 1.15 – 2.45pm. Call Cath on 07535 279 359 for info

Last Monday (February to November) **West Somerset Family History Group** meet at The Phoenix 7 – 9pm. £2 for members, £4 for non-members (inc refreshments). For info contact Alma Williams 01643 818 096

Weekly Tuesdays 2.30pm **Flexercise** in The Methodist Schoolroom. Balance and chair based exercise for over 55s £4 a session

First Tuesdays 7.30pm **The British Legion Book Club**

Weekly Wednesdays 10am – 12.30pm **Watchet Art Club** in The Methodist Schoolroom. Meet to paint and/or draw and have a cup of coffee. Occasional workshops. Contact Phyllis 07972 693 239

Weekly Wednesdays **Watchet Town Market** on The Esplanade, weather permitting 9.30am – 4pm

Every other Wednesday 10.30am **Forget-Me-Not Club** at The Sanctuary. May 7 and 21, June 4 and 18. Enquiries: Margaret Tatham 07973 638 030 or watchetdementia@gmail.com

Last Wednesday 5 – 7pm at The Esplanade Club monthly **Folk Club** free to attend, welcomes new players

Weekly Thursdays 10.30 – 12.30pm **Digital Drop-in** at Watchet Library

Weekly Thursdays 6.30 – 7.30pm **Watchet Social Netball**. A fun, friendly, non-competitive group meeting at Watchet Community Centre MUGA weekly for all abilities 16+. £1 a session – first session free.

Weekly Thursdays 7.30pm. Eyes down for **Bingo** at The British Legion.

Weekly Thursdays 7.30pm **Watchet Singers** at Methodist Schoolroom (starting again September)

Every First Thursday – except August 1 – 2.30pm **Crime Fiction Book Club** at The Phoenix Centre £1.50 inc hot drink. Contact lorileear001@gmail.com or 07935 318 022 for details and costs. (July 3rd)

Regular Weekly Classes and Events continued:

Every First Thursday (except August) 2.30 – 5pm **Watchet Art and Crafts Group** at The Phoenix Centre £3 inc hot drink. Contact Lori lorileear001@gmail.com or 07935 318 022 or Ann 01984 634 203 for details and costs.

Every Second Thursday 2.30pm **Thursday Circle** at Methodist Schoolroom

Weekly Fridays 9.30 – 11.30am **Salvation Army Coffee Morning** All welcome.

Weekly Fridays during term time 10.00 – 11.30am **EmpowerHer Coffee Morning** at The Phoenix Centre. £2.

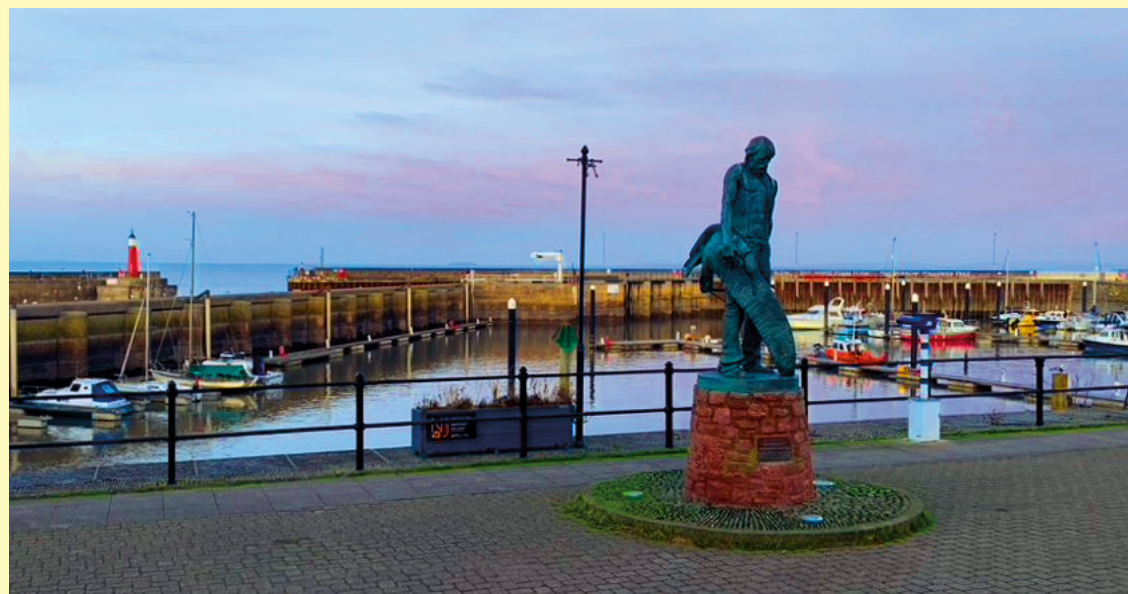
Weekly Fridays 5 – 6.30pm **Community Meal** at The Sanctuary.

