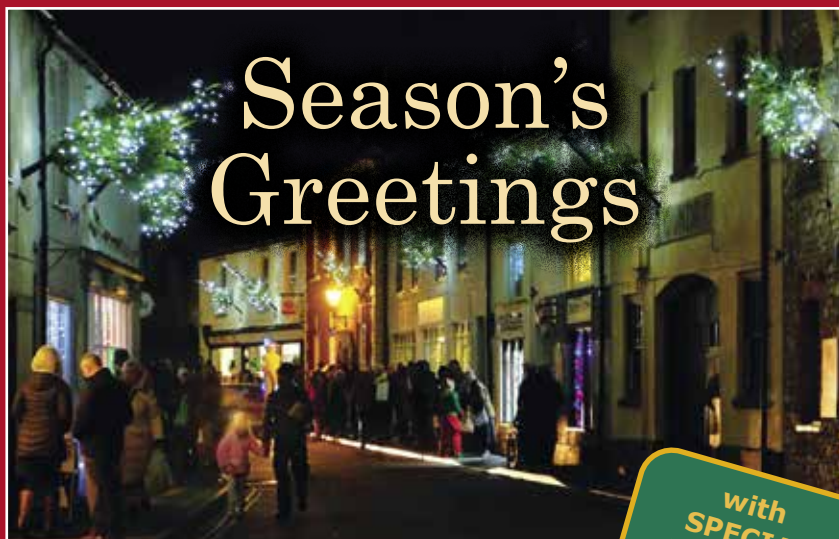


WATCHET CONNECTS

November/December 2023



*with
SPECIAL
PULL-OUT
SUPPLEMENT*

Edition 28

Sponsored by

Watchet Coastal Community Team

www.watchetcct.co.uk

From the Editor

This month, for the first time, I have received 'A Letter to the Editor'! Paul Foreman wrote suggesting to 'all the townspeople of Watchet' that it is time Watchet moved on from the Forties, which he feels was a 'murderous decade', marred by the evacuation of children, rationing and the loss of family and friends. Paul understands how much Watchet people enjoy the music, memories and dressing up of the Forties, but would like us to move on in time and celebrate the **Sixties**, which had fantastic music and ushered in many of the laws and customs we now take for granted. I know how hard people work getting the Forties weekend together, I wonder if there could be as much energy put into a Sixties weekend? Is a Sixties weekend something *YOU* would like to help put together? What do you think?

This **Watchet Connects** comes to you in **full colour**, and we think it makes your photos, articles and adverts all the more attractive. We have been wanting to do this for a while, and I hope you like the result.

This is a packed edition of **Watchet Connects**. From the time the idea of having a **traders insert** was mooted, both for Christmas and to mitigate the effects of the closure of the Blue Anchor Road, Chris (*Christian Williams AKA Chiz*), along with Jennie and Fiona have been working their socks off to get it off the ground. You can see the results in our pullout section in the middle of the magazine. So, this time, even more thanks go to Chris for all the running round he has been doing, collecting information as well as doing his usual 'job' of putting the whole magazine together and making it look more professional. Thanks to Jennie Jukes and Fiona Payne for all their assistance too, and Fiona especially for co-ordinating our lovely volunteer deliverers. **Shop local for Christmas**, it makes all the difference to our local community.

Many thanks go to **Terry Walker** for letting us use his photo for the cover, as well as some Summertime firework and Christmas photos in the magazine. We benefit greatly in having such talented and public-spirited photographers in our town. Thanks also to Maurice Chidgey for sharing his knowledge of Watchet in the past, and to all our regular article writers who (mostly) have got the hang of sending in their copy in time for the deadline. Please everyone, note the earlier deadline for January/February 2024 Watchet Connects of **24 November** (to make sure it gets printed before Christmas: printers need time off too!)

Sending all our readers Seasonal Greetings!

Rachel Irven (editor@watchetcct.co.uk)

Cover image courtesy of Terry Walker

Watchet is alive with fantastic shops this Christmas!

