WATCHET CONNECTS

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2026



EDITION 46

Sponsored and Published by
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EDITOR'S PAGE

Welcome to issue 46 of Watchet Connects

As you read this issue you will find it is full of lights, music and carol events, very fitting for this time of dark nights and winter weather. Watch out Watchet! Even though I am not the world's best singer I love singing carols!

The Salvation Army are making their annual **TOY APPEAL** for youngsters who might otherwise miss out this Christmas, see page 45. A great cause. A lot of groups are currently seeking volunteers, maybe you could make an early New Year's Resolution and aim to give some time to your local community. There are different opportunities, depending on your interests, The **Quantock Foodbank** (p7), **The Phoenix Centre** (P9), **National Coastwatch** (P9) and **Watchet Memorial Ground** (P36). All these groups depend on volunteers and our community will be the richer for your input.

Wishing all our readers a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, see you in 2027!

Thank you to all our Watchet Connects team, and to Peter Mather for his Christmassy cover photo.

A note from Christian Williams, compiler and artworker.

For this edition, I stepped back temporarily into the shoes of Claire while she was globe-trotting on a well-deserved break. Having compiled and artworked *Connects* for 3 years I handed this massive task to the far-more-talented Claire earlier this year. As just a poor cartoonist, I never had her skill so please accept that this issue is not up to her usual standard!

On a serious note, I have spoken with visiting friends from other counties and towns around the UK and they have been amazed at what goes on in Watchet, and how useful *Watchet Connects* must be to its local community. "And *what*? It's *free*?!" they utter. So if you value what this small team of volunteers does every 2 months to bring you all that's happening please let us know. It really matters to us. A short email to *editor@watchetcct.co.uk* will be really appreciated. Thank you, Chris (AKA Chiz).

The deadline for JANUARY/FEBRUARY issue will be 18 NOVEMBER

Our printer needs extra time to deliver before Christmas so please send any copy or updates on adverts to *editor@watchetcct.co.uk* before this date.

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.

SANTA'S SLEIGH

On Christmas Eve, Santa's sleigh will be travelling along its annual route bringing tidings of love, joy and happiness to everyone along its way

Santa asks that his sleigh has plenty of space to travel merrily along; starting at Cherry Tree Way (5pm) calling at:

Normandy Avenue, Cassino Road, Mariners Way, Reed Close, Maglands Road, Liddymore Road, Quantock Road, South Road, Woodland Road, Risdon Road, Grove Close, Flowerdale Road, Wristland Road, Roman Way, Ramon Avenue, Helwell Green, Culvercliffe Road, Doniford Road

Santa's sleigh will stop and wait at both estate entrances to Holm View and Kingsland so those wishing to meet Santa have plenty of time to come out to meet him, then off again along Doniford Road, Norton's Corner, Anchor Street, Mill Street, Whitehall, St Audries Court, Swain Street, Market Street, West Street and finishing at Lorna Doone.

Santa looks forward to seeing all children, young and old! During his visit, Santa will be presenting prizes to the winners of this year's **WATCHET ILLUMINATIONS COMPETITION** for the best decorated house, street and best decorated shop/ business window.

We thank you for your marvellous support and for making Watchet Shine Brightly with festive cheer.

Have a Wonderful Christmas and a Very Happy & Healthy New Year

Best wishes,

Watchet Carnival & Watchet Illuminations xx





SANTA FUN RUN/WALK SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER

We are raising funds for interim repairs to the old War Memorial Pavilion. Run or walk 1 lap up to 10 laps(5k) around the Memorial Ground. Dress in your Christmas festive or Santa outfit to take part.

Tickets at Visitors Centre from November 1st £5 adults £1 children (under12s must be supervised).

Sponsor forms in VC or Albert's 'Ardware or on our '*Watchet War Memorial Recreation Ground Committee*' charity Facebook page.

Online QR code link here for tickets/ donations.

Please use the sponsor form and get your family and friends to sponsor you to support this good cause.

Free to watch please come and cheer the runners/walkers on and buy a coffee/tea or a raffle ticket (great prizes) - it all helps!

Registration 10.30am (you can buy your ticket on the day)

11.00am start - 1.30pm.

Contact 07935 318 022
or *lorileewatchet@gmail.com*

Use the QR code below to get your tickets for this year or visit:

www.ticketsource.com/booking/select/ormdnxagzrqy

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07599 955 096 / 01984 633 344 9:00am – 12:30pm Mon to Thurs
coordinator@watchetcct.co.uk www.watchettowncouncil.org

QUANTOCK FOODBANK

Volunteers Wanted! 💚

Our local Foodbank & Community Pantry is looking for friendly, reliable volunteers to join our team.

We need help with:

- 📦 Sorting and organising food donations
- 🛒 Preparing food parcels and pantry supplies
- 🚚 Driving and/or crewing the pantry van

No previous experience is needed — just a willingness to help and a friendly attitude. Full guidance will be provided.

Every hour you volunteer helps us support more people in our community.

Interested in getting involved?
Get in touch with us to find out more or to arrange a chat.

quantockfoodbank@gmail.com
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WATCHET PHOENIX NEWS

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Over the summer when the lunch clubs were closed. some of the volunteers had a rest! However during the summer we ran a successful craft sale with help of Friends of the Phoenix.

We would like to thank all our Watchet Pheonix helpers and volunteers as well as a very big thankyou to Watchet Radstock Co-op for the collection box they have for us there, and to their customers for filling it.

Watchet Phoenix Centre are still **seeking volunteers** to help at our Tuesday and Wednesday Clubs.

Ann Lewis, Vice Chair

NATIONAL COASTWATCH INSTITUTION

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS



The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) was formed in 1994 to fill the gap left by HM Coastguard closing their lookouts. NCI is a wholly volunteer organisation and is dependent on the goodwill and generosity of the public.

Today there are over 60 stations operated by volunteers who are the eyes and ears along the coast reporting to HM Coastguard and support the RNLI

Watchkeepers are trained in maritime surveillance to a level agreed with HM Coastguard and are assessed within 2 years of opening. Having achieved this the station becomes a “Declared Facility Status” station, Minehead achieved theirs in March 2026.

Minehead has been operating for over 2 years, we are open 3 days each week, our aim is to be able to open 7days a week and looking for more volunteers, who can commit to at least 3 hours a week.

For more information, please email *tony.clarke@volunteers.nci.org.uk* or call into the station or look out for us at various local events.

Article and Ad deadline for the January/February edition is 18 November!

NEWS FROM KNIGHTS TEMPLAR COMMUNITY CHURCH SCHOOL AND NURSERY

We have had a wonderful start to the new school year, new learning and friendships, exciting opportunities and plenty of reasons to look forward to the months ahead.



In September, we warmly welcomed new Reception children, who have settled into school life with confidence. We also welcomed new families into our Specialist SEN Unit, The Den and across the wider school.

KS1 had an exciting start to the new school year with happy faces, excited chatter and plenty of enthusiasm as children settled into their new classrooms, getting to know new routines. They are exploring the fascinating life and artwork of Frida Kahlo, discovering more about her colourful paintings and using her work as inspiration for their own creative ideas. This year they are also learning about our local area of Watchet with lots more opportunities to explore our special locality, developing their understanding of the place where they live and learn.