Second and fourth Friday 7pm **Watchet Community Cinema** at Knights Templar School (11th July, 25th July, 8th August, 22nd August), see local advertising for details. harrisonanne@hotmail.com

Every third Friday 2.30pm **Gardening Club** at The Phoenix Centre £1 inc free raffle.

Weekly Saturdays from 10am **Methodist Coffee Morning**.

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 18th July
Why not Advertise in Watchet Connects?
Support your community! Prices from as little as £18 per issue



Useful Contacts

Watchet Town Council 01984 633 344

Watchet Visitor Centre 01984 632 101 info@lovewatchet.co.uk

GP Surgery Williton and Watchet 01984 632 701

Lighthouse Counselling Sally or Tracey on 07722 618 828

Village Agent Izzy Silvester 01823 331 222 / 07931 018 045
izzy@somersettrcc.org.uk

Watchet Good Neighbours 01984 573 073 Mon-Fri 10am-1pm

Watchet Drives and BickWatch Community Car Schemes

Community Vehicle Co-ordinator Donna Stevens

07599 955 096 coordinator@watchetcct.co.uk

Working hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00am-12:30pm

Quantock Food Bank quantockfoodbank@gmail.com
or 07483 815 122

Wheels Journeys to hospital/clinic/health related/shopping/banking etc For
Bookings call 07891 821 861

Forget-me-not Cafe watchetdementia@gmail.com 07973 638 030

Magna Housing 0800 138 6107

Age UK Somerset

Info and Advice 01823 345 613 www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

Somerset Sight

Info and advice 01923 333 818 or www.somersetsight.org.uk

Home-Start West Somerset 01643 707 304

Mind in Somerset Mindline Somerset 01823 276 892

Emotional Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Harbour Community Bookshop Jeff and Mary Bird 01984 634 749

Watchet Chamber of Trade (WACET)

07836 239 932 visit-watchet.co.uk

Market House Museum

Gill Williams 01984 634 001 or Gay Chilcott 01984 631 411

Churches

Watchet Methodist Church

Rev Andy Day 01643 705 175 andy.day@westsomersetmethodist.org.uk

Rev Jane Sperring 01984 631 054 jane.sperring@btinternet.com

St Decuman's Church

Revd Mark Phillips 01984 639 669 revdmarkphillips@outlook.com

Janet Bremner 01984 632 118 or janetbremner31@btinternet.com

www.watchetandwillitonbenefice.com

Watchet Baptist Church Minister Mike Sherburn 01984 633 755

www.watchetbaptist.org.uk or find us on Facebook

Watchet Salvation Army Samantha Searle 07979 575 453

Samantha.Searle@salvationarmy.org.uk

Watchet Catholic Church Deacon Vincent Woods 01984 634 681

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Watchet Gardening Club

Every third Friday of the month 2.00pm at Phoenix Centre. £2.50 inc free raffle ticket and hot/cold drink. We have enjoyed some demonstrations from Alan Jones and Dee Mayo (flower show judge) is passing on her tips for entering our gardening show as we all start prepping for the show in July.

Watchet Gardening Club and others are taking part in the new Mini Chelsea garden display class at our **Gardening Show** on Sunday 20th July at the Memorial Ground. Our display will have an 80th VE day theme so please come along on the day to see the displays and the other 41 classes of flowers, vegetables, craft and food.