PULL
OUT &
KEEP
THIS

Our wonderful shops in Watchet are here to help you with all your Christmas gifts, treats and more!

Enjoy a wonderful, personal shopping experience here in our historic town with a fantastic array of different independent retailers.

This festive period please remember to support our local businesses, shop small and keep our town centre thriving!

Watchet Visitor Centre and Boat Museum



Thursday to
Saturday
10am - 3pm

www.lovewatchet.co.uk



[watchetvisitorcentre](https://www.facebook.com/watchetvisitorcentre)

Harbour Road, near bus stop • 01984 632 101

*Discount offers in this supplement are valid until 31.12.2023
Not all Watchet's retailers are listed here*

Cotton Street Collective

A unique collection of handmade crafts and gifts from 40+ local & UK crafters, Scentsational Sizzlers & Jan in 'The Sewing Room' - sewing, alterations, Memory Bears



44B Swain Street



New Horizon Gifts

Beautiful gifts for every occasion



www.newhorizongifts.co.uk

37C Swain Street • 01984 639100



Perfectly Lovely Interiors

Scandinavian inspired home interiors and lifestyle store

Receive a lovely FREE 'wish bracelet' with any purchase with this ad

Find us on Instagram & Facebook

www.perfectlylovelyinteriors.com

29 Swain Street



The Mushroom

The Mushroom Watchet is home of quirky interior pieces and woodland whimsy. Reasonably priced and definitely different!



The Mushroom



www.themushroomwatchet.com

27 Swain Street



10% Discount off selected stock with this ad during November!

Little Lighthouse Organic Children's Clothing

We are a small family run business selling organic children's clothing, including Frugi, Kite and Little Green Radicals. We also sell ethically sourced wooden toys, gifts accessories and books.



Littlelighthousekidscllothing.co.uk

Helen 07753 648 933
37a Swain Street



Little Lighthouse
Organic Children's
Clothing



#littlelighthouseshop

Adorium Antiques and Curios

Antiques bought and sold.
Eclectic mix of quality items.



Swain Street • 07557 520138



Roger's Emporium

A curiosity shop full of all sorts, with nine different traders. Lego, vintage, retro, quirky, collectables and much more. Open 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm.



Rogers Furniture

The Esplanade

Watchet Marina Shop And Café

Gifts, Toys, Clothing, Café
and Ice Cream Parlour
Open 7 days a week

**Mondays up to Xmas – 20% Off
with this advert (selected items)*



The Esplanade • 01984 631 264

Chives Cafe

Family run licensed cafe serving breakfasts, lunches, homemade scones and a selection of cakes as well as hot and cold drinks to eat in or takeaway. A selection of locally produced food products also for sale and Christmas hampers ready made or made to order.

Open 7 days till 4pm

33 Swain Street • 01984 248 181



Chives Cafe



Sam's Deli

Neighbourhood deli championing seasonal local produce, made with love and understanding.

Open
9am-3pm
Tues-Sat



samsdeliwatchet



#samsdeli1

01984 248 008

Swain Street



Veggie Patch

Family-run business offering a wide range of products from Fresh Produce, pre-packed deli range, Cakes, Pastries, Dairy, local Butchery fresh meats, and dry goods.

Free parking

Deliveries

Open Mon-Fri 9-4

Sat 9-3

South Road • 01984 634 220



Veggie Patch Farm Shop



Albert's 'Ardware

We have just launched our new Locals' Loyalty cards £5 off when your card is full.

Our stock ranges from Batteries to Weed Killer, Yarns to Plumbing, Pet Supplies to Decorating, Car Care to Cookware and everything in between.

37b Swain Street • 01984 631 055



East Quay Shop

Products from other social enterprises, 'change the world' books, art supplies, cards

10% off in shop if you bring in this ad (valid until 31.12.23)

**EAST
QUAY**



www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk

East Quay, Harbour Road • 01984 263 103

This special supplement has been made possible thanks to sponsorship from several organisations including:

Watchet Coastal Community Team

Watchet Task Force of Watchet Town Council

&

Watchet Chamber of Trade

which represents businesses in the Watchet area providing many events such as the Late Night Extravaganza, all the Illuminated Christmas Trees in the town and the Watchet tourism website www.visit-watchet.co.uk

call 07836 239 932 or email wacet@watchet.town to promote your business, local events or to join us

Please support our members by shopping locally in Watchet where possible and by using local tradespeople



CLARA MANN



We'd like to thank all our customers, for supporting us over this last year.