In KS2, newly appointed Year 4 Leaders have taken on important responsibilities around school. Head Boys, Head Girls, Prefects and House Captains help to make KT school a better place for everyone. Prefects are already showing great leadership by supporting Reception children at lunchtime, helping them in the lunch hall and House Captains are making sure they have someone to play with outside. Prefects have taken on the important job of helping prepare the hall for worship, putting out chairs and benches and holding doors open. Small jobs, but they make a big difference.

Across the school, we nominated class representatives for very exciting roles this year. 'Eco-Warriors' will work hard to care for and protect our school environment, while 'School Council representatives' will help to lead our charity events throughout the year. 'Digital Leaders' have the particularly important task of helping everyone stay safe online, ensuring that our impressive collection of Chromebooks, iPads and VR Headsets are treated with care and respect. We are very proud of all new leaders and look forward to seeing them develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills throughout the year.

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continued...

A LITTLE REQUEST

If you are having a clear-out, we would be grateful for any play food, play kitchen items or small-world resources, such as little people, animals, vehicles or other small figures which would be wonderful additions to our continuous provision, giving more opportunities for imaginative play and storytelling.

Our brilliant KTSCA have a number of exciting events planned: discos for the children; bingo and quiz nights for parents and the community next year, and our ever popular Christmas Fayre (5th December 11 – 1pm), Easter Eggstravaganza and a Summer Fete as well as an author visit for World Book Day!

From all of us at Knights Templar Community Church School, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year — here's to more laughter and learning in 2027!

Article and Ad deadline for the January/February edition is 18 November!



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WORDS IN WATCHET FESTIVAL 2027

FEBRUARY 19TH – 21ST

Programme and competitions

wordsinwatchet.com

Our new website can now be seen on-line, see above, and printed programmes for the weekend should be available later in December. We plan to deliver a programme to each Watchet Resident in early January.

Meanwhile, do have a look at the online programme. You will find lots of information, and we think there will be something to interest everyone. Booking is directly from the website. Plan your visit, as some of our venues are small, it is a good idea to book early.

We have organised plenty to entertain and interest you, on subjects such as Gardening, Crime writing, Poetry, Fantasy, History (from fossils to Sir Francis Drake) and Nature, as well as Farming and Ecology. There are workshops for budding creative writers and we open on Friday 19th February with a packed children's day and an adult Storytelling in the evening (not to be missed!).

We are also delighted to announce that Words in Watchet's 2027 **Poetry and Flash Fiction Competitions** have gone live on the new website *wordsinwatchet.com.*
All entry details and fees are available if you follow the links, and you can also see some tips from one of our Poetry Judges, Chrissy Banks, about writing your entry. Mat Bryden is our second Poetry Judge, and Elizabeth Delo will judge flash Fiction entries. There is a small prize for the highest rating poem written by a Watchet Resident, so do have a go! Start thinking about your entry, get writing and enter before 17th January!

Don't let the winter blues get you down, get your creative juices going and start planning for a fun packed February. Join us February 19th – 21st.

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WATCHET CARNIVAL

Carnival Committee have been busy planning for November and December Events.

SATURDAY, 21ST NOVEMBER Coffee Morning at Watchet Phoenix Centre. Time: 10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. "Good Morning Watchet" A warm welcome awaits with delicious cakes and bakes, homemade produce, crafts, raffle and time well spent over a cuppa with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you.

SATURDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER
Watchet Carnival's Black-Tie Christmas Ball at Watchet Bowling Club. 7pm to midnight. £30.00 per person.
Sorry, all tickets now sold.

ILLUMINATIONS COMPETITION
(judging from 20th December) Twinkle, twinkle, festive sparkle. Brighten up the town this festive season. Prizes given for the best decorated house, street and best decorated shop/business window - remember to plug in/switch on from 5 pm onwards so the judges see your beautiful festive creations. Father Christmas will present prizes to the winners on Christmas Eve when on his annual tour around Watchet.

CHRISTMAS EVE Santa's Sleigh: Father Christmas and his helpers will be spreading good cheer to all on Christmas Eve. It's a very busy night for Father Christmas and he would love to sleigh-by all Watchet roads but small overcrowded roads mean we have to plan a route so that as many residents as possible can have the opportunity to come along and see Santa Sleigh without having to travel too far.

Please come and join us on our route, details on FB and at Visitor Centre.



MARINER COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP

COME AND SEE US ON DECEMBER 4TH!

Lots is happening behind the scenes in the old bookshop, but at Watchet's Late Night Shopping on December 4th you will be able to come along and see our progress. No pressure on us then, though we will not have finished all that we are planning, but do come and say hello and maybe buy some Christmas present books! It should be a magical evening!

Before that, for those of you waiting to donate books, the Mariner Community Bookshop team have decided to hold our first **BOOK DONATION DAY** on Monday **9TH NOVEMBER** 10am – 4pm, and we will welcome donations from then onwards every Monday during the winter.

Our 'Official' opening is planned in the New Year, on **SATURDAY JANUARY 30TH**, but, we have lots to do before then, so we'd better get on….

More details of our opening will be in the Jan/ Feb 2027 Watchet Connects.

The Mariner Community Bookshop Leadership Team

WATCHET COMMUNITY CHOIR

After a very busy September, especially during the 40's weekend which was great fun, we had a quiet October. Now we are busy rehearsing our Christmas Songs ready for the Christmas period.

So far in December we have 6 events booked, including Watchet's Late Night Shopping on the 4th, Elliotts Touch 5th, Salvation Army 12th, Stogursey 16th, Doniford Farm Park 18th and East Quay 23rd. A busy month!

Watchet Community Choir wish you all A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS.

Ann Gedge

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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



PHEW, NOW TO START PLANNING AGAIN!

Huge thanks to all of you for supporting Watchet Summertime again this year, we think it was the best ever, despite the postponing of the Fireworks!! The new Boat show and having Teddy Boy race his RIB up and down the Bristol channel was a great hit! Feedback from boat owners, tourists and residents was that they all had a great time and that Summertime brings out the best in the town.

Have a look at the video, donated by Western Marinas, it's pinned in our Watchet Summertime FB page and website, showcasing highlights of the week.

Special thanks must go to Western Marina; Magna Housing; Harbour Community Bookshop; all contributing traders; those who supported us with prior fundraising efforts; anonymous donors; Warren Bay Holiday Village; Warren Farm; Watchet Boat owners and all of you for making Summertime 2026 our best so far!

We have our **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** on **TUES 1ST DECEMBER** 7pm at the Pheonix centre, please come along, tell us what you thought and join the committee to support our events next year.

WATCHET STREET FAIR – THAT'S IT FOR 2026!

LETS LOOK FORWARD TO 2027!

A very Big Thank You to all the Stall Holders who have supported Street Fair throughout the season and to the people who have come along to support the Stall Holders. Special thanks to all our helpers, including organiser 'Mark Cheese' and the Gazebo Boys and girls who are down at 7am to help him. Thanks to the Marina for car parking and the many other people who keep Street Fairs running smoothly (including the amazing one-off, Molly Quint – Ed) This year the weather has been wonderful for every Sunday and the Entertainment has been great.