Dates for Watchet Gardening club: Friday 18th July 2.00pm Phoenix centre

Watchet Garden and Flower Show Sunday 20th July

This year at the Gardening Show the Moorland Mousie Trust charity for **Exmoor Ponies** are sharing a stall, they would like donations of any undamaged clean, second-hand or new indoor only plant pots, vases or jugs suitable for flowers that they can sell at the show to raise money for their organisation. You can bring your donations to the Phoenix Centre during the afternoons of Thursday 3rd July or Friday July 18th. Alternatively, please bring on the day of the show to their stall.

The **West Somerset Brass Band** will be playing their wonderful music at the show on the 20th July while judging is taking place and there will be trade and charity stalls from such as the RSPB, lots of plants, honey and garden machinery, as well as refreshments. Last year we had fabulous weather, let's hope for that again. But even if the sun doesn't shine, it will be a lovely afternoon out and we will all be pleased to see you and your prize-winning entries!

Last year we had over 200 entries in the **Flower Show** and we hope even more will enter this year. Entry forms are available at Co-op Liddymore, Albert's 'Ardware and schedules and entry forms are at the Visitors Centre. All entry forms received in post boxes by 16th July 50p per entry. Children's entries free.

We are pleased to have the support and sponsorship of Alex Reynard, Watchet Community Bookshop, Watchet Coastal Community Team and CRS Building Supplies, all help make our events happen in Watchet.

Contact Lori for any further info lorileear001@gmail.com or 07935 318 022.



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How To Make Bread

A series of Saturday morning workshops at the Watchet Phoenix Centre.

Learn to make bakery quality, slow fermented bread with a master baker. Each workshop will last approximately 3 hours from 10am to 1pm and will focus on a specific tradition or style of bread making. All steps of the breadmaking process will be covered in each course which are designed to encourage you to make your own bread at home.

The fee for each workshop is £30 and will include:

All ingredients.

A tasting of the bread made during the workshop.

A freshly baked loaf to take home.

Dough prepared during the course to complete the steps of shaping, slashing and baking at home.

Recipes and breadmaking notes.

You may choose to book a single workshop or series of workshops from the following Saturday workshops:

2nd August Traditional English yeasted bread

30th August Sourdough

13th September Continental Style Bread (including baguettes and focaccia)

27th September Croissant

To enrol in a workshop email Marknewman3@gmail.com

Note: Places are limited to 6 people per workshop, but more to follow if there is the demand.

Mark Newman 07954 336 006



Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 18th July



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Summer Beach Clean and Litter Pick

Plastic Free Watchet are hosting a Summer Beach Clean and Litter Pick on Saturday 12 July, 11:00am – 12:30pm.

Meet 11am on the slipway at West Street Beach. Bring gardening gloves and we'll provide litter pickers and sacks. We'll be picking up litter

along the beach, coast path and around the town. After about an hour, all those taking part are invited back to The Sanctuary for drinks and cake, where all that's collected will be sorted

and we'll be carrying out a brand audit of the plastic waste found as part of Surfers Against Sewage 'People vs Plastic' campaign to see single-use plastic bottles, containers and packaging reduced.

Bring friends and neighbours or come as a family group. All under 16s must be accompanied by an adult.

For more info about how to get involved in Plastic Free Watchet email pfwcommunitylead@gmail.com or find us on Facebook at 'Plastic Free Communities in West Somerset'



Watchet Singers

The season's singing ended on April 10th with a concert at the Methodist Church: *'Where the river meets the sea'*

Comprising river and sea songs, interspersed with a few readings it enjoyed an enthusiastic audience who generously gave £216.53 at the retiring collection, which benefited Watchet Summertime.

There will be another opportunity to hear this choir on the afternoon of August 21st on the Esplanade, as part of the Watchet Summertime Thursday entertainment.

The choir will resume rehearsals on September 11th in the Methodist Schoolroom at 7.30pm. We welcome any new singers. This is a friendly and inclusive choir, there are no auditions; all that is needed is commitment and a capacity for enjoyment.

Mary Rhodes

150th Anniversary of Watchet Lifeboat Station plus links to Watchet Sea Scouts

David Mainwaring has been doing some research about this and found out the following.

