

# WATCHET CONNECTS

JULY - AUGUST 2026



**EDITION 44**

Sponsored and Published by

**Watchet Coastal Community Team**

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

Welcome to issue 44 of Watchet Connects



There are so many events going on this July and August it has been hard to squeeze them all in. As usual, **The Carnival** and **Watchet Summertime** figure highly, though they are both renewing themselves and offering new delights as well as old friends. Then, last year's **new Garden and Flower Show** is repeating and looks like becoming a well-loved regular, and we now have **Car Boot Sales** and a **Fancy Dress Maritime Fun Run or Walk round the Memorial Ground**. East Quay continue to provide lots of creative workshop opportunities for children of all ages, as well as one off specials for all the family, like DJ Nights, an all-female Brass band and a circus-theatre event. And we have the delights of **The Backyard Theatre**, a great asset to our town.

If you have a bit of spare time or energy in between all these events, The Scouts are looking for volunteers to help with the Beaver and Scout Groups. If you enjoy working with enthusiastic young people, this could be a very rewarding role for you. Watchet Singers are still looking for a new conductor and a new

accompanist, so if you have musical talents hidden in the cupboard, please think about offering to keep this long-standing choir singing!

**Watchet Connects** is a collaborative effort, so, as always, I am pleased to thank Claire for her work in making this issue look so good, and Fiona and delivery team for their help getting the word out there. Thanks also to contributors and to Edwina Veitch-Clark for the use of their lovely summery photograph on our cover.



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**The deadline for SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER issue will be 1 AUGUST**

Please send any copy or updates on adverts to [editor@watchetcct.co.uk](mailto: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.



## HELLO WATCHET SUMMERTIME SUPPORTERS!!

We really appreciate your supporting us already this year by coming along to our fundraising events. Now, all systems are firing up for the **Watchet event of the summer**.

Here is a taster of what's to come!

This year we have a **Seaside Theme**.

## WATCHET SUMMERTIME SCHEDULE

- |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MON 17 AUG | <b>Lego Competition</b> – 10am to 3.30pm, sign up well in advance to book your place.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| TUE 18 AUG | <b>Craft Day</b> 10-4pm, with a seaside theme, lots of craft activities to celebrate living by the seaside.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| WED 19 AUG | <b>Watchet Town Market Day</b> – entertainment TBA.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| THU 20 AUG | <b>Collectors Fayre and Don's showtime</b> 10.30 til 4.30, and in the Evening <b>Night of Lights</b> , with music from 7pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| FRI 21 AUG | <b>Watchet Boat Show</b> – there will be boat jumble, demonstrations, Sea Scouts, RNLI, all things and more 'boaty'! In the Evening – <b>70's &amp; 80's Disco</b> from 7.30pm.                                                                                                                                                                  |
| SAT 22 AUG | <b>GRAND FINALE</b> Music from midday including: choir, Samba band, <b>Quay Tones</b> . Evening – Hog Roast, band – <b>Man About a Dog</b> , followed by main event band – <b>Autumn Red</b> and our famous <b>FIREWORKS</b> . There will also be RiB rides along the channel (from the Marina for a small fee), Face Painting and Punch & Judy. |

**We cannot wait to see you there!!**

*Bernice Scott-Field and Summertime Team*

# SUMMERTIME FIREWORKS FINALE



*Terry Walker 2015*



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## PARSONAGE FARM ACTION GROUP

Over recent months, the Parsonage Farm Action Group has continued to work tirelessly on behalf of the community to oppose the proposed development at Parsonage Farm and ensure local voices are properly heard throughout the planning process.

The group has spent considerable time reviewing planning documents, technical reports and policy guidance relating to application 3/37/23/029, including transport assessments, environmental evidence and local planning policies. Independent reports and expert opinions have also been examined in detail, particularly in relation to highways, infrastructure capacity, flood resilience and the loss of agricultural land.

Particular concern remains around the cumulative impact on local infrastructure, emergency access and the long-term sustainability of building on productive farmland at a time when food security and environmental resilience are increasingly important national issues.

The Action Group has also continued to gather historical, planning and policy evidence relating to the site allocation, while monitoring changes in local circumstances since the adoption of the Local Plan, including the closure of major local employers and the ongoing challenges surrounding transport connectivity and the B3191.

The group's objective remains clear: to put a stop to the development of Parsonage Farm and to protect valuable farmland from being lost to large-scale housing development that many residents believe is inappropriate, unsustainable and unsupported by current local circumstances.

This is written in May; let's hope when this document goes to print that Somerset Council Planning Authority haven't made the decision to sacrifice this valuable farmland.

*Lucy Corlett.*

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 1st August

## WATCHET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING GROUP (NPAG)



Hello again Watchet Residents and Neighbours!!

At the time of writing – we are organising ahead so we can have a stall at **Watchet Sunday Street Market** on June 7th, ensuring we will have had enough people there to talk with you about what you want included in your Watchet Neighbourhood Plan. If you missed this opportunity, we want to ensure that everyone has their say, and we still want to capture your opinion.

**Tell us what you love and value about the town you live in.**

Personally, I love our community and its willingness to participate. I love the outer Harbour and West Street Beach where I swim. I love the walking paths all around the town connecting it to other places – Doniford, Washford, Williton, Stream etc.

This is what I love. We live in a beautiful area and you will value different places. Our team want to know what you love, and want to protect. Come along to the Town Meetings we will be organising and talk to us. Also, you can complete our consultation questionnaire on-line. Just make sure we have a record of your view about Watchet and Neighbourhood. Hope to see you there.

*Bernice neighbourhoodplan@watchetcct.co.uk*



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## WATCHET PHOENIX NEWS

We held our AGM in May, and have elected a new Chair, Robert McDonald, and Ann Lewis becomes Vice Chair. The Tuesday and Wednesday Clubs continue to be popular, and are always on the look out for extra volunteers to help, either in the Kitchen or with the clients. These are sociable chatty days and volunteers enjoy providing a delicious meal for members, so if you have some free time, please consider helping.

Contact The Phoenix Centre for more information: 01984 631 295

The Phoenix will be open during August (8th – 24th August and the Bank Holiday Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th) selling crafts and refreshments, so pop in for a chat, cuppa and welcome.

## VILLAGE AGENT NEWS

Now that the West Somerset Advice Bureau are not operating in our area it is all the more important that people know where they can go to get free confidential advice. **The Talking Café** is a local option for this, it is at Williton Pavilion every Tuesday between 1 and 3pm.

As Village Agent, I am also attending **the Sanctuary** in Watchet on some Wednesday afternoons 15.30-17.00. Email or text me for times.

*Izzy Sylvester.*

## WHEELBARROW RACE

Some of this year's participants.

*Images courtesy of Fiona Payne*



## WATCHET STATION

With summer here, the number of train services will increase as more holidaymakers arrive in the region. The last week of July and all through August will be yellow timetable Tuesday to Thursday, with 5 trains each way.

On 3, 4 and 5 July the legendary *Sir Nigel Gresley* steam loco returns, running pre-booked passengers along the line between Bishops Lydeard and Minehead.

The **Forties Weekend** is always a very busy time at the station and this year will be no exception. Bunting will go up, the shop will be stocked with old-fashioned treats, singers will perform under our canopy and celebrities such



as royalty, Churchill and others will alight from the trains.

Since the previous issue, we have welcomed many new volunteers into the fold but we've always got room for more. If you can spare a few hours here and there and are interested in helping out in our shop or on the platform, or joining our garden or maintenance teams, call in to the station building on any running day and ask for details.



*Sir Nigel Gresley photo by Mike Pinn*

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## WATCHET LIBRARY NEWS

Summer is fast approaching and so is our annual **Summer Reading Challenge**. It starts on the 4th July and is FREE for children to take part in. They simply have to read six books over the Summer, and, if they complete this they'll get stickers, a certificate and NEW this year a badge. The theme will be *Read to the Beat*, and to celebrate the launch we'll be making paper plate tambourines at the library all morning on Sat 4th July.

We'll also be having some **FREE craft afternoons** during the school holidays. There is no need to book but children must be supervised.

|                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 30th July 2.15 – 3.15pm   | Jingly Jellyfish                |
| 6th August 2.15 – 3.15pm  | Decorate maracas                |
| 13th August 2.15 – 3.15pm | Ice cream cone cards            |
| 27th August 2.15 – 3.15pm | Our always popular Sun-catchers |
| 3rd Sept 2.15 – 3.15pm    | Mini lid banjos.                |

The picture hunt will be available in the library as usual and we will offer some crafts during Summertime week too, details still to be finalised.

Don't forget that we don't just loan books here at the library but also talking book CDs, iPads and blood pressure monitors. All library members get FREE use of the Borrowbox app which in addition to audio books and e-books has e-press which includes newspapers such as The West Somerset Free Press. Call in and ask us for more information. *Mich*

## WATCHET SINGERS, SEEKING A NEW CONDUCTOR & ACCOMPANIST!

We are still hoping to appoint both a new MD (conductor) and a new accompanist. Unless these two posts can be filled the Watchet Singers will be obliged to stand down and disband. This would be a sad day for Watchet after so many decades. If you know of anyone who might be interested in either conducting or accompanying us please get in touch asap. We are unable to offer paid posts but expenses can be covered. We have always donated the income from our concerts to local charities.

We are currently in abeyance for the summer, but you can find us at Watchet Summertime on the Esplanade on August 20th, when we will be doing a performance at 1.15pm. We resume singing (all being well) on September 10th in the Methodist schoolroom at 7.30pm. Newcomers will be very welcome, no trials, auditions or awkward questions! I hope you all have a lovely summer.  
*Mary Rhodes.*

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## SWIMMING POOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We say goodbye to colder temperatures and look forward to welcoming in the summer. Private bookings have remained steady throughout the year so far, providing a reliable stream of usage and income for the pool.

Following a short period of necessary closure, major works have now been successfully completed. This includes the installation of a new Heat Exchanger and the addition of smart new Air Distribution trunking, both of which are already making a noticeable difference. Thanks to this upgrade, we are pleased to report that the pool is warm, comfortable, and fully operational again.

The committee is now turning its attention to the next phase of the refurbishment and upgrade project, with planning and scoping work due to take place in the near future. The committee would like to express its deepest gratitude to all our funders, donors, and pool members.

The pool continues to be available for private hire at £25 per hour with a membership, and enquiries can be made directly via the website.

[www.knightstemplarswimmingpool.uk/book-online](http://www.knightstemplarswimmingpool.uk/book-online)

Have a great summer.

*Knights Templar Swimming Pool Committee*



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## CRIME FICTION BOOK CLUB

2 places available for our monthly library book choice.

12 of us meet in the Phoenix Centre 1.00pm for an hour first Thursdays of the month. Cost £2.50 inc. hot drink and library book hire. June's discussion was Nicci French's *'The Unheard'*. We discuss our book each month but also have lists of other books our group have read during the month and any good crime dramas on TV.

Contact Lori on 07935 318022.

Dates Thursday July 2nd.

No August group.