It has been a challenging year for all of us.

From all of us at Clara Mann
We are wishing you a very Merry Christmas
and a happy New Year.



We also like to say we have a special offer with Jodie doing £10 blow dry in October and November. She is also in her second year now at college and doing really well, she would like some more models, which are at very discounted prices in the salon through October and November.

Looking forward to seeing all



7 Swain Street, Watchet TA23 0AB

01984 248001 claramannhairdesign@gmail.com

www.claramann-hairdesign.co.uk

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Introducing The Community Council for Somerset (CCS)

*from Izzy and Steve,
your Village Agents*



Established in 1926, The Community Council for Somerset (CCS) is a charity working in all corners of the County. We believe everyone in Somerset should be able to live a healthy, independent and safe life and be part of a strong and thriving community.

Our work starts on the ground where our teams act as advocates using their local expertise to ensure that each community and its people flourish. Somerset is diverse and vibrant, and we recognise that each town and village is unique. We can react to the changing needs of each community by working in collaboration to facilitate projects and enterprises that support positive change.

As a charity, our work relies on the funding we receive from our partners, who value our knowledge in making sure that the right level of investment is put into the right places, benefiting the people that need it the most.

CCS runs the Somerset Village and Community Agent service. Village Agents provide confidential, practical community-based solutions for people, wherever they are in Somerset.

Our Village Agents host Talking Cafes at over thirty different venues throughout the County. The nearest for Watchet is held in Williton Pavilion every Tuesday between 1 and 3 pm. Talking Cafes provide a local place for people to seek advice and support for a range of different issues that might be causing worry or distress. If our Village Agents can't help, they will know someone who can!

Working with other partners in the voluntary sector, the team have also set up the Somerset Refugee Welcome Hubs in response to the war in Ukraine. We have been conducting the compulsory welfare checks on behalf of the Local Authority and we receive information about hosts/sponsors and guests to enable us to do this.

We also provide a number of specialist agent services that are accessed through referrals via GP's or Adult Social Care services. Our Community Agents will pick up referrals and support people to access community-based solutions to address health and social care needs.

A Homelessness Agent works with multiple organisations to support those facing homelessness in the south of the County.

We have a vital team of Hospital Village Agents who work closely with staff at Somerset's two acute hospitals, Musgrove and Yeovil, as well as all the smaller community and cottage hospitals across Somerset. They support a patient's hospital discharge by providing ward staff and families with alternative possibilities, to help reduce delays once someone is medically fit.

For CCS, collaboration is key to the role we play in supporting our communities. We work with numerous statutory and voluntary services and our employees are dedicated to improving the lives of those who have hit a bump in the road. We are problem-solvers and we help people get back on track.

For free help and support or more information about how we can help please contact either:

Izzy Silvester on 07931 018 045 izzy@somersetccc.org.uk

or Steve Grice on 07958 415 270 stepheng@somersetccc.org.uk

Watchet Mothers' Club

Watchet Mothers' Club has been running for 61 years and was set up by the Baby Clinic Nurses, Ginny Nash and Pat Stronach, to enable mums to meet up for a social evening once a month.

Over the years members have enjoyed a variety of speakers and outside visits; taken part, very successfully, in the annual carnival, the St. Decuman's Christmas tree festival and performed concerts. Members have also raised thousands of pounds for charities and good causes through the summer stall on the Esplanade, Christmas Fayre and Honesty Stall at the top of Liddymore Road.

We are a small friendly group meeting in the Methodist School Room, Harbour Road, at 2.30pm on the first Thursday of the month. We would welcome new members so please come along to our meeting and join us. In November we have a speaker talking about participating in re-enactment events; December we will be making a Christmas floral arrangement; January is our New Year Party; February the Annual Lunch and in March we have a speaker giving handy gardening tips.