We are now looking forward to 2027, our first Sunday is on 7th March. If anyone would like to have a Stall in 2027, please phone me.

With Very Best Wishes, huge Thanks Again to you all, and, (dare I say it so early), A Very Happy Christmas.

Molly - 07557 644 141

Article and Ad deadline for the January/February edition is 18 November!

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AUTUMN BEACH CLEAN

A GREAT COMMUNITY EFFORT

In September, 40 volunteers scoured the beach, town and coast path bringing back a variety of ocean debris and discarded litter. Gathering on the slipway to West Street Beach before heading off in all directions, volunteers returned to The Sanctuary after an hour where everything they had collected was sorted for recycling.

22 plastic bottles, 7 glass bottles, 93 aluminium cans and an array of plastic tubs and single use coffee cups were picked up, along with 3 large sacks of non-recyclable rubbish and some larger metal items. Interesting finds included a wheel hub, a rear-view mirror and a shoe - the prize going to 9 year-old Alina for finding a tiny golden earring.

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved. Every piece of litter removed is one less that can make its way into the ocean. Do look out for news of the next event in early 2027.

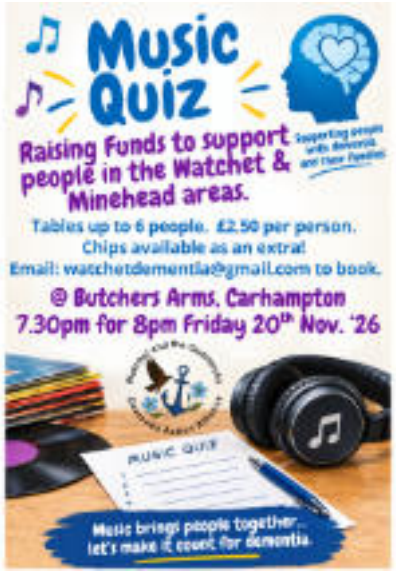


Plastic Free Watchet and Million Mile Clean are part of a national initiative by Surfers Against Sewage. For more info visit: sas.org.uk or follow on Facebook at 'Plastic Free Communities in West Somerset'.

WATCHET FORGET-ME-NOT CAFE DATES

We will meet at The Sanctuary, Swain Street, Watchet from 10.30am to 12noon on November 11th and 25th. On December 9th we will hold our Christmas Lunch at The Sanctuary and on 23rd we will be open for anyone living with dementia or their carers to drop in for a tea or coffee.

We are holding a Fund-raising MUSIC QUIZ at the Butcher's Arms in Carhampton on Friday 20th November 7.30 for 8pm. Details and tickets from Margaret Tatham (*watchetdementia@gmail.com*)



ARTS AND CRAFTS AT THE PHOENIX

This group is not a teaching group, but we all learn from each other with various types of arts and crafts. Bring your own projects or come along and see if any crafts being done you would like to learn. Cost is £3.00. Bring your own drink. Free parking in Phoenix Car parking and 2.30pm first Thursday of the month.

New contact details:
Contact Pam - *bzarajic@icloud.com*

Dates:

Thursday November 5th, December 2nd 2.30pm

CRIME FICTION BOOK CLUB

If anyone would like to join there are a few places available. Cost is £2.50. This includes library book, hot drink and hire of hall. Phoenix Centre free parking in their car park. 1.00pm first Thursday of month.

New contact details! **Contact Karen - *kfc479@btinternet.com***

Dates:

Thursday November 5th, Thursday December 2nd 1pm

QUANTOCK GUITAR TUITION

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Email: mickie_ritchie@hotmail.com

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WATCHET SINGERS

The Watchet Singers are in action once more!

Following a few months when it seemed that we would be unable to continue, we are now singing and flourishing under the inspiring leadership of Anthony Forester-Bennett. Preparations for Christmas are under way, and our main Christmas presentation this year will be based on the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, well loved by everybody.

Please come to our Christmas Carol Service on December 17th. 7.30 at the Methodist Church, enjoy what you hear, and join in with some traditional carols.

We will also have a slot at Watchet Late Night Shopping. This has not yet finalised, but do look out for us there.

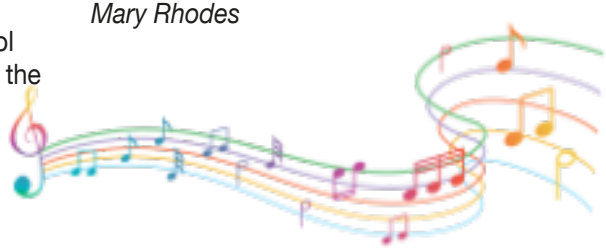
We still have room for more singers in the choir. Why not join us?

At the time of writing, we are still in need of an accompanist. If you think you could fill this post, or know of anyone likely, please contact us.

thewatchetsingers@gmail.com

We wish everybody a wonderful Christmas!

Mary Rhodes



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- The wrong family members ended up with any of your estate
- If after you passed away, your spouse remarried and the estate you intended for your family ended with the new spouse's family instead
- Your Will created family conflict
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WATCHET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

HAVE YOU FILLED A SURVEY IN YET?

Dear Residents of Watchet

Have you completed your Neighbourhood Plan consultation form yet? We have enjoyed meeting you at various events and have 147 replies so far. A few more events will be advertised soon. Then we need to start writing our plan so we meet the deadline of the Somerset Council Local Plan. As I write this, in early October, we have a meeting in a few days at which I will be sharing the themes gathered below with my fellow Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee members.

Theme	*Mentions*	*Theme*	*Mentions*
Community spirit	134	Harbour / marina	72
Overdevelopment / housing	121	Facilities & services (schools, post office, leisure)	69
Transport & road access	117	Arts & culture / East Quay	61
Coastal erosion & environment	96	Youth engagement	54
Employment & local business	88		
Paper mill site redevelopment	83		

You can see of the 147 replies, we have 134 people who rate Community Spirit as the number one thing they are proud of in Watchet – I think that's fantastic.

Our town is vibrant, despite road closures and empty spaces (papermill site)

Let's band together to plan for Watchets future:

Please complete the consultation (you can do it with the qr code above), come to a meeting and let us know your ideas so we can protect what we love and plan for a flourishing Watchet.

Bernice Scott-Field - Chair of Neighbourhood Planning and Director

Watchet Coastal Communities Team 07502 242 309

FRIENDS OF WATCHET STATION

It was with great sadness that we learned on 11th October of the passing of the chairman of West Somerset Railway PLC, Jon Jones Pratt.

JJP - as he was affectionately known - steered the railway through difficult times, helping the longest heritage railway in the UK survive through thick and thin.

He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Our thoughts are with his family and his closest colleagues.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS BROKEN? REPAIR THEM ON TIME!

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL REPAIR CAFÉ ON SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

Christmas time is almost here again. High time to check if your Christmas decorations are still okay! If they're not, stop by our **REPAIR CAFÉ CHRISTMAS SPECIAL** event. There's a good chance that our volunteers can find the problem and solve it together with you. In 60 percent of the cases, Christmas lights' cords are repaired successfully.



Has your inflatable Santa lost his puff? Does your Christmas tree support no longer have a leg to stand on? Now is the time to get set for the festive season, and save some money on unnecessary replacements, and help the environment by reducing unnecessary landfill.