## WATCHET/SAINT RENAN TWINNING NEWS

A group of 18 visitors from its twin town, Saint Renan, visited Watchet on May 13th, staying until Sunday 17th.



Undeterred by the disappointing weather they were able to join their English counterparts to discover a variety of interesting features of the area. Among other events they had an absorbing visit to the Minehead Lifeboat Station, which many of the English had not previously seen.

The visitors and hosts also enjoyed an unusual opportunity to visit Fairfield House in Stogursey. The house has been in the

ownership of the same family since the 12th Century. They had the good fortune to be shown around by John Acland who regaled them with countless stories of the various activities of his family over the centuries. The house is stunning, as are the wonderful and extensive gardens. This was a real treat for the French, as was a visit to the County Classic Motor Museum in Taunton the following morning.

The visit culminated in a dinner at the Minehead Golf Club on Saturday evening, where the Chairpersons of both Watchet and Saint Renan Twinning Societies, Marilyn Binding and Patrick Bligny respectively, toasted the Twinning link now in its 47th year, and looked forward to a reciprocal visit next year.

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR COMMUNITY CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY

### Work at it with all your heart

*Head Teacher: Mrs Laura Weaver, BA Hons QTS*

This term, we were delighted to share the outcome of our SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. The report recognised the many strengths of our school community and affirms that Knights Templar Community Church School is living out its foundation as a Church school, enabling both children and adults to flourish. It highlighted our strong and thoughtful leadership, with governors and leaders carefully guiding the school's vision and future.

Collective worship was described as the heart of the school, nurturing confidence, inclusion and a strong sense of belonging. Inspectors also praised our caring ethos, where all members of the community feel valued, leading to high levels of trust and wellbeing. Our commitment to supporting vulnerable pupils, including the development of our specialist provision - The Den, was recognised as a significant strength, alongside our expertise in SEND. We would like to thank the staff, children, governors and families for their continued support and contribution to our school community. This report reflects the collective dedication and shared values that make Knights Templar Community Church School such a special place to learn and grow.

Our residential trip for Year 4 to Great Wood was undoubtedly a highlight of the term and one that will be

remembered for a long time! After arriving in the beautiful Quantock Hills at Great Wood Camp, we enjoyed a fantastic fun duck race followed by an evening of bingo, which became surprisingly competitive in places! Despite not having had a huge amount of sleep the night before, the children threw themselves enthusiastically into swimming, orienteering, archery and low ropes, all in glorious sunshine. The evening ended perfectly with songs around the campfire and delicious s'mores, before everyone finally collapsed into bed – and, funnily enough, slept extremely well that night!

This term we have held a sponsored swimathon for all classes. The challenge was for the whole school to swim the distance of Watchet to Minehead and back again totalling 20,000 metres! So far, the classes that have swam have clocked up an impressive 10,062.5 metres! An amazing achievement – and also raising an astonishing £1245. We have another four classes to compete this half term to hopefully hit our target of 20,000 metres! We know they will do it!

In May it was the turn of Knights Templar to host Area sports – where schools from the local area join together to compete in an array of events. It was a great success and lovely to see all the schools united. Thank you to Mr Harrison for co-ordinating!

We are very proud of Billy W in Gates Class who is continuing to work at it with all his heart both on and off the football pitch. Billy recently attended a special service to sign on for Exeter City Football Club Under 9s team. Well done Billy!

Across the year the children in the Den have had stay-and-play sessions, where the parents come into school. It was lovely to see the children interacting with others and showing their learning space.

The KTSCA hosted a quiz night, raising over £300 for the garden. Thank you to all from the community who supported this event. We are also over the moon to announce that over the Easter holidays the KTSCA were awarded and presented with the Millington Shield

2025 – 2026. This is something that is awarded annually to a nominated charitable organisation in Watchet.

*"This award not only recognises their achievements, but also the spirit of unity, care and opportunity they bring to every child and family they serve."*

Town Clerk, WTC. We are really thrilled and grateful to be recognised for this and all of the hard work that the KTSCA has put in over the last few years hasn't gone unnoticed.

As another year draws to a close, we thank you all for the support you have shown the school. We are excited to welcome our new Reception children in September, but sad to say goodbye to our wonderful year 4's who will be moving onto their next schools.

Good luck Year 4!



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# REPAIR CAFE



## WEST QUANTOCKS REPAIR CAFÉ

Our Cafés are proving very popular and are held on the first Saturday of alternate months, from 10am to midday,

Future dates are: 3rd October and 5th December.

Venue unless otherwise notified will continue to be **Watchet Community Centre**,  
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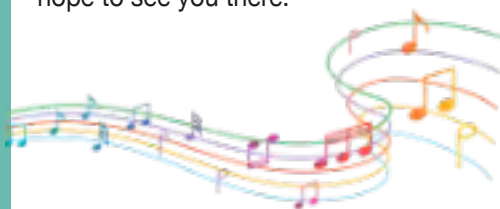
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## WATCHET COMMUNITY CHOIR

We will be performing at **Watchet Music Night** on Friday 24th July at 8pm, singing a variety of songs, old and new. Please come and join us.

At the start of **Summertime Week** on 17th August we will be performing on the Esplanade at mid-day and again on Saturday 22nd August at 12.30pm we hope to see you there.





John Irven

*The May Day event at East Quay.*



John Irven

*The Somerset Dragon visiting Watchet in May.*

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## NEWS FROM 1ST WATCHET SEA SCOUT GROUP

Next year (2027) Watchet Sea Scouts will be celebrating 2 anniversaries! It is 120 years since 1907 when Robert Baden-Powell organised the first ever Scout Camp and 100 years since 1927 when 1st Watchet Scout Group were formed.

Today, 1st Watchet Sea Scout Group is an important part of the local community, providing young people with opportunities to develop confidence, skills and friendships through a wide variety of activities. The group combines traditional Scouting values with a strong focus on water-based adventures, teamwork and personal development.

Members take part in activities such as sailing, kayaking, camping, hiking and community projects. These experiences help young people learn practical skills,

build resilience and gain a sense of responsibility while having fun in a safe and supportive environment. Its continued success demonstrates the lasting positive impact that Scouting can have on individuals in society.

The group is supported by dedicated volunteers who give their time to help young people achieve their potential. **If you would like to join as a volunteer, we are currently looking for help, particularly with our Beaver and Scout sections.**



If you have a young person between the ages of 6 and 18 who would like to open themselves to a world of adventure, please get in touch.  
[info@watchetscouts.com](mailto:info@watchetscouts.com) [facebook.com/Watchetseascouts/](https://facebook.com/Watchetseascouts/)

## Meeting and Training Room Available

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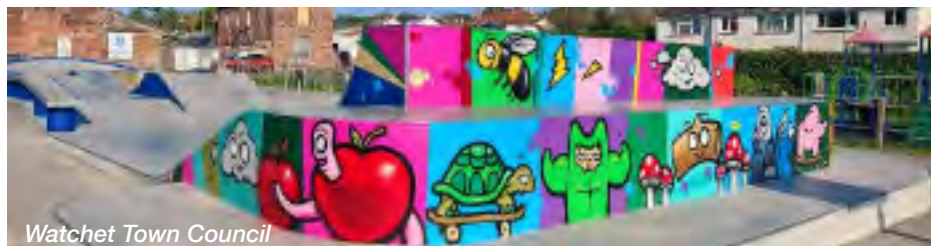
9am – 1pm ■ 1pm – 5pm ■ 5pm – 9pm

Daytime sessions are only available during the Harbour Bookshop closed season (end of October to Easter)

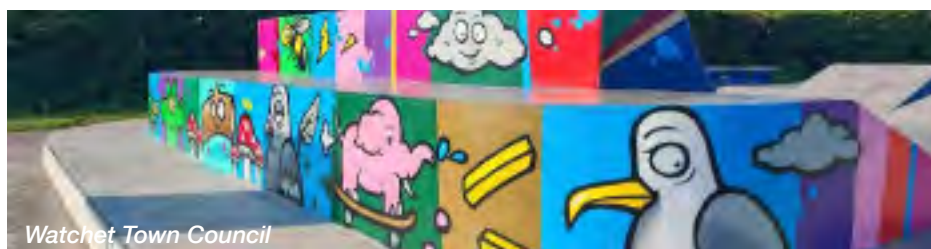
£15.00 per session. To book or for more information contact:

[admin@watchetcct.co.uk](mailto:admin@watchetcct.co.uk)





Have you seen the new wheeled park at Henry Davy Playing fields? Street artist Charlie McFarley worked with groups of children to decorate the concrete ramps. A great new attraction for children and young people on scooters, skateboards and bikes.



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# NEW! WATCHET DOG SHOW

Watchet Dog Show on the War Memorial Ground was a great success! 70 dogs took part in the 10 classes (in total 135 entries) and despite the rain everyone seemed to have a great time! Thanks to all our volunteers, competitors and of course our Judges.

Champion Winner of the Sara Summers Trophy (donated by Martyn in memory of his wife) was Bobby and owner Frankie Baro.

The show was sponsored by Watchet Task Force, WTC, Sharon Pet Services, CRS Watchet and the Harbour Community Bookshop.

We live and learn! Next year we will take entries before the show as the overwhelming support on the day created some queues.

We also need a few more volunteers early in morning for an hour or so to help put up the two rings so please let Lori know if you would like to help next year text 07935 318 022.



# WATCHET AREA COMMUNITY CARS

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## WORDS IN WATCHET NEWS

Next year's dates will be Fri Feb 19th – Sun Feb 21st

The **Words in Watchet** team have already been working to put on a Literary Festival in Watchet for 2027, including working on a new website and booking some exciting new authors to come to Watchet.

If you want to find out how we are doing, visit our stall on **Watchet Street Market Charity Day** on Sunday August 16th, or at **Watchet Summertime** on Tuesday 18th August. Both days we will be there from 10 am – 3.30pm. So come and say hello!

We will again be featuring local authors during the festival, so if you know any local authors we haven't already contacted, please let us know, at the **Street Fair** or through Rachel, Editor of **Watchet Connects**  
[editor@watchetcct.co.uk](mailto:editor@watchetcct.co.uk)

*Sam Collins*





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## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

**SAT 23 MAY – MON 31 AUG 10am – 5pm EXHIBITION: ALWAYS COMING HOME** by Poulomi Basu Gallery 1 and 2 East Quay. Free, donations welcomed.

**SAT 13 JUN – WED 8 JUL 10am – 5pm EXHIBITION: TOGETHER WE RISE. WEST SOMERSET COLLEGE END OF YEAR SHOW.** A personal response to issues faced by young people in West Somerset, and the importance of community support, friends, family and organisations. Studio 10 Project Space East Quay. Free, donations welcomed.

**SAT 4 JUL 10.30am – 1pm WATCHET LIBRARY CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, MAKING PAPER TAMBOURINES** to celebrate the start of the Summer Reading challenge. Free, but children must be supervised.