For further information phone Anne Reeder on 01984 631 635 or come along to the next meeting.

The deadline for copy and adverts for Jan/Feb 2024 issue is 24 Nov

Watchet Wildlife Group

The newly formed Watchet Wildlife Group is attracting a good deal of interest, with 250 members joining the group's Facebook page already. Watchet is fortunate in having a diverse and fascinating range of wildlife from the wonderful natural wildlife corridor that is our treasured Mineral Line, to woodlands, the delights of our beaches and the many rock pools inhabited by some wondrous creatures that so fascinate youngsters.

Two highly successful events have taken place. Over seventy turned up for the **Mini Beast Safari** which involved a short walk to the Pleasure Ground. Children sought out and identified a wide range of 'bugs and butterflies', and then made a record of their finds using **iNaturalist** by Elizabeth Atkinson of West Somerset Wildways. This was an amazing introduction to the diversity of wildlife on our doorsteps.

Our second event was a walk along the mineral line led by WWG member Christine LeHegarar, wonderfully chaotic but great fun for children, dogs and adults alike. Both these events were free and it is very much the policy of the WWG that wherever possible future events will also be free. We have ambitious plans for the future, and it is hoped that many such family events will be held in the New Year. At the time of writing, the WWG are forming a 'discussion group' to decide on a structure for the group and how best to take it forward. Look on our page on Facebook for more information.

Nick Cotton



Currently, Watchet Connects
is being sponsored by
Watchet Coastal Community Team
and **Watchet Community Choir**

If your business or organisation would like to sponsor or advertise,
please see the inside back page.



WATCHET
LATE NIGHT
Extravaganza!

JOIN US IN WATCHET
TOWN CENTRE FOR AN
EVENING OF FESTIVE FUN!

•SHOPS OPEN UNTIL LATE•
•STREET ENTERTAINMENT•
•STALLS•
•SANTAS GROTTO•
•MUSIC•
AND MUCH SO MORE!

FRIDAY 8TH DEC - FROM 5PM

Watchet Coastal Community CIC (Community Interest Company) News

WCCT CIC has been contributing to the **Watchet Town Council Task Force**, including helping to communicate what it is doing jointly with Somerset Council, our new Unitary authority, to address the challenges arising from the closure of the B3191. We have sponsored and facilitated the initiative to include the central insert in this edition of Connects showcasing what Watchet and its traders offer, as well as being involved in setting up collaborative meetings between parties trying to find longer term solutions for the road.

The **AGM** for member organisations will be held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 28th November 2023 at Watchet Phoenix.

On 1st November 2023 Watchet Coastal Community Team welcome Jan Ayers to the team. She has taken up the position of full time Community Co-ordinator and will be working alongside the voluntary directors to further develop and support projects in the community. We look forward to Jan introducing herself in the next issue of Connects magazine. Meanwhile, Jan's email is: communityofficer@watchetcct.co.uk

Street Fairs Molly has been running a street fair on the first Sunday of every month from March to October and has just completed another very successful season. There have been a fantastic range of stalls at the fair selling various goods including delicious hot food, arts and crafts, baked goods and cakes, jewellery, artisan coffee, Watchet ciders, local cheeses, ice cream, handcrafted chocolate, Exmoor Gin, clothing, local butchers and many more. In addition, local bands have provided music to enliven the day, together with displays from dance and arts groups.

In June we ran an extra fair specifically to help local charity and voluntary groups raise funds and awareness and on October 21/22 we supported the new Trafalgar day celebrations with stalls and logistics, in the same way we did for Summertime and 1940s events. The events have provided much needed attractions and entertainment to residents and brought visitors to the town as we all work on the challenges presented by closure of the B3191.

We look forward to next March when we start over again! With grateful thanks to Molly and her whole team!