2027 Repair Café timetable - we aim to have repair café events on the first Saturday of alternating months, as follows:

February 6th
April 3rd
June 5th
August 7th
October 2nd
December 4th



Recent fixes: Fly-mow with severed cord – broken cane chair – standard lamp crushed by removals men – bronze archer figurine refixed to base – radio with broken switch – computer with faulty graphics software – and many more.



We happily look at all portable repairs and, where possible, fix them at the event. Occasionally repairs are taken away and done later. When a repair is not possible, we advise on how to seek a cost-effective repair professionally or, if necessary, how best to dispose of irreparable item.

Watchet Community Centre, Doniford Road TA23 0TE

Saturday 5th December 10am to midday

A Big Thank You to all our supporters:

Chives • Corner Café • East Quay Kitchen

• Hellikers • Liddymore Road Co-op • Watchet Deli • Watchet Marina Café

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

SAT 19 SEP – SUN 31 JAN 27 10am – 5pm daily (10 – 4 in January, closed Mondays) **JOY – AN EXHIBITION AT EAST QUAY GALLERY.** Free, donations welcomed. Over 50 artists from Somerset and beyond explore and reflect on the theme.

SAT 19 SEP – SUN 3 JAN 27 10am – 5pm daily, 10 – 4pm Jan, closed on Mondays) **OUTFALL BY BRIONY GILLARD GALLERY 2 EAST QUAY. FREE, DO**nations welcomed. An exhibition exploring the hidden politics of wastewater, bringing together layered narratives with immersive sound and moving images.

TUES 3 NOV 5.30 – 7.30pm FOLK JUICE - FOLK TALES at East Quay Kitchen. Free, donations welcomed. Join us as we settle into winter with home grown Folk tales.

WED 4 NOV 6 – 9PM SCREENPRINT POSTER PRINTING at East Quay Print Studio. £20 (£10 for members) Design and print a poster in this 3 hour evening class using pre-prepared stencils to create bold, graphic posters in connection with Studio 10.

SUN 8 NOV 10.45am REMEMBRANCE SERVICE At St Decumans Church All welcome.

WED 11 NOV 7.30pm WATCHET MARKET HOUSE MUSEUM TALK at Methodist Schoolroom. Adrian Webb presents Somerset Loyalties on the Eve of the Civil War. £1 members, £3 non members. All Welcome.

WED 11 NOV 7 – 8.30pm MUSIC CLUB – LAB SESSION. Creator Space East Quay. Free, donations welcomed. Join us for a guided workshop focussing on a specific theme or concept, exploring sound, percussion, voice and creative techniques with Seb Tesouro

SAT 14 NOV 10 – 12noon Methodist Church **TABLE TOP SALE AND CHRISTMAS FAIR**. Charity Tables free. To book a table please phone 07983 739 734.

17th November 7.30pm WCS AGM in the Phoenix. This is an important time for our organisation when we can talk about the year gone, either good or bad, and the year coming. There will be a glass of wine and nibbles and our Raffle, which does help to keep us afloat. Also it is the day to pay your Membership fee of only £8 per person. Please come and join us and perhaps you would also like to join the Committee if there is still a place

WED 18 NOV 7 – 9pm SPOKEN WORD at East Quay Kitchen. Free, donations welcomed. Join us for our regular monthly spoken word open mic night, hosted by Elaoise Benson. This month's guest poet is Astrid Solace.

THURS 19 NOV 7pm FILM SCREENING – FREE PARTY at East Quay Kitchen. Admission £5. The untold story of the UK's largest ever 'illegal rave' – 1992's infamous Castlemorton Common Festival and the Criminal Justice Act.

FRI 20 NOV 7.30 FOR 8PM MUSIC QUIZ at the Butchers Arms Carhampton. Supporting people with dementia and their families. Teams up to 6 (£2.50 per person). Details and tickets from Margaret Tatham (*watchetdementia@gmail.com*)

SAT 21 NOV 10am – 1pm **CARNIVAL FUNRAISER COFFEE MORNING AT THE PHOENIX CENTRE**. Bake Sale, Home-made Jams, Chutneys, Relishes, Raffle, All welcome. come for coffee and chat.

TUES 24 NOV 6.30 – 7.30 pm **DRINK AND DRAW AT EAST QUAY KITCHEN**. Free, donations welcomed. A relaxed social art session to enjoy creating over a drink, and exploring different materials. This month, we will be exploring foam stamping and festive artwork.

WED 25 NOV 7 – 8.30pm **MUSIC CLUB – OPEN SESSION AT EAST QUAY KITCHEN**. Admission free, donations welcomed. Come along to East Quay's Music Club Open Session, providing a space to explore new styles, share ideas and enjoy making music with others in a relaxed and friendly environment.

THURS 26 NOV 7pm **FILM SCREENING – SPACE SHORTS** at East Quay Kitchen. £5 Following our gathering on social infrastructure, we introduce community spaces doing things differently in this series of inspiring short films.

THURS 26, FRI 27 AND SAT 28 NOV 7.30pm. at the Backyard Theatre Skittlepin Theatre present **CHRISTMAS AND THE CANTERVILLE GHOST**. Tickets £10 from *www.backyard-theatre-watchet.uk* or call the Ticket Source Box Office: 0333 666 3366 This show supports The Quantock Foodbank.

FRI 27 – SUN 29 NOV times vary daily – see poster elsewhere. **ST DECUMAN'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AND FAYRE** Decorated trees, stalls, raffle, refreshments etc

SAT 28 NOV 11am – 4pm **SENSING WASTE/WATER/PLACE**. Meet in the Creator Space EQ Suggested donation: £5 - £10. Join artists Bryony Gillard and Feral Practice for a walking workshop to sense and relate to waste, water, and the other than human world.

SAT 28 NOV 7pm – midnight **WATCHET CARNIVAL'S BLACK TIE CHRISTMAS BALL** at Watchet Bowling Club. A wonderful evening of music food and dancing. £30 per person, contact Jen 07786 511 405. "We have had a marvellous response to our Black-Tie Christmas Ball and ALL TICKETS ARE NOW SOLD. Many thanks to everyone who has kindly purchased a ticket and given their support.

Article and Ad deadline for the January/February edition is 18 November!

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

TUES 1 DEC 5.30 – 7.30pm **FOLK JUICE – FESTIVE HEDGEROW WEAVING** at East Quay Kitchen. Free, donations welcomed. Come along to weave festive decorations.

TUES 1 DEC 7pm at The Phoenix Centre **WATCHET SUMMERTIME ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**. All welcome to come along, tell us what you thought, suggest any ideas for next year and join the committee to support Watchet Summertime.

FRI 4 DEC **WATCHET LATE NIGHT SHOPPING**. Choirs and entertainments throughought Watchet centre, shops opening late, music, entertainment, sparkle and Christmas spirit. See publicity nearer the time and come and join in!

FRI 4 – SUN 6 DEC times vary each day **METHODIST CHURCH CRIB FESTIVAL AND CRAFTS TO MAKE**. Over 100 nativity sets to see and crafts to make Refreshments in aid of our mission projects in India and Solar Power who provide electricity for people in the sub-Saharan Africa.