July 2025 will be the 150th anniversary of Watchet Lifeboat Station opening. The exact date varies depending on sources, however the RNLI Lifeboat Enthusiasts Society list it as 25th July 1875.

The land for the lifeboat station was a gift from the Countess of Egremont.

The first Lifeboat 1875 – Joseph Somes

Catherine Knight wrote an excellent article in the Watchet Conservation Society newsletter (no 59 in July/August 2018, still available on their website). She writes: *“The lifeboat, her carriage and all her gear were forwarded by rail from London to Williton Railway Station, arriving on July 24th and from there by road, in a grand procession onto Watchet. There, a fine ceremony took place on July 25th 1875, and the new lifeboat station was formally opened.”*

In Grahame Farr’s 1966 book, *Wreck and Rescue in the Bristol Channel*, he writes that the *Joseph Somes* arrived at Williton Railway Station on July 29th 1875. A team of horses drew her to Watchet on her carriage, then a colour procession of Rifle Corps Volunteers, Odd Fellows and Foresters and others escorted her through the gaily decorated town. She was dedicated at a brief ceremony. *Joseph Somes* was a 33 foot 10-oared self-righter for carriage launching, this facility enabling her to be taken to Blue Anchor beach in order to be launched, as and when necessary.

John Norman – Coxswain of Watchet’s last lifeboat – the *Sarah Pilkington*

In Tony James’ excellent article in the Exmoor magazine Winter 2021 (and in a condensed version of it in the West Somerset Free Press in August 2022), there is no mention of John Norman being coxswain of Watchet’s last lifeboat 1919-1944 (using RNLI records). However, when I started my boating out of Watchet in 1980 John was still alive, and both he and his wife, Jessie, who was one of my school teachers at Williton Middle School, told me that he had been. I was also told this by Ben Norman (*Tales of Watchet Harbour*) who was one of the *Sarah Pilkington*’s crew as well. When Watchet hosted a regatta in 1982 as part of Maritime Britain year, John wore his cork lifejacket. At the time this was one of the very few intact cork lifejackets in the country and the RNLI made several requests as to whether it could be donated to them, but it was already bequeathed to the Market House Museum.



There is an oar (made in 1919) from the *Sarah Pilkington* now in the Watchet Boat Museum, and I understand a display is to be created around it.

There is another, stronger, connection with John Norman. Watchet Scouts started as Land Scouts before World War I. During the war John Norman, then a patrol leader aged 15, took three Watchet Scouts to join six others for coastal duties in Cornwall. Later he returned to Watchet and re-formed the troop as 1st Watchet Sea Scouts. The Scouts owned two boats and reached a high standard of seamanship at Watchet. John Norman himself won the Scout Silver Medal for Gallantry after rescuing his father from drowning during a storm in Watchet harbour. John’s medal was presented to him by Baden-Powell.

The name *Sarah Pilkington* still lives on in Watchet, as the Celtic Longboat used by Watchet Sea Rowers (part of the Watchet Boat Owners Association) was named after her in 2006, and was christened by Ben Norman.

David Mainwaring, 1st Watchet Sea Scout Group

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Knights Templar Community Swimming Pool

We are thrilled to report significant progress in our fundraising efforts for the community swimming pool project. Thanks to the unwavering support from our community members, local businesses, and our dedicated team obtaining vital funding sources, we have reached several key milestones.

However, we still have a fair way to go. To bring this project phase to completion, we still need additional support. Our remaining goal is £10,000 which will cover the final phase of the crucial maintenance required to keep the pool accessible for all.

We would like remind everyone how crucial being able to swim is for both physical and mental health, especially the ability to swim safely in our coastal town.

How You Can Help:

- Donate: Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to our goal. This can be achieved via our Gofundme page or by contacting Knights Templar School Office for details.
- Come join us. Whether it is a swimming lesson with our highly trained and experienced teaching team or a private family swimming slot, the pool is open to you.

Together, we can keep the swimming pool an enjoyable space for all for many years to come. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sean Terrett - Knights Templar Swimming Pool Committee.