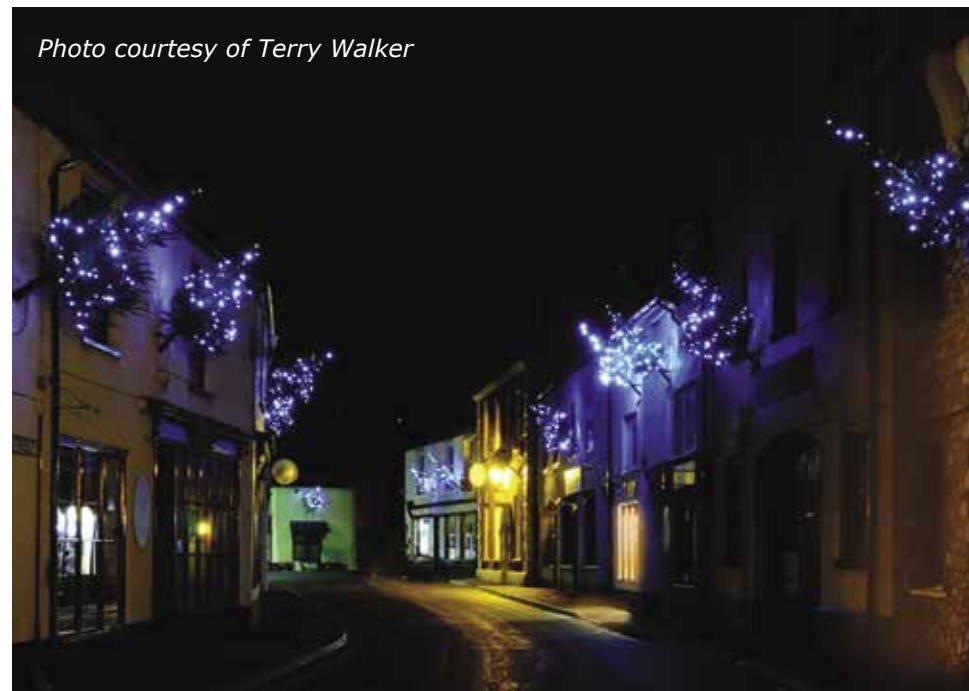
WACET News

Watchet Chamber of Trade (WACET) is continuing its good work promoting and helping businesses in the Watchet area. The current economic times means the need for support for our businesses is growing. Soon, once again, we will be providing all the illuminated Christmas trees around the town as well as the 'grand' ones for the Methodist Church, Holy Cross and the Cross. Our Visit Watchet website continues to experience a growth in visitors month on month, with the camera being the most popular destination, closely followed by the events listing (don't forget any event can be listed for free by just emailing details).

The **Christmas Late Night Extravaganza**, in collaboration with independent traders, will be held on **Friday 8th December, 5 – 8pm**. Lots to do and see including the popular Santas Grotto and a raffle with £300 worth of prize vouchers to be spent in Town Centre shops. Please support local traders.

John Richards, Chairman. 07836 239 932 pms only
events@watchet.town

Photo courtesy of Terry Walker





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www.wilkie.co.uk

Watchet Library

We're all prepared in the Library for the last months of 2023. The shelves are full of books and talking stories just perfect for settling down and while away the cooler days and longer nights of Autumn.

We've got a lovely range of stories for our younger readers ready for Watchet's **Late Night Shopping Event** on 8th December. We'll be opening between **6.00pm -7.30pm** for a **free story reading session** and we look forward to seeing you.

Throughout December there will also be our usual Festive **'Take Away' Quiz** for 'Grown Ups' and an indoor Christmas themed **Treasure Hunt** for the youngsters – with prizes, of course!

And whether you are staying put or travelling during the Christmas season, do make sure you are well stocked up with books before the holidays begin. Do get any 'must have' book reservations in early and keep an eye on the door notices and our Facebook page for our closure dates and times.

Festive Christmas Greetings to all our Library users and very best wishes for a Peaceful New Year.

Fiona and Mich



Girls-only football club for Year 7's!

Training on Mondays at 5.15 pm at Watchet Football Club and matches on Saturdays.