**SUN 5 JUL 10am-4pm WATCHET STREET FAIR** on The Esplanade. Stalls offering hot food, arts and crafts, baked goods and cakes, jewellery, local cheeses, handcrafted chocolate, local butchers, face painting and more. Live Music in the afternoon – The Kingston Duo. Contact Molly Quint or email [quint407@btinternet.com](mailto:quint407@btinternet.com)

**TUE 7 JUL 5.30pm FOLK JUICE: COSTUME MAKING** at East Quay Kitchen. Free, donations welcomed. Join us for our monthly gathering to share folk knowledge and remember our collective folk culture.

**THU 9 JUL 10am – 4pm ONE DAY WORKSHOP: EXPLORING BLOCK PRINTED TEXTILE TECHNIQUES.** Admission £75, need to book 01984 263 103 or [www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk](http://www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk) Join textile artist Laurel Coxon to explore block printed textiles. Learn about block carving, printing, colour mixing and preparation. Suitable for beginners and experienced printmakers.

**FRI 10 JUL 7pm THE BEACH'D BUOYS – LIVE MUSIC** at The Boat Museum. £6 ticket from Watchet Visitor Centre or [buytickets.at/visitorcentre/2114858](http://buytickets.at/visitorcentre/2114858). An evening of shanty singing from the group, raising money for South West Children's Hospice

**FRI 10 JUL 7.30pm A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN** at The Backyard Theatre. Tickets £15 from The Backyard Theatre. [www.backyard-theatre-watchet.uk](http://www.backyard-theatre-watchet.uk). A twenty-first century take on Virginia Woolf's blisteringly brilliant pre-TED talk.

**SAT 11 JUL 10am – 1pm BREAD MAKING WORKSHOP – CONTINENTAL STYLE** See ad on page 24 for further info. £40 to book [MarkNewman3@gmail.com](mailto:MarkNewman3@gmail.com)

**JUN 12 JUL 3pm CREAM TEA AFTERNOON** at the Salvation Army. Do come along for a delicious afternoon tea.

**SUN 12 JUL CAR BOOT SALE 3.30pm FOR SELLERS, 4.30pm FOR BUYERS** at the Memorial Ground. Sellers Cars £5, Vans/trailers £10. Limited buyers car parking on ground £1 Vehicle access Helwell Lane. Fundraising for Watchet Memorial Ground.

**FRI 17 JUL 7pm WEST SOMERSET BRASS TRAINING BAND** on The Esplanade. Free concert, donations welcomed.

## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

**SAT 18 JUL 7pm EAST QUAY POETRY SLAM** The Courtyard East Quay. Free, donations welcomed. Our first Poetry Slam – live competitive poetry featuring 12 talented poets and special guest judges.

**SAT 18 JUL – MON 31ST AUG 10am – 5pm PROJECT: WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?** Studio 10 Project Space East Quay. Free, donations welcomed. A group show by local school students, responding to the question.

**SAT 18 JUL Morning METHODIST TABLE TOP SALE** to book a table, please phone 07983 739 734.

**SAT 18 JUL 12.30pm – late SOUTH COAST WAVES CHARITY FUN DAY** at Watchet Football Club. Darts, Skittles, Children's activities, Lucky Dip, Raffle, BBQ **10am – 4pm**, Pizzas **5pm – 8pm**. Live music from Arrythmia at 7pm. Disco by Bubble from 8.30pm.

**SAT 18 JUL 2pm SANCTUARY SESSIONS PRESENTS: DRAKEFORD** Live music all the way from Nashville! At The Sanctuary, tickets from [watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://watchetbaptist.org.uk) or [www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organisations/watchet-baptist-church](http://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organisations/watchet-baptist-church). All welcome.

**SUN 19 JUL Entries from 11am WATCHET GARDEN AND FLOWER SHOW** at The Memorial Ground. Entry Forms from Visitor Centre/Albert's 'Ardware or Watchet Gardening Club on FB. Come and enter or just look at the displays, Refreshments etc!

**TUE 21 JUL 7.30pm WATCHET CONSERVATION TALK BY WATCHET BOW MAKER, KEITH SLEEMAN PLUS MUSIC FROM SEBASTIAN TESOURO.** At The Methodist School Hall. Members and friends welcomed.

**THU 23 JUL 7pm LIVE MUSIC FROM CHRIS MURPHY** (Violinist/Singer Song Writer) at The Boat Museum, Tickets from Visitor Centre. Price TBC

**FRI 24 JUL 6pm DJ NIGHT IN THE EAST QUAY COURTYARD.** Free, donations welcomed. Great DJs spinning tunes and delicious food available to buy from the kitchen. Weather permitting!

**FRI 24 – SUN 26 JUL WATCHET CARNIVAL**

**FRI 24 JUL 7pm WATCHET BRASS BAND & COMMUNITY CHOIR** on The Esplanade.

**SAT 25 JUL 12 Noon onwards WATCHET CARNIVAL FIESTA** on The Esplanade, a day of music and entertainment for all the family.

**SUN 26 JUL 11 am onwards WATCHET CARNIVAL FAYRE** on the Memorial Ground, market stall, refreshments and free family entertainment.

July continued...

continued...

## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

**TUE 28 – THU 30 JUL 11am – 1pm EAST QUAY SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS** at East Quay, Free, donations welcomed. Exploring paint by making a giant joy mural, string painting and paint chasing.

**WED 29 JUL 2 – 4pm DESIGN AND MAKE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 11 – 14 SCREEN PRINTING.** At East Quay Print Studio. Admission £8. No experience needed, Learn how to screen print, experiment with layering designs to create a fabric piece of your own!

**THU 30 JUL 2.15 – 3.15pm CHILDREN'S CRAFTS IN THE LIBRARY – JINGLY JELLYFISH.** Admission free but children must be supervised.

**THU 30 JUL 4pm LIVE PERFORMANCE: ROSHNI** at East Quay Courtyard. Admission free, donations welcomed. An intimate performance of Kathak dance and live global music.

**FRI 31 JUL 6pm DJ NIGHT IN THE EAST QUAY COURTYARD.** Admission free, donations welcomed. Laid-back summer sounds plus food and drink can be purchased from the Kitchen. Weather permitting!

*see following pages for What's On in August ...*

Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 1st August

## HOW TO MAKE BREAD

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

Learn how to make artisan bread with a master baker. Each workshop will last approximately 3 hours from 10 am to 1 pm and will focus on a specific tradition or style of bread. The fee for each workshop is £40.

There are still some spaces left on the remaining workshops:

| Date         | Workshop             |
|--------------|----------------------|
| 11 July      | Continental Style    |
| 1 August     | Croissant            |
| 5 September  | Speciality Sourdough |
| 19 September | Sweet Doughs         |

You will take home bread you have baked and extensive notes to encourage you to make bakery quality bread at home.

For further information email: [MarkNewman3@gmail.com](mailto:MarkNewman3@gmail.com)



# EAST QUAY

## LOADS TO DO AT EAST QUAY EVENTS - WORKSHOPS - EXHIBITIONS RESTAURANT - COURSES - ACTIVITIES



### EAST QUAY POETRY SLAM

Join us on Saturday, 18th July at 7pm for a lively, fierce, and friendly competition to find the best spoken word artist in Watchet and the South West. Twelve poets will battle it out across three dynamic rounds, featuring special performances from three acclaimed, award-winning guest judges.



### FOOD & DRINK

**KITCHEN & BAR:** Open every day from 9am — 5pm, serving breakfast from 9am — 11am and lunch from 12pm — 3pm. Open for evening meals from 5pm — 8pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.



### EXHIBITIONS

**SHOWING IN GALLERY 1 & 2: ALWAYS COMING HOME** by Poulomi Basu. A powerful solo exhibition which explores transnational identity, migration complexities, and the trauma of displacement caused by conflict and violence. 23.05.2026 — 31.08.2026

**SHOWING IN STUDIO 10: WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?** by local students, exploring the many things that bring them joy. 18.07.2026 — 31.08.2026



### SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Join us between 11am – 1pm each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for a series of free, family workshops exploring different art forms through hands-on activities. Plus, enjoy a free drop-in activity in the foyer.



### DESIGN & PRINT WORKSHOPS

A series of workshops for 11 – 19 year olds, happening between 2 – 4pm on Wednesdays during the summer holidays. Tickets £8.



### EVENTS

There's plenty going on in July and August, from a live Kathak dance performance to a big summer brass gig; plus a free circus performance and weekly DJ nights during the summer holidays. Check the Connects events listings for more details.

[www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk](http://www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk) 01984 263103



@eastquaywatchet

# Annual Report

2025–2026



Photo by Lovewatchet



Photo by Lovewatchet

## Prepared by

The Town Clerk  
Watchet Town Council  
Watchet Visitor Centre  
Harbour Road  
Watchet  
Somerset, TA23 0AQ

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# 01

## Chairman's Summary



**Cllr Loretta Whetlor**

Chair of Watchet  
Town Council

It has been another busy and productive year for Watchet Town Council, with a strong focus on delivering meaningful improvements for our residents and securing significant external funding to benefit the town. One of the Council's greatest achievements this year has been its success in attracting substantial funding to support community initiatives. We have actively pursued opportunities through the SALC Community Health & Wellbeing Fund to enhance health and wellbeing across Watchet. This has enabled the development of outreach youth workshops, skate lessons, and street art sessions—projects designed to engage young people, promote positive activities, and strengthen community cohesion.

In addition, we have worked closely with the Watchet War Memorial Ground Management Committee, supporting funding applications for new events to ensure the sustainability of this vital community space. Successful initiatives have included the 2025 Santa Run, and we are excited to see further activities such as car boot sales and fun runs planned in the coming months. These events not only bring the community together but also contribute to the ongoing maintenance and future of the pavilion and wider facilities.

A landmark achievement this year has been the completion of the wheeled sports park—over five years in the making. Through successful bids to the REPF and HPC Community Fund, the Council secured over £124,000 to bring this project to fruition. It was a proud moment to welcome our local MP to officially open the facility, which is already proving to be a valuable asset for residents and visitors alike.

Looking to the future, the Council has approved the formation of a working group to begin developing a Watchet Neighbourhood Plan. This is an important step in shaping the long-term vision for our town, and further details will be shared in a presentation later in this meeting.

However, the year has not been without its challenges. Watchet has experienced a significant increase in vandalism, particularly affecting the Harbour Road public toilets. Somerset Council announced the withdrawal of its CCTV monitoring service unless we committed to substantial ongoing costs. After careful consideration, the Council declined this option and instead chose to take ownership of the existing CCTV system through the devolution of assets. While this required a modest increase in the precept, it allows us to manage and monitor the system directly, ensuring a more responsive and effective approach to maintaining safety for residents and visitors.

Finally, it is with both gratitude and sadness that we say goodbye to our Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Jo Grellier, who leaves us after 10 years of dedicated service. Jo began her journey with the Council as a part-time administrative assistant and, through her commitment and professionalism, progressed to the role of Town Clerk and RFO in January 2024. Her diligence and hard work have placed the Council in a strong and stable position, enabling us to move forward with confidence. On behalf of the Council and the community, I would like to thank Jo for her outstanding contribution and wish her every success in the future. We are also pleased to confirm that a new Town Clerk/RFO has been appointed, and we look forward to welcoming them soon.