Go Fund Me Page <https://gofund.me/2e396725>



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Watchet Carers Group

New times and venue for meetings!

Watchet Carers Group, part of Somerset Carers Service is a free, informal gathering for people who regularly offer a helping hand with daily tasks to a friend, family member or loved one who can't manage without support. We socialise, share ideas and to talk about our experiences. Professional speakers and service providers also visit to offer support and information.

We meet every last Monday of the month from 1:15-2:45pm The Sanctuary. Call Cath on 07535 279 359 before attending for the first time in case of schedule changes.

We also meet at the Beach Hotel Minehead 10am every 2nd Thursday of the month.

For information and one to one Carers Support please contact

The Somerset Carers Service Advice Line:

0800 316 8600 or carers@somersetccc.org.uk www.somersetcarers.org

Cath Holloway - Carers Support Development Worker

Tel: 01823 331 222 Mobile: 07535 279 359 Email: cathh@Somersetccc.org.uk



36 Swain Street, Watchet TA23 OAE
Telephone 01984 633 888 Facebook @Amy B Hair

Unisex salon based in the heart of Watchet, offering all aspects of cutting, colouring and styling for both Ladies and Gents

The Salon also supports The Little Princess Trust Charity

To arrange a consultation or make an appointment, pop in and speak to Amy or Janice, who will be both happy to discuss your requirements and personalise your appointment.

Opening hours Tuesday to Saturday from 9.00am
with late appointments available on Request.

Salvation Army

As the children prepare for school holidays we start to replan next term for the Little Saints group. The group has been growing with new Little Saints joining us. It's always a privilege to work with the children and to help get them ready for school. Our last two sessions this term will include Sports day and swimming which we are very pleased to be supported by the local community.

Our Coffee Mornings continue every Friday 9.30 - 11.30am, followed by our Bible discussion, Fridays 11.45am -12.45pm.

August sees **Summer Time Week**. The Salvation Army will be in a gazebo on Wednesday 20th doing craftwork with visitors and residents, and again on 21st August supporting **Charity Day**. Pay us a visit and see what the Salvation Army get up to!

As ever we send our thanks to everyone who supports us.

Enjoy the summer

Sam

WE NEED YOU!

JOIN ONE OF OUR SUB-COMMITTEES & HAVE YOUR SAY

WE WANT MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO JOIN OUR NEWLY FORMED SUB-COMMITTEES TO GAIN THE BEST POSSIBLE REPRESENTATION ACROSS WATCHET TO HELP SUPPORT THE MAIN COUNCIL COMMITTEES, TO HELP OUR TOWN.

DO YOU HAVE A PARTICULAR SKILLSET, KNOWLEDGE, OR EXPERIENCE THAT YOU THINK COULD HELP ANY OF THE FOLLOWING SUB-COMMITTEE'S?

RECREATION - PLAY AREAS, MUGA, TENNIS COURTS & COMMUNITY CENTRE

CLIMATE CHANGE - BIODIVERSITY, GEODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE

TOURISM & MARKETING - INCL. URBAN DESIGN

LIBRARY - ALL ASPECTS OF THE RUNNING OF THE LIBRARY

You will need to be available to attend in person or remote meetings and contribute toward research work. If you would like to be considered for a seat on any of the Sub-Committee's above please pop in to the Council Office and speak with Joanne Grellier, Town Clerk at Watchet Visitor Centre, Harbour Road, Watchet TA23 0AQ or contact her using the details below:

townclerk@watchettowncouncil.org 01984 633344

Baptist Message

I listen to a lot of music. Some of it my parents introduced me to. Other music comes from what my children are into. So, I thought I'd put together a little quiz for you.

Below are five lyrics, by different artists. Can you name the song for each one and work out the connection?

1. *Time to sit back and unwind* – Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince
2. *Oh, your daddy's rich and your ma is good lookin'* – Ella Fitzgerald
3. *You can stretch right up and touch the sky* – Mungo Jerry
4. *I'm gonna take my problem to the United Nations* – Eddie Cochran
5. *Every day like the weekend* – Scouting for Girls

At this time of year, I check the weather forecast more often. I love sunshine, but I struggle to get things done (or to sleep) when it's really hot. I need conditions to be within comfortable parameters if I'm going to be useful to anyone else.