SAT 5 DEC 11am – 1pm **KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE**. All welcome.

THE BACKYARD THEATRE

The Backyard Theatre in November and January – do not miss!

Watchet's very own Skittlepin Theatre are presenting a Seasonal Play, 'Christmas and The Canterville Ghost' on three consecutive dates: 26th 27th and 28th November, based on a story by Oscar Wilde you will **not** want to miss it!

After the Oscar Wilde play, the theatre will go 'dark' for December but will be getting ready to welcome everyone back with The Great Baldini's All New Magic Show on January 2nd. Watchet looks forward to welcoming The Maharajah of Mystery back, to sprinkle some of his magic over the start to 2027!

For all dates and booking details see diary pages.

For all tickets, book online: *www.backyard-theatre-watchet.uk/* or call the Ticket Source Box Office: 0333 666 3366

WHAT'S ON

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

SAT 5 DEC 10am – midday **CHRISTMAS SPECIAL REPAIR CAFÉ**. Watchet Community Centre TA23 0TE. Bring your Christmassy (and other) things to fix – see article.

SAT 5 DEC 5pm **ELLIOT'S TOUCH LIGHT SWITCHON IN WHITEHALL**. Sparkling lights unveiled and Watchet Community Choir sing.

SUN 6 DEC 11 – 1.30pm (Registration 10.30) **SANTA FUN RUN/WALK ROUND THE MEMORIAL GROUND**. Wear your festive or Santa outfit and run, walk or hobble 1 to 10 laps round the ground. Get sponsored to raise funds for the interim repairs to the War Memorial Pavillion. £5 adults £1 children (under12s must be supervised). Sponsorship forms from Visitor Centre 1st Nov onwards. Tea/coffee for onlookers plus some lovely raffle prizes. Come and join in the fun! See article for further details.

WED 9 DEC 7.30pm **WATCHET MARKET HOUSE MUSEUM TALK** at Methodist Schoolroom. Nicholas Nugent presents Spice Ports. £1 members, £3 non members. All welcome.

WED 9 DEC 7 – 8.30pm **MUSIC CLUB – FESTIVE CELEBRATION** at East Quay Kitchen. Free, donations welcomed. Come along to East Quay's Music Club Festive Celebration and perform in a relaxed atmosphere.

THURS 10 DEC 7pm **WINTER CALLING** – Winter stories and folk Songs with Hannah Moore and musician Danny Pedler. At EQ Kitchen. £5 Gather around for an evening of enchanting winter stories and folk songs.

SAT 12 DEC – SUN 31 JAN 2027 10 – 5 pm daily (10- 4pm in January, closed Mondays) **STEART: CONNECTING COASTAL COMMUNITIES**. Studio 10 Project Space EQ. Free, donations welcomed. A group exhibition by local artists working with a range of materials, each exploring the wetland nature reserve of Steart Marshes.

SAT 12 DEC 6.30pm at Salvation Army Hall. **WATCHET COMMUNITY CHOIR SING, PLUS SUPPER**. Join in and enjoy supper together.

SUN 13 DEC 10.30 **A CAROL SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE** Watchet Salvation Army Hall. All welcome.

WED 16 DEC 7 – 9pm **SPOKEN WORD** at East Quay Kitchen. Free but donations welcomed. Join us for our regular monthly spoken word open mic night, hosted by Elaoise Benson. This month's guest poet will be Alex Petkov.

THURS 17 DEC 7.30pm at Watchet Methodist Church **WATCHET SINGERS PRESENT THEIR CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE**. Come and listen and join in with some traditional carols. Retiring collection for charity (TBC).

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FRI 18 DEC 5 – 6.30pm **COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL** at The Sanctuary. 2 course Christmas dinner for donation of £3, £1.50 for children. All welcome.

FRI 18 DEC 7pm Watchet Community Choir sing at **DONIFORD FARM OPEN EVENING**

SUN 20 DEC 10.30am **TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE** at the Salvation Army Hall. All welcome.

SUN 20 DEC 4pm **TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE** at St Decumans Church. All welcome.

SUN 20 DEC ONWARDS CARNIVAL ILLUMINATIONS COMPETITION JUDGING. Prizes given for the best decorated house, street and best decorated shop/business window - remember to plug in/switch on from 5 pm so the judges get to see your beautiful festive creations. Prizes presented on Christmas Eve by Father Christmas. See poster.

SUN 20 DEC 6 – 7pm **BAPTIST CHURCH CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT** at Knights Templar School Hall. All welcome.

WED 23 DEC 4pm **WATCHET COMMUNITY CHOIR SING A FESTIVE SING-ALONG** at East Quay Courtyard. Free, donations welcomed.
East Quay's annual sing-along with Watchet Community Choir. Bring your family and friends and get yourself in the festive spirit!

THURS 24 DEC From 5pm. **CHRISTMAS EVE SANTA'S SLEIGH**. All round town, Santa's Sleigh will visit as many roads as he can to give as many residents as possible the opportunity to come along and see Santa Sleigh See poster and FB for times and route details.

MORE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2027

SAT 2 JAN 3pm **THE GREAT BALDINI'S ALL NEW MAGIC SHOW** at the Backyard Theatre. Booking necessary. Tickets £12 (£8) from *www.backyard-theatre-watchet.uk* or call the Ticket Source Box Office: 0333 666 3366. This master magician returns with his comedic delivery to the BYT to wow family audiences with his jaw-dropping illusions. DON'T MISS!

SAT 30 JAN 11am **MARINER COMMUNITY BOOK SHOP WILL OPEN**. Come along and see the new bookshop!

SATURDAY 27TH FEB Exmoor Beekeepers **INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE** See article Page 36: early booking strongly advised.

Article and Ad deadline for the January/February edition is 18 November!

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

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 CHAIR 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*

FIRST TUESDAY 7.30pm THE BRITISH LEGION BOOK CLUB

WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS 2:30-5:30PM at The Sanctuary - a warm welcome at Watchet Baptist Church's **OPEN DOORS**. Hot drinks and snacks, games, craft and chatter and a warm welcome to everyone. Just pop along.

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

WEEKLY WEDNESDAYS From 7pm LADIES DARTS NIGHT at The Bowling Club.

WHAT'S ON

REGULAR WEEKLY CLASSES & EVENTS

EVERY OTHER WEDNESDAY 10.30am FORGET-ME-NOT CLUB at The Sanctuary. All enquiries to Margaret Tatham 07973 638 030 or *watchetdementia@gmail.com*.

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. Contact Karen on *kfc479@btinternet.com* 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. Contact Pam on *bzarajic@icloud.com* 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 CHAIR 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.

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Watchet Connects
is currently sponsored
by
Watchet Coastal Community Team
and
Watchet Community Choir

To sponsor or advertise, please see the inside back page



Local cartoonist Chiz's off-the-wall greeting cards are on sale at the Visitor Centre: Be Bold, Be Different!

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REGULAR WEEKLY CLASSES & EVENTS

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!