## Committee Updates

### Environment & Planning

**Planning** – The committee have considered 18 planning applications over the past year and submitted our comments and recommendations to the Somerset Council Planning Authority for their consideration. Examples:

Liddymore Rd. – This committee supported residents in their dispute with a developer with regards to planning breaches on Liddymore Rd, representing them at several County Planning meetings. As a result of this, the Planning Authority have issued an Enforcement notice.

Parsonage Farm. – This Committee, has and still opposes this proposed housing development, and hopes it will continue to have a representative on the Parsonage Farm Action Group. This Committee hopes to soon have an up to date Traffic Analysis report to better assess and understand traffic movements on Brendon Road, to add further evidence in support of our opposition to this development, which will be submitted to the County Planning Authority.

**Coastal Erosion** – The committee continues to monitor with help and guidance of Geckoella, ongoing erosion, the areas monitored are: cliff erosion bordering the West Street Car Park, the West Bay Caravan Park, and also the erosion to the Sea Defence Wall at West Street Beach and all areas between Doniford and Warren Bay. At present we are still able to offer residents 79 car park spaces at the West Street Car Park.

**Flood Group** – Watchet Town Council continues to be a member of the West Somerset Flood Action Group. This could prove to be beneficial since the Environment Agency withdrew maintenance of the Washford River.

**On Street Parking** – The committee continues to work with Somerset Council Highways on the agreement it has with them for the reinstatement of the worn double yellow lines throughout the town and especially at the lower end of Causeway Terrace where it exits onto South Road.

# 02



**Speed Indicator Device** – The purchasing and installation of the proposed Speed Indicator Device has been put on hold due in part to rising costs and extra regulations imposed by Somerset Council Highways. We are at present awaiting a report from an Highways Officer on the problematic speeding locations with a view to the future viability of a Speed Indicator Device. Watchet Town Council have helped to enable a Speed Watch Group to be established on Brendon Road to help monitor alleged speeding on this road.

**Local Plan** – The committee are involved in the production of a Local Plan.

**Tree Audit** – The committee have undertaken an audit on trees within the town to assess for viability of safety especially after some tragic accidents that have occurred in other parts of the country, primarily after some of the winter storms.

**Planting** – Now that Watchet town Council have responsibility for the previously owned WACET planters and troughs, all the Planters and Troughs are owned by Watchet Town Council. This committee have responsibility for the municipal planting and we have recently approved a quote from our preferred contractor for all of the planting to take place.

**Urban Design Strategy** – The committee have recently received and discussed the Phase 2 FERIA Presentation, and this has been given to the Tourism and Marketing Sub-committee for their comments and recommendations.

**Cllr Martin Brake** – Chair of Environment & Planning Committee

## Finance & Staffing

The Finance and Staffing Committee looks after the financial affairs and the staff of Watchet Town Council.

It was appointed in May 2025 following the Annual Council meeting and consisted of Councillors Brake, Campbell, Irvén, Murphy, Stevens, Westcott and Whetlor. In February we were joined by Cllr Young. I was elected as Chair and also became Chair of the Personnel Committee which oversees staff appraisals, Conditions of Service, welfare and appointments. Cllr Campbell (Health and Wellbeing Officer) and Cllr Stevens joined me on the Personnel Committee. In March 2026, following the illness of Cllr Campbell, Cllr Young became acting Health and Wellbeing officer and joined the Personnel Committee.

In May, we reviewed the Council's insurance requirements. We decided that some of the Council's funds should be invested into accounts that paid more interest than the Nat West deposit account. Accounts were chosen which had a low level of risk. In June, we reviewed staff matters and approved an amended Disciplinary Procedure, Grievance Procedure, Volunteers Policy and Volunteer Resolution Process.

In July, we approved a financial grant to Watchet Summertime to help fund Thursday night entertainment.

In September we approved training for the Clerk and Councillors. Approval was given for attendance at a presentation of software for managing staff and health and safety. Staff appraisals were noted and adjustments to working were approved.

In October we approved a request for flexible working from a member of staff and the recruitment of a new post of Asset Caretaker. Discussion began on a new clause of the annual governance report known as the AGAR regarding GDPR, IT security, and website accessibility. Training on VAT was approved for the Clerk and following this, VAT had to be applied to some of the services provided by the Council. Discussions began on budgets and precept for 2026-27. In November, we approved a grant to support the third year of the Words in Watchet literary festival which went on to bring visitors into the town in February this year. The Personnel Committee proposal that an Employee Assistance Programme should be funded to support staff well-being was agreed together with lone working software to support staff working alone outside.

The precept proposals which were to be recommended to Full Council in January were discussed in November and finalised in December. They represented an increase of 10% on the Town Council's which was much below the previous year. In December approval was given to recruit for the new role of Asset Caretaker. Final precept proposals were agreed for recommendation to Full Council in January.

In January 2026 Committee discussed staffing matters and resolved that the software which had been first discussed in September was not suitable for our purposes. This decision had been reached following discussions with neighbouring councils who had committed to the software and found it wanting.

Final discussions were had regarding the AGAR issue that began in October. A policy was agreed to allow councillors to use their own devices and an updated IT policy was recommended to Full Council. New ICO Model Publication Scheme and a Freedom of Information Policy were approved for recommendation to Full Council.

In February we agreed to recommend to Council measures to ensure that the Council cash flow could be managed whilst making staged payments for the skate park build. Some projects were paused and some bill payments were delayed if they were using earmarked reserves. (Earmarked Reserves are funds in the bank which have been put aside for particular projects and are not used to pay day-to-day expenses).

Interviews were held for the new post of Asset Caretaker and John Penn was appointed. He has begun his role at the end of March. The Committee approved the recruitment pack for a new Town Clerk/RFO following a letter of resignation received from the current Clerk/RFO, Jo Grellier.

In March, we had a presentation from Minehead Eye for a grant to help fund the Strives Youth Club provision in Watchet.

A decision will be made at the April meeting as to whether to support this worthwhile project.

Interviews were held on 26 March for a new Clerk/RFO and an appointment was made subject to references.

In conclusion, this has been an extremely busy year for the Personnel Committee advising and supporting the Clerk and the Finance & Staffing Committee. The Council uses SW Councils for HR advice. The Finance & Staffing Committee has been kept busy in particular by the changes in the AGAR, the cash flow concerns arising from the skate park project and supporting and responding to staff requests and concerns.

**Cllr Peter Murphy** – Chair of the Finance & Staffing Committee

# Asset Management

As chair of Assets, it is my pleasure to make this report to the meeting on behalf of the committee, comprising Cllrs Brake, Irvén (Chair), Johnson, Murphy, Richards, Westcott, and Whetlor. Committee clerk is our Deputy Town Clerk Annie Robinson. Members are elected from other committees plus the ex officio members, chair and vice chair of council. Its remit is to manage assets held by WTC for the benefit of the Town, which include:

- Council Offices, vehicles and equipment, West Street car park
- Harbour Road toilets, Watchet Library & War Memorial
- Henry Davey playing field, changing rooms, skate park & children's play areas.
- Cemetery and management of churchyard grounds maintenance
- Allotments inc. Maglands and now Courtlands
- Community Centre, MUGA, Tennis courts, children's playground, maintenance sheds on memorial ground.

Somerset Unitary Council Asset transfers when agreed by full council are managed by the committee:

- Courtlands play area was transferred. This is being converted to 11 allotments in phase 1, due April 2026, then a total of 21 in phase 2. Priority will be given to those who lost allotments when West Street had to be closed due to cliff subsidence.
- Kingsland will be transferred and kept as a play area with upgraded equipment.
- The Pound will be transferred and managed by WTC.
- Sea Scouts building and taxi office at the Visitor Centre. These have been finalised for transfer pending formal legal completion processes.

**Library building** – The committee has overseen the agreement by full council of a new 7-year contract for continuing the Community library partnership between WTC and Somerset council which commenced on 1/4/26. Due to budget limitations, the extra opening hours on Tuesdays have not been continued but will continue to be reviewed if other funding such as for warm winter spaces can be identified. Repairs to lighting and plasterwork were completed and a new heating boiler installed.

**Toilets & CCTV** – We have continued to operate public toilets in Harbour Road, having suffered a series of vandalism costing a considerable amount to repair. At one point we had to close the toilets temporarily until locks and fixtures could be repaired and had to fit manual padlocks and resort to reduced opening hours during dark in the winter. Toilets have been reopened with improved cctv security being implemented as described by the chair in her update.

**West Street Car Park** – We have continued to monitor and assess risks at the car park arising from the cliff falls due to subsidence. We have maintained an adequate safety buffer between the new cliff edge and car park separated by Heras Fencing, maintaining the same number of resident parking spaces. A continuing input from Geckoella our and Somerset Council's geotechnical experts provides monitoring of the site and test data as a key part of ongoing risk assessment & management.

**Closed Churchyard** – The Committee clarified to the Parochial Church Council that as there was no formal 'order in council' made at the time of the closure of St Decuman's old churchyard, Watchet Town Council has only been undertaking maintenance on a voluntary basis. A working group between Watchet Town Council, Williton Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council has been established to assess how maintenance and costs might be addressed going forward.

**Waste Bins on Esplanade** – Agreement was reached with Somerset Council to reinstate weekend emptying of Esplanade bins during the peak summer season, pending review of the contract with their service supplier. This arose because bins were overflowing following implementation of a reduced schedule.

Repairs, maintenance or replacements were provided for.

- Asset buildings as required.
- Electric truck batteries & community vehicle
- Community centre, MUGA surface – complaint to supplier to repair defects together with taking pro bono legal advice over potential claims – and outdoor gym.
- Additional grounds maintenance equipment

**Flower Displays** – Agreed to take over WACET'S flower displays in the Town.

**Utilities** – New contracts for utilities supplies were agreed to achieve savings over current suppliers.

**Rates** – The committee reviewed and approved rates charged for West Street car park occasional users, EVIE community car scheme members, and Library/Community Centre hire costs where needed to allow for changed VAT requirements.

**SALC funding & Henry Davey Skate Park** – The committee has helped oversee the implementation of these programmes as reported by the chair.

The wonderful new Wheeled Park project was completed and opened in February 2026 I would like to note the excellent turn out of town residents for the day. He thanked Town Clerk Jo Grellier for her contribution to this project and noted her excellent work.

**Cllr John Irvén** – Chair of the Asset Management Committee

# 03 Financial Statement 2025-26



| Expenditure                            | £000's |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| General running costs (staff, + admin) | 210    |
| Finance & Staffing Committee           | 25     |
| Environment & Planning                 | 15     |
| Asset Management                       | 93     |
| Market                                 | 10     |
| Total                                  | 353    |

| Funded by                      | £000's |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| West Street Car Park           | 11     |
| Cemetery fees                  | 7      |
| Community Centre & MUGA        | 5      |
| Library income                 | 1      |
| Market income                  | 12     |
| Other Income (grants+ rentals) | 23     |
| Somerset Council Precept       | 294    |
| Total                          | 353    |

## Chairman's Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Councillors, staff, volunteers, and community partners for their continued dedication to Watchet. Together, we are making real progress and with the advent of the Neighbourhood Plan and also our now fantastic Marina who're doing a fantastic job, we're building a stronger future for our town.