The trouble is that I find myself in situations when I need to be useful even in hot weather. When you're the minister of a church, you sometimes get the chance to do weddings in the summer. A real privilege, even when it's also very hot! In reality, I don't get to choose to only be useful when I'm feeling comfortable.

The Bible mentions this kind of thing in the Old and New Testaments (Leviticus 19:18 and Matthew 22:39). Different versions and translations of the Bible give us slightly different wording: The New International Version says: "Love your neighbour as yourself." and The Message version says: "Love others as well as you love yourself."

So, hats off to everyone who is working hard this summer to seek the best, or higher good, for other people – even when that's harder work or more inconvenient for them. Big up those working and volunteering in ways that mean being uncomfortable because they believe loving others is worth it.

God bless,

Mike.

01984 633 755 watchetbaptist.org.uk

The answers: 1. Summertime, 2. Summertime, 3. In the Summertime, 4. Summertime Blues, 5. Summertime. The link is 'Summertime'. And I'll be praying for all those working to make Watchet Summertime happen.

PDM Presents

The Legendary

John Otway & Wild Willy Barrett



WHAT THREE WORDS tour 2025

Saturday 5th July

Washford Memorial Hall

Early Bird tickets £15

Licensed Bar (club prices)

Standing - Seating available in Annex

Tickets online from [Tickettaylor.com](https://www.tickettaylor.com) or scan QR code



Watchet Connects Advertising

Watchet Coastal Community Team CIC

Watchet Connects is the **free not-for-profit newsletter** distributed to **everyone** who lives or works in Watchet. It is probably the most well-thumbed reference for the town’s inhabitants, even in this digital age.

Generally, not-for-profit and charitable organisations can submit articles for free up to half a page (*for community entries - e.g. charities, social enterprises, churches etc - approx 200 words or less if images included. Please adhere to this limit to ensure we can continue to provide **Watchet Connects** free of charge*). **Watchet Connects** depends very much on the generosity of local organisations to support our cause via advertising and sponsorship.

Watchet Connects is published bi-monthly and is distributed to around **2,200 households** in Watchet by **volunteers**. The handy A5 booklet is usually around 48-52 pages and is available to outlying villages at cost.

Advertising and sponsorship rates are extremely affordable for even the smallest of shops, clubs, pubs, cafés, self-employed and other local businesses. We can design your advert for a very modest charge – or even free if you book a series of ads. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

Copy deadlines are before the start of the month preceding publication.

Interested?

If you want to promote your local organisation or business in this up-and-coming coastal community get in touch.

Contact Rachel: editor@watchetcct.co.uk
or Chris: williamsart@mac.com

Registered Office: Watchet Coastal Community Team CIC,
7 The Esplanade, Watchet TA23 0AJ

Watchet Connects Advertising Rates to April 2026

Size	H x W mm	1 issue	Annual 6 issues
Full page	186 x 128	£60	£320
Half page	91 x 128	£35	£190
Quarter page	45 x 128 [91 x 62*]	£18	£95
Inside Front or Outside Back (currently taken)			£400
Inside Back (currently taken)			£375

Annual advertisers starting mid-year will be charged proportionally for the number of ads to April 2026.

* Subject to approval



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July - August Dates

Saturday 12th July - Dave C
From 8.30pm

Saturday 19th July - Bowie Fashion
From 8.30pm

Saturday 9th August - Decades
From 8.30pm

Saturday 16th - Who's Next
From 8.30pm

Sunday 24th August - The Renegades
From 3pm

Every Thursday - Bingo - Eyes down 7.30pm

Every first Tuesday of the month - the Legion Book Club

Opening Times:

Monday	5pm-11pm
Tuesday-Thursday	7pm-11pm
Friday	4pm-12am
Saturday	12pm-12am
Sunday	12pm-11pm

*More dates to follow:
keep an eye on our FB
page for any updates to
our entertainment nights*



Opening hours may be subject to change
on quieter nights (Bar Discretion)

Live at the Legion Watchet RBL, Mill Lane, TA23 0AR
All welcome