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

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY 2pm GARDENING CLUB at The Phoenix Centre £2.50 inc free raffle. Contact Lori Lee 07935 318 022 or *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. 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*



EAST QUAY

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

GROUPS FOR ADULTS
FREE REGULAR GROUPS ON TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS
FOLK JUICE (1st Tues) / MUSIC CLUB (2nd & 4th Weds)
HERB FOLK (3rd Tues) / SPOKEN WORD (3rd Weds) /
DRINK & DRAW (4th Tues)

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 Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

EXHIBITIONS
SHOWING IN GALLERY 1: JOY OPEN EXHIBTION by selected artists from Somerset and beyond reflecting on the theme of "Joy." 19.09.2026 - 31.01.2027
SHOWING IN GALLERY 2: OUTFALL by Bryony Gillard. Through immersive sound and video, *Outfall* exposes the hidden politics of wastewater by tracking the invisible flows traveling through our pipes, bodies, and waterways. 19.09.2026 - 31.01.2027
SHOWING IN STUDIO 10 PROJECT SPACE:
STEART: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES by local artists working with a range of materials, each exploring the wetland nature reserve of Steart Marshes. 12.12.2026 - 31.01.2027

PRINT STUDIO
The Print Studio at East Quay offers a dynamic programme of courses and workshops for printmakers of all levels. Check out the Watchet Connects listings to find out what's coming up in September and October.

EVENTS
There's so much happening this November and December. From film screenings and artist conversations to live music in the Kitchen and our annual festive sing-along with the Watchet Community Choir.

Check out the Connects listings for the full schedule.

www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk 01984 263103
@eastquaywatchet

Onion Collective CIC, Company 08323538

THE WEST SOMERSET NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL TRUST IN WEST SOMERSET

The West Somerset National Trust Association has around 270 members, who are either NT members already, or volunteer at NT properties. Most are in the area bounded by Porlock, Bridgwater, Taunton and Wellington.

We provide activities such as talks, coach outings, local 'self-drive' events, and group lunches. Many of our social events are in the Quantock area or close to Minehead.

We average two events per month throughout the year, and produce a quarterly full-colour magazine, with occasional eMail updates for members who can receive them. Most of our events occur during working hours between Monday and Friday, so our main attraction is to those no longer in full-time employment, though we welcome new members of all ages. Our talks held in Minehead during the winter months are also open to non-members and are advertised locally.

Membership is £10 per year, and lasts to the end of November, or to the next year for those joining after September 1st. Our web site *www.wsnta.co.uk* is easily found, and includes a contact-us section, or you can write to:

David Beach, 9 Middle Street, Minehead TA24 5JH



WATCHET CONSERVATION SOCIETY NEWS

On the 15th September those present enjoyed a really excellent talk by Steven Powels about Otters Near You, which was well attended.

Our next Open meeting is on 17th November in the Phoenix at 7.30pm which is our AGM. This is important meeting for our organisation, and is when we can talk about the year gone, as well as plans for the year coming. There will be a glass of wine, nibbles and our Raffle, which does help to keep us afloat. This is also the time to pay your Membership fee of only £8 per person. Please come and join us and perhaps you would also like to join the Committee.

Best Wishes *Molly - Chair WCS*

WATCHET TWINNING

The Twinning AGM was held on October 28th. The committee are busily negotiating a joint visit to Saint Renan in conjunction with the West Somerset Brass Band. This will take place at the end of August 2027, and will enable Twinning members to spend time together with their French counterparts, and to follow the band as they play for a series of concerts in the area. This is a very exciting prospect for us all. Watch this space!!

AMY B HAIR

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

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

The Salon also supports The Little Princess Trust Charity

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

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

WATCHET WAR MEMORIAL GROUND

APPEAL FOR FUNDS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Watchet War Memorial Ground, the home of generations of successful cricket and football teams for over a century, needs financial help.

The pavilion was built and grounds provided in order for Watchet and wider community to honour soldiers and sportsmen who fell in World War 1. The War Memorial Pavilion building that houses the changing rooms dates from 1929 and is now in a state of disrepair, and needing attention so that people today can still enjoy using the facilities.

Watchet has produced some amazing sportsmen over the years, including Somerset legend Harold Gimblett who made a century on his County debut at Frome in 1935 and went on to play for England. Other notable players starting their cricketing careers on the Memorial Ground were Allan Pearse and Haydn Sully who both went onto play for Somerset and, more recently, Jacob Lintott who currently plays for Warwickshire. The War Memorial Ground has hosted Somerset County Cricket teams on several occasions, the most recent being when Brian Close brought a team to play against Watchet CC. The present Watchet cricket team recently beat Stogumber to win the West Somerset League Cup and are still producing great players.

In the winter months football takes centre stage, and currently Watchet Town runs four adult and seven youth teams for men and women. These have enjoyed success over the years in Somerset County and local leagues.

Watchet War Memorial Ground also provides a focus for many local community events, and its importance to current and future generations cannot be overstated.

The Memorial Ground is managed by a voluntary committee and is run as a charity with funds being raised by hiring the ground out for other activities.



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Recently Watchet Flower Show was reinstated after a break of 35 years and this year the ground has also hosted a new dog show, a family fiesta day and a Santa sponsored fun run/walk with another planned for this December.

This year we have also hosted four car boot sales and in October a new Doggie Maritime Fancy Dress Fun Run/ Walk is planned.

Watchet War Memorial Ground enjoys funding support from Watchet Town Council, the Task Force and SALC. This has enabled the committee to run some events, and raise money for ongoing repairs, but this funding does not cover the amount which will be needed for the Pavillion rebuild.

The committee is currently bidding for funds to rebuild the Pavilion, as an important memorial and town legacy, but they need to raise £15,000 locally for the match funding required.

If anyone is able to help in any way or would like to volunteer at any of our fundraising events, please contact the Chairman

Lori Lee lorileeart001@gmail.com or 07935 318 022.

To donate please use this link *https://gofund.me/b09716686*

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www.QuantockFuneralDirectors.co.uk
69 Staplegrove Rd, Taunton, TA1 1DG

INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE – SPRING 2027

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT KEEPING BEES?

Our **INTRODUCTION TO BEEKEEPING COURSE**, running in Spring 2027, is the perfect starting point for anyone interested in learning how to keep honeybees responsibly and confidently.

Designed specifically for beginners, this friendly course includes basic theory and practical sessions and covers the essential knowledge needed to get started, including:

- The life cycle and behaviour of the honeybee
- An overview of beekeeping equipment and hives
- Seasonal colony management
- Bee health, pests and diseases
- An introduction to honey production
- Safety, welfare and best practice in beekeeping

The course combines clear classroom teaching with practical apiary sessions, led by experienced local beekeepers, and is ideal for those considering keeping bees in gardens, smallholdings or rural settings around Exmoor.



Three Saturdays followed later by four practical sessions at the Exmoor BKA Apiary. Cost is only £100 (includes refreshments). No prior experience or equipment is required — just enthusiasm and an interest in bees.

Come and find out if beekeeping is for you.

Starts **SATURDAY 27TH FEB 2027**
Booking & enquiries:
exmoorbeekeepertraining@outlook.com
Where: Carhampton Village Hall

Places are limited, so early booking is recommended. We look forward to welcoming a new group of beekeepers to the association.