# 04

# 05

## Council Staff

**Town Clerk/RFO**  
Cameron Biggs

**Deputy Town Clerk**  
Annie Robinson

**Assets Co-Ordinator**  
Lucy Taylor

**Enquiries & Community  
Vehicle Co-Ordinator**  
Donna Stevens

**Grounds Person**  
Niall Watson

**Operations Assistant**  
Paul Flynn

**Asset Caretaker**  
John Penn



**Cllr Loretta Whetlor**  
**Chair of Council/Town Mayor**



**Cllr Martin Brake**  
**Vice-Chair of Council/Deputy  
Town Mayor**



**Cllr**  
**John Irlen**



**Cllr**  
**Peter Murphy**



**Cllr**  
**Dave Westcott**



**Cllr**  
**Jeremy Stevens**



**Cllr**  
**Cosmo Johnson**



**Cllr**  
**Harvey Elliott**



**Cllr**  
**Sean Terrett**



**Cllr**  
**John Richards**



**Could you fill one of the two  
current vacancies?  
Contact the Clerk to find out more!**

# Who does what in Watchet

|                                                    | Watchet Town Council         | Somerset Council | Others                       |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Adult Social Care                                  |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Chamber of Trade (WACET)                           |                              |                  | 07836 239932                 |
| Council Tax / Business Rates                       |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Culture and Heritage                               |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Car Parking and Enforcement (*also see below WSCP) |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Cemetery - Watchet                                 | 01984 633344                 |                  |                              |
| Coastal Protection                                 |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Conservation Areas                                 |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Education, Learning & Schools                      |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Environment                                        |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Fly Tipping                                        |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Food Hygiene & Environmental Health                |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Footpath Maintenance                               |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Green Areas                                        |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Highways                                           |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Housing Benefit                                    |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Library                                            | 01984 631380<br>01984 633344 |                  |                              |
| Lighting - Street - Faults                         | 01984 633344                 |                  |                              |
| Local Licensing                                    |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Museums - Market House                             |                              |                  | 01984 632266                 |
| Museums - Boat                                     |                              |                  | 01984 632101                 |
| Planning                                           |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| POLICE                                             |                              |                  | 101                          |
| Public Space Protection Orders                     |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Refuse Collection / Disposal                       |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Rights of Way                                      |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Roads, Parking & Transport                         |                              | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| St Decuman's Church                                |                              |                  | 01984 639669<br>01984 632118 |
| Street Markets / Street Fairs                      | 01984 633344                 |                  | 01984 632592                 |
| The Esplanade, Watchet                             | 01984 633344                 | 0300 123 2224    |                              |
| Watchet Marina                                     |                              |                  | 01984 631228                 |
| Watchet Visitor Centre                             |                              |                  | 01984 632101                 |
| Watchet Community Centre                           | 01984 633344                 |                  |                              |
| *West Street Residents Car Park                    | 01984 633344                 |                  |                              |

## Councillor Surgeries

Members of the Public are invited to come and have an informal chat with a Town Councillor at our bi-monthly Surgery. Ask a question, raise an issue or share ideas. There is no need to book, just drop in to the Council Office reception, Harbour Road, Watchet, TA23 0AQ. The first Saturday every other month (Except August) 10.30am – 12 noon (confirmation of dates can be found on the noticeboards and Watchet Town Council website)

Watchet Town Council, Watchet Visitor Centre, Harbour Road, TA23 0AQ

Tel: 01984 633344

e-mail: [townclerk@watchettowncouncil.org](mailto:townclerk@watchettowncouncil.org)

website: [www.watchettowncouncil.org](http://www.watchettowncouncil.org)



**CHARITY FUNDRAISER FOR**

# **SOUTH COAST** *Waves*

**\* CHEERLEADERS \***

**FLORIDA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**12.30 TIL LATE**

**LOCATION - WATCHET FOOTBALL CLUB**

## **FAMILY FUN DAY**

**DARTS** **SKITTLES** **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** **LUCKY DIP** **RAFFLE**

TO INCLUDE

**POTTERY PAINTING AND FACE PAINTING**

*And more!*

**BBQ** **PIZZAS**

**12.30 - 4PM** **5 - 8PM**

**7PM**  
*Pradeep Madhavan*  
**AND HIS BAND**  
**ARRHYTHMIA**

**8.30-LATE**  
**DJ**  
*Bubble*

**COME ALONG, HAVE FUN & HELP US *make waves!***

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO OUR 2 TEAMS COMPETING IN FLORIDA**

## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

**SAT 1 AUG 10am - 12noon WEST QUANTOCK REPAIR CAFÉ** at Watchet Community Centre. Bring your broken items to be mended

**SAT 1 AUG 10am – 1pm BREAD MAKING WORKSHOP – CROISSANTS**

See ad on page 24 for further info. £40 to book [MarkNewman3@gmail.com](mailto:MarkNewman3@gmail.com)

**SAT 1 AUG 7pm AN EVENING WITH JOHN HEGLEY – SONGS, STRINGS &**

**POTATOES** in East Quay Courtyard. Free but Donations welcomed. An evening with celebrated poet John Hegley, joined by special guest Becky Hollweg and Andy Hamill for a lively and memorable performance

**SUN 2 AUG 10am – 4pm WATCHET STREET FAIR** on The Esplanade. Stalls offering local cheeses, jewellery, clothing, artisan coffee, Watchet Cider, Exmoor Gin, local butchers, ice cream, face painting and more! Live music in the afternoon from The Perry Wood Band. Enquiries Molly Quint 07557 644 141 or email [quint407@btinternet.com](mailto:quint407@btinternet.com)

**TUE 4 – THU 6 AUG 11am – 1pm EAST QUAY SUMMER WORKSHOPS – TEXTILE**

Free, donations welcomed. Summer holiday textile workshops with paper weaving, sandpaper fabric printing and big stitch sewing.

**WED 5 AUG 2 – 4pm EAST QUAY DESIGN & MAKE WORKSHOP FOR YOUNG**

**PEOPLE 15 – 19 SCREEN PRINTING** Admission £8. Learn how to screen print, layer designs and create a fabric piece of your own. No experience necessary!

**THU 6 AUG 2.15 – 3.15pm WATCHET LIBRARY CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, DECORATE MARACAS.** Free, but children must be supervised.

**FRI 7 AUG 6pm onwards DJ NIGHT IN EAST QUAY COURTYARD** Admission free, donations welcomed. An evening of DJs, good music and courtyard atmosphere, with food and drink available from The Kitchen.

**SAT 8 AUG - MON 24 AUG & SAT 29 AUG - MON 30 AUG 10am - 4pm**

**OPEN DAYS AT THE PHOENIX** crafts and refreshments

**SAT 8 AUG 7pm SHE'S GOT BRASS – LONDON'S GROUNDBREAKING FEMALE**

**FRONTED BRASS BAND** in East Quay Courtyard, blending funk, soul and classics in a contemporary style. Free but donations welcomed

**SUN 9 AUG 2 – 4pm WATCHET TOWN BAND PLAY ON THE ESPLANADE**

Live Music – Come and listen!

**SUN 9 AUG CAR BOOT SALE 3.30pm FOR SELLERS, 4.30pm FOR BUYERS** at the Memorial Ground. Sellers Cars £5, Vans/trailers £10. Limited buyers car parking on ground £1 Vehicle access Helwell Lane. Fundraising for Watchet Memorial Ground.

**TUE 11 – THU 13 AUG 11am – 1pm EAST QUAY HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS – PRINT**

Admission Free, donations welcomed. Explore printing with foam block pen printing, clay mono printing and plasticine printing workshops.

## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

**WED 12 AUG 2 – 4pm DESIGN & MAKE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 11 – 19 – MAGAZINE MONO PRINTING** Admission £8. Experiment using recycled magazines, Create layered prints using bold and graphic imagery and explore the possibilities of using a gelli plate. No experience needed!

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**THU 13 AUG 2.15 – 3.15pm WATCHET LIBRARY CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, ICE CREAM CONE CARDS** Free, but children must be supervised.

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**FRI 14 AUG 6pm onwards DJ NIGHT IN EAST QUAY COURTYARD** Admission free, donations welcomed. Guest DJs bring the soundtrack for the evening, food and drinks available in The Kitchen. Weather permitting!

---

**SAT 15 AUG 7.30pm SANCTUARY SESSIONS PRESENT: LIVE MUSIC WITH MATT LEVETT** Tickets from [watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://watchetbaptist.org.uk) or [www.zeffy.com/enGB/organisations/watchet-baptist-church](http://www.zeffy.com/enGB/organisations/watchet-baptist-church) All welcome.

---

**MON 17 – SAT 22 AUG WATCHET SUMMERTIME WEEK** On the Esplanade and round town. With a seaside theme. See page 4 for details

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**SUN 16 AUG 10am – 4pm WATCHET STREET FAIR CHARITY DAY** on The Esplanade. Groups and organisations from the local area show what they do, some fundraise, some publicise, some entertain! Refreshments available.

---

**TUE 18 – THU 20 AUG 11am – 1pm EAST QUAY SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS – COLLAGE** Admission free, donations welcomed. Try out Collaging and create paper collages, self portrait magazine landscapes, and a mirrored zero waste collage!

---

**WED 19 AUG 2 – 4pm EAST QUAY DESIGN & MAKE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 15 – 19 – COLLAGRAPH AND DRYPOINT** The Print Studio East Quay. Admission £8. Create your own collagraph plate using natural materials and textures from inside The Print Studio. And more! No experience necessary.

---

**FRI 21 AUG 6pm onwards DJ NIGHT IN THE EAST QUAY COURTYARD** Admission free, donations welcomed, DJs playing into the evening, with food and drinks served from the East Quay Kitchen. Weather permitting.

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**SAT 22 AUG 2pm ON THE SHOULDERS CIRCUS AT EAST QUAY COURTYARD** Admission free, donations welcomed. Family friendly, outdoor aerial circus-theatre show about sisterhood, togetherness and where we come from.

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**TUE 25 – THU 27 AUG 11am – 1pm EAST QUAY SUMMER HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS – SCULPTURE** Admission free, donations welcomed. Find out about sculpture in East Quay's free drop-in family workshops and create paper strip sculptures, 2D and 3D sculptures and explore Playdough plaster casting.