IN YOUR GARDEN WITH ALAN JONES

There is always something to do in the garden even in winter, though I admit, if the weather is really foul or freezing cold, it takes a lot more effort to do those few essential jobs.

November is the time to plant your tulip bulbs (unless you are going to put them in pots and in a sheltered position), because the ground still has residual warmth in it. If you didn't finish planting daffs and other spring bulbs in October, get them into large pots now (at least 9 inches, preferably bigger). Depending on where you live you may have to cover pots with gravel, wire mesh or even bubble wrap, or they may make a tasty snack for the creatures you share your garden with. I saved some tulip bulbs in their original compost ready to sort in the autumn only to find the blackbirds had tossed out the labels and several bulbs in their search for worms.

Incidentally, I have never known a year for such destructive blackbirds. This summer they dug up and killed 2 young bonsai (if found in time I could have repotted them but in this year's summer heat two days with exposed roots was too much.) They dug up recently planted basil plants in the veg trug, and they decided that where I had spread the compost from our 'hotbin' in the greenhouse, and different plant troughs, they would redistribute it over all available paths. Not just once, every time I put the compost back and Ellie had swept up they would do it over again until in the end we covered up the exposed compost, but still they tried!





One rose in a pot was in danger of losing all its soil, so we put a layer of 'Cotswold chippings' over the compost. The next morning most of the chippings were on the ground. We thought this must be the work of a much bigger bird, maybe a crow, but one day we caught the blackbird at it. Careful observation showed it was a female blackbird doing all the damage, we even caught her making regular trips to the hedgehog feeding station helping herself to their food, I half

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expected to find her in the house opening cupboards. I suppose we should be pleased we have helped one little bird and her family survive a very difficult dry summer.

Only the keenest gardeners work outdoors in winter, but if you have lots of indoor plants this is the ideal time to check them out for damaged leaves or pests or even repotting. Because many of us have central heating we have created the perfect conditions for many indoor plants and seasons are largely irrelevant. Ellie has around 35 plants in three different rooms, with the majority in our sun-room. Indoor plants are her domain, and I am only called on when they need repotting. Some of the plants are duplicated because Ellie can't resist propagating the bits that fall off or need cutting off. We used to grow *Streptocarpus* as far back as 1970's and at one point had at least 8 plants. When they eventually succumbed to age or disease we tried new ones from the garden centre but these rarely survived more than a year. My theory is the plant breeders didn't want plants that would last for 10/12 years, and in their experiments for newer and more varied colours they bred out the hardiness. The sad side effect of all this is garden centres don't bother stocking them anymore. If any readers have an old fashioned plain blue streptocarpus we should love a leaf from it because it is easily propagated by leaf cuttings.

Gardeners are very easy to please when it comes to Christmas presents, we can't resist books even when we have too many already. Plants are best avoided unless you have a specific request, but best gifts of all are gardening tools: my two favourite new tools are a long handled trowel and short handled spade. Both of these will be appreciated by any older gardener although our grandson James who works in the trade, swears by his short-handled spade and bought mine so that he could use it when he comes to help. They are even popular in the construction industry; I noticed CRS are stocking them now. They are ideal for working in raised beds and for emptying the hotbin.

Happy Christmas, gardening fans!

WATCHET GARDENING CLUB

November 20th is a gardening quiz session, then December and January we are taking a break. We will restart in February.

In September we viewed photos of each other's gardens and October one of our member's demonstrated how to do a Japanese ikebana arrangement. Usually 3rd Friday of the month 2.00pm Phoenix centre with free parking. £2.50 which includes a hot drink and raffle ticket. We each bring a small raffle prize if we can, ie a small plant, bar of chocolate or any nice low-cost prize.
Contact *lorileewatchet@gmail.com*

WATCHET METHODIST CHURCH

Thank you for your generosity at our community coffee mornings every Saturday which start at 10am and finish when everyone has gone home! So far in 2026 you have raised over **£4,000** for local and national charities. Thank you so much.

TABLE TOP SALE AND CHRISTMAS FAIR
Saturday 14th November. 10am to 12
Charity tables free. To book a table please phone 07983 739 734

THURSDAY CIRCLE at 2.30pm.
Open to all and free.

Speakers on 12th November **GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND**

10th December **THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN ART**

CRIB FESTIVAL Over 100 Nativity Sets to see. Friday Dec 4th 5pm to 8pm, Dec 5th 10am to 4pm, Dec 6th 12 to 4pm. Christmas crafts to make.

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

Rev Andy Day is the minister and can be contacted on 01643 705 175

andy.day@westsomersetmethodists.org.uk

SALVATION ARMY NEWS

Christmas time is coming...

Yes and that means **THE TOY APPEAL** has launched and I am asking for NEW toys for children who would not have anything to open if it was not for the generosity of the community.

If you would like to donate a toy or two then the drop-off points are Wilkie May & Tuckwood Estate Agents or Chives Cafe in Watchet. If you can't get to either of those points, give me a call on 07979 475 453 and I will arrange to pick them up. A Christmas performance from Watchet Community choir will be held at The Salvation Army on December 12th 6.30pm come along and have a good sing and your supper.

Sunday 13th 10.30am a **CAROL SERVICE WITH A DIFFERENCE**.
Sunday 20th December a **TRADITIONAL CAROL SERVICE**.

It is important that this time of year we remember that Jesus was born to bring light to the world. May I say a big thank you for all your support in 2026.

Have a happy Christmas and may the peace of God surround you all.

Every Blessing, Sam

Article and Ad deadline for the January/February edition is 18 November!

NEWS FROM ST DECUMAN'S CHURCH



Sunday service each week, usually Holy Communion, is at 10.45am. For usual services see Churches Contact section but during the road closures, some services may be held in Holy Cross Chapel. Please see our website: www.achurchnearyou.com or our weekly news sheet for up-to-date details. To receive our news sheet please contact *Sarah Lander*: *sclarkelander@gmail.com*.

Campfire Church, for young families, third Saturday of the month at various venues.

The church is usually open daily for prayer or quiet reflection, or to look around the beautiful historic building. We have guide books available at the back of church. We also have a Pilgrim Prayer Trail leaflet which takes you around various features in the church and to the Holy Well.

Sunday 8th November **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** service at 10.45am

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 27th-29th November – see article and diary for timings and events ending with a Festive Christingle on Sunday 29th at 4pm.

Christmas Services:

29th November Advent Sunday	4.00pm Festive Christingle Service
6th December	3.30pm Guides' Christingle Service
20th December	4.00pm Traditional Carol Service
24th December Christmas Eve	4.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm Midnight Communion	
25th December Christmas Day	10.45am Christmas Communion
27th December	10.30am Benefice Service

Tower lighting: Advent and Christmas bookings will include lighting up the Christmas Star on top of the church tower! Dedications are posted on Watchet Facebook groups and in the church newsletter, with a copy in the church porch. For terms & bookings please contact *Tony Knight* on 07891 688 448.