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## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

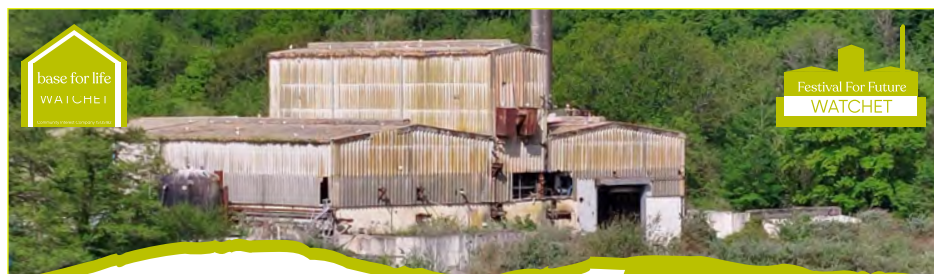
**WED 26 AUG 2 – 4pm EAST QUAY DESIGN & MAKE WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE 11 – 14 COLLAGRAPH AND DRYPOINT** Admission £8 Create your own collagraph plate using natural materials and textures from inside the Print Studio. Work back into these textures with drawing and mark making techniques. No experience needed.

**THU 27 AUG 2.25 – 3.15pm WATCHET LIBRARY CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, OUR ALWAYS POPULAR SUN CATCHERS** Free, but children must be supervised.

**FRI 28 AUG 6pm onwards DJ NIGHT IN EAST QUAY COURTYARD** Admission free, donations welcomed. The final East Quay DJ set of the summer holidays. In the courtyard with music, food and drinks. Weather permitting.

**SUN 30 AUG 10am – 3pm FESTIVAL FOR FUTURE WATCHET.** See ad below for details.

**MON 31 AUG 11am start FANCY DRESS MARITIME FUN RUN/WALK** round the Memorial Ground. Great Raffle prizes. Sponsor forms and tickets from Visitor Centre or online see posters or on Watchet War Memorial Recreation Ground Committee FaceBook Page. Come and watch or join in, Get sponsored or challenge yourself!



## Festival for Future Watchet

For more than 10 years, Watchet Paper Mill has been left abandoned and largely unused, taken away from the community. Despite this we know Watchet sees the potential this site brings.

Base for Life invite you to a community gathering, focusing on the future of our town. We will start on the Esplanade and march together to the entrance of the Old Paper Mill, where we will showcase what this site means, has meant in the past, and will mean in the future for the local community.

**Join us Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>  
of August 2026 ~  
10am – 3pm**



for further information and  
updates visit:  
[www.baseforlifewatchet.com](http://www.baseforlifewatchet.com)

**Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 1st August**

see following pages for Future Dates for Your Diary and Regular Weekly Classes & Events...

## WHAT'S ON IN EARLY SEPTEMBER

**THU 3 SEP 2.15 – 3.15pm WATCHET LIBRARY CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, MAKING MINI-LID BANJOS** Free, but children must be supervised.

**SAT 5 SEP 10am – 1pm BREAD MAKING WORKSHOP – SPECIALITY SOURDOUGH** See ad on page 24 for further info. £40 to book  
*MarkNewman3@gmail.com*

**SAT 19 SEP 10am – 1pm BREAD MAKING WORKSHOP – SWEET DOUGHS**  
See ad on page 24 for further info. £40 to book *MarkNewman3@gmail.com*

## REGULAR WEEKLY CLASSES & EVENTS

**FIRST & THIRD MONDAYS 10.30am KNIT AND NATTER** at The Phoenix.

**WEEKLY MONDAYS 10am CHAIR FIT EXERCISES** at The Bowling Club.  
Just come on down!

**WEEKLY MONDAYS 2pm ARMCHAIR EXERCISES** at St Audries Court Werren Close, in the communal lounge. Cost £5 session to include hot drink and (naughty) biscuits. Everyone welcome. For info phone Peter 07773 145 116.

**WEEKLY MONDAYS 7.30 – 9pm WATCHET COMMUNITY CHOIR** meet at The Bowling Club. 07810 510 142

**LAST MONDAYS 1.15 – 2.45pm CARERS GROUP** meet at The Sanctuary. Call Cath on 07535 279 359 for info.

**LAST MONDAYS (FEB – NOV) 7 – 9pm WEST SOMERSET FAMILY HISTORY GROUP** meet at The Phoenix £2 for members, £4 for non-members (inc refreshments). For info contact Alma Williams 01643 818 096.

**WEEKLY TUESDAYS 8.50 – 9.45am YOGOLATES** at The Bowling Club. 07775 632 807

**WEEKLY TUESDAYS 10 – 11am WATCHET WARRIORS LADIES BOXERCISE** at The Boxing Club, The Temple, South Road. First visit free, usually £2.50 session. Contact Craig for more info 07594 564 944.

**WEEKLY TUESDAYS 10 – 11am YOGA** at The Bowling Club. 07775 632 807

**WEEKLY TUESDAY 1-3pm VILLAGE AGENTS TALKING CAFÉ** at Williton Pavilion. Social Event, Information and free confidential advice available

**WEEKLY TUESDAYS 2.30pm FLEXERCIZE** CHANGE OF VENUE! Now in The Salvation Army Hall. Chair based exercise for over 55s with some cardio, stretches and balance. Followed by tea and chat. £5 a session.  
Contact *flexercizewestsomerset@gmail.com*

**WEEKLY TUESDAYS 7 – 8pm YOGA** at The Bowling Club.

**WEEKLY TUESDAYS 7.30 – 9pm WATCHET TOWN BAND REHEARSALS** at The Bandroom, Market Street Carpark. All woodwind and brass players welcome. Contact *watchettownband@gmail.com*

## REGULAR WEEKLY CLASSES & EVENTS

**FIRST TUESDAY 7.30pm THE BRITISH LEGION BOOK CLUB**

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS (APR – SEP) 9.30am – 4pm WATCHET TOWN MARKET**  
on The Esplanade, weather permitting.

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS 10 am – 12.30pm WATCHET ART CLUB** The Methodist Schoolroom. Meet to paint and/or draw and have a cup of coffee. Occasional workshops. Contact Phyllis 07972 693 239.

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS 10 am LITTLE SAINTS TODDLER GROUP** in The Salvation Army Hall.

**WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS From 7pm LADIES DARTS NIGHT** at The Bowling Club. Come on down!

**EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10.30am FORGET-ME NOT CLUB** at The Sanctuary. All enquiries to Margaret Tatham 07973 638 030 or [watchetdementia@gmail.com](mailto:watchetdementia@gmail.com). Jun 4 meeting on the Esplanade for 11th birthday celebrations.

**EVERY LAST WEDNESDAY 5 – 7pm FOLK CLUB** at The Esplanade Club monthly. Free to attend, welcomes new players.

**EVERY FIRST THURSDAY 1 – 2pm CRIME FICTION BOOK CLUB**  
at The Phoenix Centre £2.50 inc hot drink and Library Book Hire. (2nd July, no August group) Contact [lorileear001@gmail.com](mailto:lorileear001@gmail.com) or 07935 318 022 for details.

**EVERY FIRST THURSDAY 2.30 – 4.45pm WATCHET ART & CRAFTS GROUP**  
at The Phoenix Centre £3 inc hot drink. Working on own wide range of projects. Friendly group. (2nd July, no August group) Contact [Lori\\_lorileear001@gmail.com](mailto:Lori_lorileear001@gmail.com) or 07935 318 022 for details.

**EVERY FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS 10.30 – 12noon DIGITAL DROP-IN** at Watchet Library.

**EVERY SECOND THURSDAY 2.30pm THURSDAY CIRCLE** at Methodist Schoolroom. Everyone welcome to these free events.

**WEEKLY THURSDAYS 9.30 – 10.30am TAI CHI** at The Bowling Club. Come on down!

**WEEKLY THURSDAYS 2pm** Armchair exercises at St Audries Court, Werren Close. Cost £5 per session to include hot drink and (naughty) biscuits. Everyone welcome. For information phone Peter on 07773 145 116.

**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 6 – 7pm CEILIDH CLASS** at The Bowling Club. Country Dancing, beginners welcome. With Judy Mapledoram, £5 session. No need to bring a partner. Contact Judy if planning to come, 07474 601 497.

**WEEKLY THURSDAYS 7pm onwards CRIBBAGE** for all in the bar, The Bowling Club. Come on down!

## REGULAR WEEKLY CLASSES & EVENTS

**WEEKLY THURSDAYS 7.30pm WATCHET SINGERS** at Methodist Schoolroom.  
From Sept 10th.

**WEEKLY THURSDAYS 7.30pm** Eyes down for **BINGO** at The British Legion.

**EVERY SECOND AND FOURTH FRIDAYS 7pm WATCHET COMMUNITY CINEMA**  
at Knights Templar School, see local advertising for details. [harrisonanne@hotmail.com](mailto:harrisonanne@hotmail.com)

**EVERY THIRD FRIDAY 2pm GARDENING CLUB** at The Phoenix Centre £2.50 inc  
free raffle. (July 10th, August 14th at an outside venue) contact Lori Lee 07935 318  
022 or [lorileeart001@gmail.com](mailto:lorileeart001@gmail.com) for info.

**WEEKLY FRIDAYS 9.30 – 11.30am SALVATION ARMY COFFEE MORNING**  
All welcome.

**WEEKLY FRIDAYS 5 – 6.30pm COMMUNITY MEAL** at The Sanctuary.

**WEEKLY FRIDAYS 6-7pm WARRIORS LADIES BOXING FITNESS** at The Boxing  
Club, The Temple, South Road. First visit free, usually £2.50 session. Just come down!  
Contact Craig for more info 07594 564 944.

**WEEKLY SATURDAYS from 10am METHODIST COFFEE MORNING.** All welcome.

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



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**SAT 4 JUL 10am – 12noon COFFEE MORNING IN THE BAR**

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**WED 8 – THU 9 JUL 6.30pm** Minehead Middle School present **THE SPONGEBOB MUSICAL** Talented cast brings vibrant and energetic show to life – not to be missed! Music, colour and unforgettable characters, for all the family.

---

**SAT 11 JUL 7.30pm REGAL COMEDY NIGHT** A professional line-up of four acts from the cream of the UK Comedy Circuit.

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**FRI 24 JUL 7.30pm THE NEW JERSEY BOYS** Back by popular demand to give another unmissable evening featuring the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons and more. Highly acclaimed show.

---

**MON 27 JUL 7.30pm MINEHEAD & EXMOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026**

Hebrides Overture, Felix Mendelssohn, Introduction & Allegro Op.47, Edward Elgar  
*Cello Concerto No.1 in A minor Op.33*, Camille Saint-Saens (soloist: Maxim Calver)  
*Adagio on Celtic Melodies Op.56*, Max Bruch (soloist: Maxim Calver)  
*Symphony No.99 in Eb major*, Josef Haydn

---

**WED 29 JUL 7.30pm MINEHEAD & EXMOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026**

*Overture Creatures of Prometheus*, Ludwig van Beethoven  
*Flute Concerto*, Aram Khachaturian, soloist: Christopher Wyatt  
*D'un matin de printemps*, Lilli Boulanger  
*Swan Lake Suite*, Pyotr Illych Tchaikovsky

---

**SAT 1 AUG 7.30pm MINEHEAD & EXMOOR MUSIC FESTIVAL 2026**

*Buckaroo Holiday from Rodeo*, Aaron Copland, *El Amor Brujo*, Manuel de Falla  
*Symphony No.2 in E minor*, Sergei Rachmaninov

---

**SAT 15 – SAT 22 AUG 7.30pm + 2.30pm matinees on the Saturdays**

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**FRI 28 AUG 7.30pm HOMETOWN GLORY – THE ULTIMATE ADELE EXPERIENCE**

Fantastic Tribute Act, live music by candlelight

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Tickets for all events may be booked in advance online at [regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson](http://regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson) or from the Box Office Tel 01643 706 430 between 9.30am and 12.00pm Monday – Saturday;

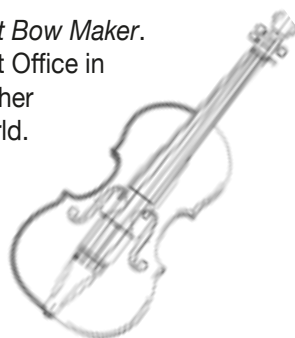
## WATCHET CONSERVATION SOCIETY NEWS



At our Open Meeting in May, Jane and Christine gave two lovely talks on nature in and around Watchet. Jane spoke about her wonderful study of hedgehogs and Christine about all the living things that can be found and studied in our gardens and nearby. It was a good and happy evening with a very attentive audience of Members and Friends.

Our next Open Evening is on the 21st July by *Watchet Bow Maker*. Keith Sleeman has opened the shop near the old Post Office in Swain Street where he makes Bows for Violins and other musical instruments and is renowned through the world. He will be accompanied by Sebastián Tesouro on his violin to make it a really lovely evening. Do come and join us.

*Molly Quint*





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## NEWS FROM WATCHET WAR MEMORIAL RECREATION GROUND SOME NEW EVENT FUND RAISERS

After receiving runner up in the Town Council's Volunteer of the year for being Chairman of the Memorial Recreation Ground Committee for 18 years and other volunteering roles Jim (James) Nicholas is stepping back from his Chairman role. He is staying on the committee to facilitate a smooth handover to the new Chair Lori Lee.



Lori with her team and fellow committee members has been responsible for arranging new community events on the ground to raise money for the ongoing repairs to the old pavilion. Events such as the flower show now in its third year after a thirty five year gap, the dog show, boot sales and fun runs.

### CAR BOOT SALES ON THE WAR MEMORIAL GROUND.

The first Car Boot in May got us off to a good start! Next car boot sales will be on **Sunday July 12th and Sunday August 9th**. Sellers 3.30 pm Cars £5.00 Vans/trailers £10.00 Buyers 4.30pm. Limited buyers parking on ground £1.00. Vehicle access Helwell Lane (football club end). Just turn up on the Sunday for some great sales or bargains.

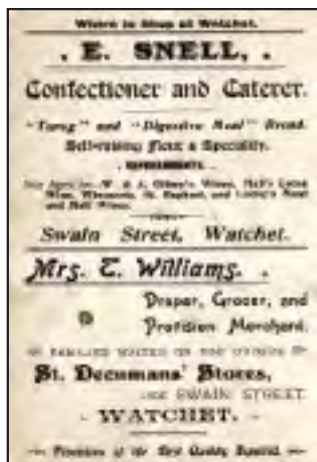


Weather permitting. Sponsored by SALC and WTC. info 07935 318 022.

### MONDAY AUGUST 31ST FANCY DRESS MARITIME FUN RUN/WALK.

11.00 start War Memorial Ground. Great raffle prizes! Sponsor forms and tickets Visitors Centre or online see posters or on *Watchet War Memorial Recreation Ground Committee* Facebook page.

If you have an event you would like to hold on the Memorial Ground please contact us for fees and to see if it is viable on 07935 318 022 or [lorileear001@gmail.com](mailto:lorileear001@gmail.com). Also follow us on Facebook group page *Watchet War Memorial Recreation Ground Committee* for any future event information



## OLD ADVERTISEMENTS FROM THE WATCHET AND WILLITON TOWN GUIDE 1907

I think all of these shops will be before living memory now, but does any one have any idea which of today's shops or buildings housed these old businesses?

Does anyone know what 'Turog' or 'Digestive Meal Bread' tasted like?

Or have seen any of 'Mr Greenslade's Tormuhun Ware'?

If you have any clues, please let us know!  
[editor@watchetct.co.uk](mailto:editor@watchetct.co.uk)

Many thanks to Maurice Chidgey for allowing us to reproduce these ads.



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 please see the inside  
 back page

**WATCHET COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM**

## WATCHET MARKET HOUSE MUSEUM

The Museum opened for the season on March 28th. but visitor numbers have dropped markedly through April and May. People do not seem to be travelling, probably due to the high cost of fuel. A spring heat wave and plenty of rain afterwards have not helped the situation, not to mention the road closure and I think all businesses are feeling the pinch. Nevertheless we continue to offer a warm welcome and a taste of the history of Watchet.

We have re-established our connections with **Knights Templar School**, after a lull due to COVID, and the **Junior Museum** is back on its feet, thanks to our Secretary Sue's persistence.

Our researcher can help locals who are looking to find out more about their family



history, as they have access to masses of information through census records etc. as well as the **Somerset and Dorset History Society**.

Our south side external window displays information about the Neighbourhood Plan for Watchet, which is currently being worked on. It explains how to have your say about the town's development, which we encourage everyone to do. You must go and look at the window, designed and produced by Andrew Homer, which is an artwork in itself.



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## IN YOUR GARDEN WITH ALAN JONES

July is here and all the hard work done between March and June is over, now is the time to enjoy your labours. There is always something to do, but mostly just routine watering, weeding, deadheading and harvesting. So, get out the sun-loungers or deck chairs and just look at your garden, enjoy a glass of chilled white wine, share a jug of Pimms, or if you must iced tea. Whatever your pleasure, now is the season when the garden rewards you. If you have so much energy that relaxing is difficult, go out and look at some else's garden. The RHS garden at Rosemoor is always a pleasure and the roses alone are worth the price of admission. Also worth a visit is The Walled Garden at Cannington, much smaller but crammed with unusual plants and a very pleasant shorter trip out.

At this time of year your garden should be alive with bees, hoverflies, lacewings and many other pollinators. If you feel you're not getting your share, perhaps you haven't got the right mix of flowers. Plant breeders have worked hard to give us the biggest showiest flowers possible but, in the process, have lost the attraction to insects. This is particularly true of Dahlias, which is why I always grow some of the single varieties which are irresistible to bees. To attract bees and other wildlife to your garden try

planting lavender, sage, foxgloves, helianthemum, perennial geraniums and/or gladioli. Watching bees foraging inside foxgloves or gladioli is just as much fun as watching the birds on a seed hopper.

At the bottom of Goviers Lane the large garden on the right has a wonderful collection of flowers all through the summer, and I particularly admire the cistus (rock rose) growing there. I have tried in two gardens to grow cistus but without success, yet, in theory, these are the easiest plants to grow. They tolerate drought, are frost hardy and they can

manage in poor soil. So, what am I doing wrong? It seems they

don't like being pruned and come the autumn I do get a bit carried away with the secateurs. 90% of plants respond well to hard pruning, just my luck I picked on one of the exceptions to the rule. In the autumn I shall buy a new one and there are two

varieties that have caught my eye, 'maculatus' (white with dark spots) and 'purpureus' (pink with dark spots). If at first you don't succeed... I'll let you know how I get on!

At a recent Conservation Society meeting we were told how important ponds are to our wild-life. You don't have to have a lake – in fact lots of little ponds in a neighbourhood can be more



Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 1st August

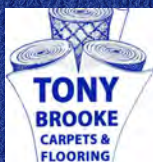
beneficial that just one large pond. Even a repurposed washing up bowl can make a difference. A healthy garden pond is likely to support a greater range of wildlife than any other feature in your garden. Remember, it is vital that you have a ramp or beach area where mammals like hedgehogs can climb out if they should accidentally fall in. Ellie wanted a new pond this spring to replace our much smaller pond which needed topping up



every few days. Our new pond (see photo over page) is 3 feet across and holds 150 litres of water, it is built inside a raised bed so we don't have to bend over too far and should be too high for hedgehogs to get into, but should a vole or mouse fall in there are rocks at one end for them to climb out. If you don't have a pond perhaps this could be a project for the autumn?

Happy gardening!

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## WATCHET GARDEN AND FLOWER SHOW

**Sunday July 19th**

Entries from 11.00 at War Memorial Ground.

Entry forms from Visitor Centre & Albert's 'Ardware or Watchet Gardening Club on Facebook.

*All welcome to enter or just come and look!*

Refreshments available.



*Last Year's overall Champion Karen Coles, with Mayor Loretta Whetlor and organiser Ann Lewis*

### WATCHET GARDENING CLUB

We recently had a great talk from Alan Jones on creating a standard decorative plant. In July Rob Fox is talking about Bees and honey and in August we have our yearly evening Garden party.

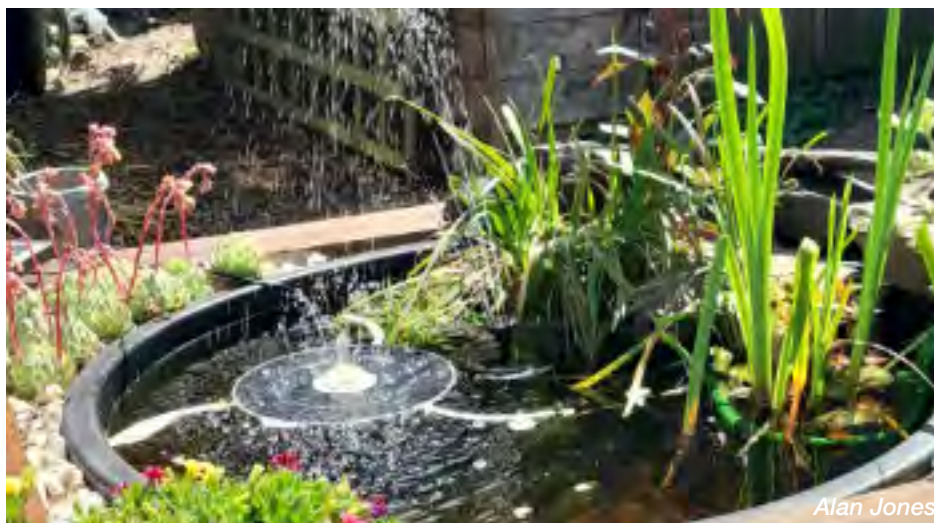
Usually 3rd Friday of the month (occasionally different dates) 2.00pm at Phoenix Centre. Cost £2.50 including a hot drink and free raffle ticket.

Contact Lori on 07935 318 022.

### DATES

Friday July 10th Phoenix Centre 2.00pm Cost £2.50

Friday August 14th 7.30pm outside venue £2.50 07935 318 022 for details



*Alan Jones*

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## A HISTORY OF ST DECUMAN'S CHURCH PART 3 – 1700 ONWARDS

Last time I wrote about the enlargements to St Decuman's church in the 13th and 15th Century. There must have been a serious Christian revival in the 15th century to justify increasing the capacity of the church, or perhaps the town was just growing bigger. During the Georgian period of the 1700's there was more money spent by the Wyndham family including the Earl of Egremont.