Sarah Lander (Churchwarden) email: *sclarkelander@gmail.com*

IT'S THE COMING OF AGE FOR THE CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

On December 5th 2008 Sheila Clavey in the guise of a St. Decuman's Junior Church teacher organised the first Christmas Tree Festival at St. Decuman's. As a result of letters inviting organisations to take part there were 15 trees on the theme of Countries. Of those taking part in 2008 the Cubs & Beavers from both Watchet & Williton: Rainbows, Brownies & Guides from Watchet, The Baptist Church, The Phoenix and the Carnival Club have continued their support through the following 18 years with one break due to Covid. There were 22 trees in 2009 and 'Creation' the theme with the Festival culminaing with a Christingle Service at 6 p.m. on the Sunday. The following year saw the introduction of a Christmas Fayre on the Saturday with a midday barbecue as part of the Festival. As the years progressed so had the number of organisations taking part with by 2015 some 35 entered rising to over 50 in the last 2 years which whilst joining all sections of our community together it raises much needed funds for our beautiful church. Support has grown through the local schools, churches, youth groups & so many community & charitable groups. It is no easy task (but one we cherish) to accommodate the trees and all the stalls etc but with a 'happy'band of helpers including our electrical wizard, Jim Powers & carpenter, Eric Clavey we manage it ! Sheila & I decided some years ago that the Festival needed both the trees & stalls to survive & by working together with others I think we have produced an excellent way to herald in the Christmas Season in Watchet. Each year we decide on a theme (I hear voices murmuring 'well you do') and this has covered Carols, A Christmas Card, Colours of Christmas, Tastes of Christmas (all the sprouts, the turkey, puddings….),Through the eyes of Animals, Nursery Rhymes, Films & Musicals and my favourite Pantomime ! The Art Club made a life size Wicked Queen or was it a Witch that gave me a scare many a dark evening when I locked up. Besides the refeshments served within the church the Watchet Rainbows have continued cooking bacon baps and hot dogs from 10 a.m. on the Saturday morning. The festival runs from Friday to Sunday as per our posters.

There are electrical points for all the trees nowadays which is really great for those on locking up duties ! Apart from the Festival weekend the trees are lit during all services throughout Advent & Christmas (including any School or community group carols) and for any specially arranged group visits. So many local organisations bring so much pleasure with events throughout the year that it is wonderful to see everyone joining together to celebrate Christmas.

This year's theme is A CHILDS CHRISTMAS and I am sure there will be many wonderful ideas forthcoming ..no doubt some delightful surprises !
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Tony Knight

WATCHET BAPTIST CHURCH

Winter is my favourite time of the year. It's a less busy season, one where I will have a little more time to meet friends and enjoy lovely country walks. I look forward to cold, rainy days where I can snuggle up on the sofa and lose myself in a book, crochet or catch up with the TV series everyone's been talking about. For me, Winter is a time of slowing down, being part of God's seasonal plan, of building up physical and emotional reserves in order to start the new year with as much enthusiasm and energy as it needs. For others Winter can be a worrying time, wondering how to stay warm and fed, a time of isolation and loneliness. You will find a warm welcome at Watchet Baptist Church's Open Doors Every Wednesday, 2:30-5:30pm, at The Sanctuary. There are hot drinks and snacks, games, craft and chatter. You'll find a warm welcome, whoever you are.

Another huge reason I love Winter is that it contains Christmas colourful decorations around the town, as well as traditional and new celebrations for the birth of Jesus. Watchet Baptists invite you to join us at some of our celebrations. Look in the diary for venue/days/times.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS MEAL on Friday 18 Dec
CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT service at 6pm on Sunday 20 Dec

We will be holding a Blue Christmas service at The Sanctuary, for those who find Christmas difficult. Please keep an eye out for the date of this closer to the time.







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CHURCHES CONTACTS AND REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

WATCHET METHODIST CHURCH

Rev Andy Day 01643 705 175 *andy.day@westsomersetmethodist.org.uk*
Regular Sunday Service 10.30am.

ST DECUMAN'S CHURCH

Revd Mark Phillips 01984 639 669 *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.
To receive our weekly news sheet, please contact Sarah Lander: *sclarkelander@gmail.com*

WATCHET BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister Mike Sherburn 01984 633 755 *www.watchetbaptist.org.uk* or *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.

WATCHET SALVATION ARMY

Samantha Searle 07979 575 453 *Samantha.Searle@salvationarmy.org.uk*
Regular Sunday Meeting 10.30am

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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Mob: 07760 960235 ◆ Email: districtinspector@weacombe.co.uk

USEFUL CONTACTS

WATCHET TOWN COUNCIL 01984 633 344

WATCHET VISITOR CENTRE 01984 632 101 *info@lovewatchet.co.uk*

GP SURGERY WILLITON AND WATCHET 01984 632 701

LIGHTHOUSE COUNSELLING Sally or Tracey on 07722 618 828

VILLAGE AGENT Izzy Silvester 01823 331 222 / 07931 018 045 *izzy@somersetrcc.org.uk*

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

QUANTOCK FOOD BANK *quantockfoodbank@gmail.com* or 07483 815 122

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

FORGET-ME-NOT CAFÉ *watchetdementia@gmail.com* 07973 638 030

MAGNA HOUSING 0800 138 6107

AGE UK SOMERSET Info / Advice 01823 345 613 *www.ageuksomerset.org.uk*

SOMERSET SIGHT Info / advice 01923 333 818 *www.somersetsight.org.uk*

HOME-START WEST SOMERSET 01643 707 304

MIND IN SOMERSET MINDLINE SOMERSET 01823 276 892 Emotional Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

HARBOUR COMMUNITY BOOKSHOP Jeff and Mary Bird 01984 634 749

WATCHET CHAMBER OF TRADE (WACET) 07836 239 932 *visit-watchet.co.uk*

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

SAMARITANS If you need someone to talk to, we will listen. We won't judge or tell you what to do. Call 116 123 or email *jo@samaritans.org*

Currently, *Watchet Connects* is being sponsored by
Watchet Coastal Community Team
and **Watchet Community Choir**
To sponsor or advertise, please see the inside back page

WATCHET COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM






MyHome properties available at 25% less than their market value in Watchet.

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07585 024952 rkilner@summerfield.co.uk

www.summerfield.co.uk

SUMMERFIELD HOMES

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 organistions 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* or *editor@watchetcct.co.uk*

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

Advertising Prices per issue:

Whole page £70

Half Page £40

Qtr Page £20

(Inside Front Cover / inside Back Cover / Outside Back Cover currently unavailable)

If booking a minimum of 6 issues, a 5% discount will be given.

Scan the QR code to download the current advertiser request form.

Article and Ad deadline for the November/December edition is 1 December

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November
December

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Sunday 15 Nov 3.30pm
Elivis
Saturday 21 Nov 8pm
DJ Colin Nunn
Sunday 22 Nov 3.30pm
Juice
Sunday 29 Nov 3pm
Danny and Victoria

Sunday 6 Dec 3pm
Top of the Pops
Saturday 12 Dec 8.30pm
Ooshka
Sunday 13 Dec 3.30pm
Jay and the Rocking Demics
Saturday 19 Dec 2pm-5pm
Children's Xmas Disco with DJ Bubble
Sunday 20 Dec 3.30pm
Just James
Christmas Eve 7pm
DJ Bubble
New Years Eve 9pm
Old skool Rox









Opening Times:

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

Book Club 2nd Tuesday of the month

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

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

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

All Welcome!