In the impressive bell tower (not open to the public) there is a fine set of 6 bells.

The first bell (dated 1896) is inscribed "*I lead in the melodious sound from hill and dale our pleasing notes resound*".

It was cast by John Taylor of Loughborough and weighs 6 cwt.

The second bell (dated 1723) is inscribed: "Come let us sing for church and king" and was cast by E E Bell (a good name for a bell founder).

The third bell was cast in Exeter around 1440 by Robert Norton and may have been brought from Cleeve Abbey after the dissolution of the monasteries. It is inscribed in Latin: "It is my duty to give forth that beloved name".

The fourth, (dated 1723) is inscribed: "Peace and good neighbour".

The fifth bell (dated 1671), is made by Apsey and Bickham. Few of their bells survive and this one is therefore 'listed'.

The sixth bell used to be rung when someone was dying and was known as 'The Passing Bell'. It is a tenor bell weighing nearly a ton and was made by William Purdue, inscribed: "*I sound to*

*beid (bid) the sick repent in hope of life when breath is spent*".

At the opposite end of the church, the wooden pulpit – dating from the 17th century – displays fine carving, particularly the 'cartouche' design in the canopy. The altar rails are regarded as some of the finest in West Somerset and date from the 17th century originally enclosing the altar on 3 sides.

On the south wall in the Lady Chapel is a 'modus' list dated 1777, an agreement between the Earl of Egremont and the parishioners to make fixed payments to the vicar at Easter in lieu of tithes.

High above are two fine helmets each



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with the Wyndham crest, two further helmets can be found on the north wall along with the main Wyndham memorials, the oldest dates from 1565. They were too small to be worn and would have been used in funeral processions.

On the opposite side of the church in the north-east corner amongst the many Wyndham family memorials is a carved wooden box pew, which would originally have been situated in the chancel, and used by the Egremont family. Its rich carving dates back to 1688. Also in this corner is a Jacobean chest dated 1699 and an altar table of the same period.

On the north wall, the principal memorial shows two brothers kneeling, Henry, who died in 1613, and George in 1624. There are many brass memorials to the Wyndhams. A fuller description and history is available in a separate leaflet available in the church.

Above, at the west end of the church you will see the organ built by Osmond of Taunton. This was donated by the Wyndham family in 1923, replacing an earlier organ built in 1760 that had previously seen service in Buckingham Palace. Major restoration work on the organ was carried out in 2014. This wonderful instrument is crying out for someone to play it, if there are any organ scholars locally that need a organ to practice on do get in touch.

I hope some of you will feel tempted to explore Watchet's greatest collection of historic treasures and tread in the footsteps of our forebears.

A complete guide book is available in the church, Market House Museum and the Visitor Centre .

*Alan Jones*



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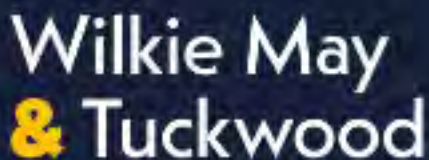
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## MESSAGE FROM WATCHET SALVATION ARMY

The summer months are here and hopefully we're all psyched up for a little bit more sunshine!

The Salvation Army are hosting a **cream tea afternoon** on July 12th at 3pm. Do come along to eat some delicious home-made scones with lovely thick strawberry jam, clotted cream and possibly a strawberry on top!

August and **Summertime Week** are fast approaching, and will see us selling our new toys. Do come down to the Esplanade and secure your early Christmas gifts .

Summertime, as ever, is a great opportunity for the community to come together, get out into the fresh air and have some fun.

How privileged are we to have the beauty of God's creation all around us, in the green fields, trees, beautiful flowers and lovely scenery?

*God of the open spaces*

*God of the wind-swept sea*

*Lord of the lofty mountains*

*I open my heart to thee.*

Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, take time to enjoy the beauty that God has given us.

*God Bless, Sam [samantha.searle@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:samantha.searle@salvationarmy.org.uk)*

## WATCHET METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you for your generosity at our community coffee mornings every Saturday. We start at 10am, and finish when everyone has gone home! Everyone welcome!

You raised **£488.60** for Open the Book resources for the school in April and **£472.65** for the Friends of Williton hospital in May. Thank you so much.

In July we will be raising money for **Solar Aid** who provide solar panels for the people of the sub-Saharan and the people we support in the Cuttack diocese of north-east India.

**Our next Table Top Sale will be on Saturday 18th July.** To book a table please phone 07983 739 734. In August we will be involved in **Watchet Summertime** so there will be no Table Top Sale at the church.

Our Sunday services are led by a variety of preachers, at 10.30am and followed by refreshments.

Rev Andy Day is the minister and can be contacted on 01643 705 175 or [andy.day@westsomersetmethodists.org.uk](mailto:andy.day@westsomersetmethodists.org.uk)

## BAPTIST MESSAGE

Music is a big part of life at Watchet Baptist Church. And so are lots of other things. We love creativity and inspiration. We love hanging new art in The Sanctuary. We love stone painting. And we love getting together to write. We're also big fans of eating together, welcoming people and talking about things that matter.

We believe that God is really creative; he loves doing creative things and he made us to be creative, too. And this takes us back to the music.

In May, we launched *The Sanctuary Sessions* – a new venture for us that turns our modest Swain Street building into a live music venue. Our first act was 'The Goudies' from South Wales and then in June, we welcomed 'Our Atlantic Roots' from Cornwall. But we're not stopping there.

On Saturday 18 July at 2pm, we've got **Drakeford**, all the way from Nashville and on Saturday 15 August, we welcome **Matt Levett** for our final *Sanctuary Sessions* event of 2026.

We would love to see the building full again for these, so please buy a ticket and come along. Check out [watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://watchetbaptist.org.uk) or [www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organizations/watchet-baptist-church](http://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/organizations/watchet-baptist-church) to buy those tickets and we hope to see you there.

*Mike Sherburn*

Pastor, Watchet Baptist Church, 07466 195 976

[watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://watchetbaptist.org.uk) • [youtube.com/watchetbaptist](https://www.youtube.com/watchetbaptist)

*Please note – I am away from my desk on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings and am unlikely to respond on those days.*

The Sanctuary Sessions proudly presents

from Nashville      Watchet's own...



**Drakeford**

Saturday 18 July, 2pm



**MATT LEVETT**

Saturday 15 August, 7.30pm

Scan  for info & tickets or visit [watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://watchetbaptist.org.uk)



## CHURCHES CONTACTS AND REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

### WATCHET METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Andy Day 01643 705 175 [andy.day@westsomersetmethodist.org.uk](mailto:andy.day@westsomersetmethodist.org.uk)  
Regular Sunday Service 10.30am.

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### ST DECUMAN'S CHURCH

Revd Mark Phillips 01984 639 669 [revdmarkphillips@outlook.com](mailto:revdmarkphillips@outlook.com)  
Regular Service (usually Holy Communion) is at 10.45am each week. On the first Wednesday of the month there is a Communion Service at The Sanctuary at 9.45am – the next ones are on 4th March and 1st April. To receive our weekly news sheet, please contact Sarah Lander: [sclarkelander@gmail.com](mailto:sclarkelander@gmail.com)

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### WATCHET BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister Mike Sherburn 01984 633 755 [www.watchetbaptist.org.uk](http://www.watchetbaptist.org.uk) or  
[youtube.com/watchetbaptist](https://youtube.com/watchetbaptist)

Regular meetings: 'big church' on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays; 'little church' smaller groups various locations inc The Sanctuary on 1st and 3rd Sundays.

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### WATCHET SALVATION ARMY

Samantha Searle 07979 575 453 [Samantha.Searle@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:Samantha.Searle@salvationarmy.org.uk)  
Regular Sunday Meeting 10.30am

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### WATCHET CATHOLIC CHURCH

Deacon Vincent Woods 01984 634 681  
Regular Service Catholic Mass at The Methodist Church weekly Friday morning 9.45am.

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## USEFUL CONTACTS

**WATCHET TOWN COUNCIL** 01984 633 344

**WATCHET VISITOR CENTRE** 01984 632 101 [info@lovewatchet.co.uk](mailto: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@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:izzy@somersetccc.org.uk)

**WATCHET DRIVES AND BICKWATCH COMMUNITY CAR SCHEMES** Community Vehicle Co-ordinator Donna Stevens 07599 955 096 [coordinator@watchetcct.co.uk](mailto:coordinator@watchetcct.co.uk)  
Monday to Thursday, 9:00am-12:30pm

**QUANTOCK FOOD BANK** [quantockfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:quantockfoodbank@gmail.com) or 07483 815 122

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For Bookings call 07891 821 861

**FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ** [watchetdementia@gmail.com](mailto:watchetdementia@gmail.com) 07973 638 030

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**MARKET HOUSE MUSEUM** Gill Williams 01984 634 001/Gay Chilcott 01984 631 411

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07585 024952 [rkilner@summerfield.co.uk](mailto:rkilner@summerfield.co.uk)

[www.summerfield.co.uk](http://www.summerfield.co.uk)



# WATCHET COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM

## WATCHET CONNECTS ADVERTISING

**Watchet Connects** is a free not-for-profit newsletter published bi-monthly and distributed to around 2,200 households in Watchet by volunteers. Many of our readers look to **Watchet Connects** as their 'go to' source of local information, 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** 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.

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 [info@watchetcct.co.uk](mailto:info@watchetcct.co.uk) or [editor@watchetcct.co.uk](mailto:editor@watchetcct.co.uk)

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

### Advertising Prices per issue:

Whole page £70

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Article and Ad deadline for the September/October edition is 1st August



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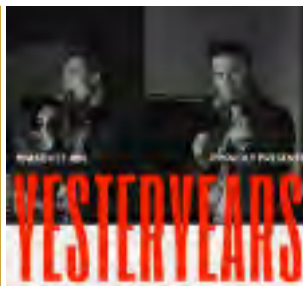
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## July & August Dates

|                                               |               |                                                            |            |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Sunday 5 July</b><br><b>Pheromones</b>     | <b>3pm</b>    | <b>Sunday 16 August</b><br><b>Luke does Bublé</b>          | <b>3pm</b> |
| <b>Sunday 12 July</b><br><b>Bob Thompson</b>  | <b>3.30pm</b> | <b>Sunday 23 August</b><br><b>Danny Jukebox</b>            | <b>3pm</b> |
| <b>Sunday 19 July</b><br><b>Portway Blues</b> | <b>3.30pm</b> | <b>Sunday 30 August</b><br><b>Renegades</b>                | <b>3pm</b> |
| <b>Saturday 1 August</b><br><b>Abba Stars</b> | <b>8.30pm</b> | <b>Saturday 5 September</b><br><b>Colin Nun DJ - Vinyl</b> |            |
| <b>Sunday 9 August</b><br><b>Yesteryears</b>  | <b>3pm</b>    |                                                            |            |

### Book Club 2nd Tuesday of the month



### 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)

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