For more information:
Contact Jack on 07939 850 114 or message Watchet Town FC on Facebook.



Watchet Town Councillors' Surgery

Members of the Public are invited to come and have an informal chat with a Town Councillor at monthly Surgeries.

Surgeries are held on the first Saturday of the month.

4 November 10:30am to 12 noon. 2 December 10:30am to 12 noon.

Visit Watchet Town Council's Reception in the Visitor Centre, Harbour Road. 01984 633 344.

News from St Decuman's Church

Now that Autumn has arrived, it's good to look back on the summer that is fast becoming a distant memory!

Our wonderful Organist, John Whellams, produced a highly successful "Old Time Singalong Evening" as our contribution to Watchet Summertime. It revealed some hidden talents amongst our church members with its varied programme of solo performances, comedy sketches and even a recitation, interspersed with good old community singing. A good sum of money was raised and shared between Watchet Sea Scouts and church funds.

Our fantastic bakers and volunteers produced and served delicious afternoon teas during the Carnival Weekend and nostalgic wartime food at Holy Cross for the Forties Weekend.

It was lovely to see so many of you supporting our events.

Our **Afternoon Tea and Savouries** at Holy Cross during the Trafalgar Weekend raised money for **Heart for India**, our Deanery Mission Fund.

Next comes our **Christmas Tree Festival**, see Tony Knight's Article.

Regular Services: Sundays Holy Communion at 10.45am

Advent and Christmas Services

December 3rd	Advent Sunday - Christingle Service	4.00pm
December 10th	Guides Christingle Service	4.00pm
December 17th	Traditional Carol Service in Church	6.00pm
December 20th	Outdoor Carol Service.	4.00pm
December 24th	Christmas Eve Crib Service	4.00pm
	First Eucharist Of Christmas	10.00pm
December 25th	Service of Holy Communion	10.45am

This is *your* Parish Church, and we would love to meet you. A warm welcome awaits you!

Contact for Rev Mark Phillips or Janet Bremner on Useful Contacts page.

St Decuman's Christmas Tree Festival 2023

This year's event will be staged in St Decuman's from Friday December 1st until Sunday the 3rd culminating on Sunday in the **Annual Festival Christingle Service** at 4pm.

This is a very atmospheric service with all the main church lights turned off and the lights of around 40 trees added to the lit Christingles. On Sunday, the church will be open after the morning 10.45 service through until the Christingle.

From 10am on the Friday the church will be open for viewing, with some stalls and raffles plus teas and coffees. This year there will also be Hot Soups from 12 noon. As darkness falls the event will close on both Friday and Saturday at 4pm.

Saturday will see the addition of the full Fayre with many more cakes (there will be some on Friday). Outside, in our tent, The Rainbows will be cooking from 10am until at least 2pm, dishing up bacon baps etc for your breakfast, mid-morning snacks and lunches.

This year our theme for the Festival is '*Nursery Rhymes, Children's Books or Songs*' and as of October 1st some 34 organisations have booked their places. For the first time these include Williton Squirrels, Plastic Free Watchet, and the Flower Arranging Group. Last year we achieved a total of 45 trees, and it looks as though we will reach at least 40 again. It is so gratifying that so many Watchet & Williton Groups come forward to support the event making it a community inspired happy start to the Christmas Season.

For further information contact:

Tony Knight tonywatchetblues@hotmail.co.uk 07891 688 448

A note from the Watchet Phoenix Centre

We would like to thank the **Radstock Co-op** for continuing to make a counter collection for the Watchet Phoenix Centre, as the previous owners did. And thanks to all those that put coins in it.

We would also like to thank all those that helped to make the Craft Sale, the 40s weekend and the Trafalgar events successful as well as all the supporters that have helped over the summer.

We will be open for the late night shopping, providing Tea, Coffee and biscuits .

We are still looking for another driver for Wednesdays if anyone is available.



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Knights Templar Swimming Pool

The Swimming Pool is available for private
and commercial hire.



It's a fantastic little indoor pool, owned and
run by Knights Templar Community Church School
and Nursery. The money raised from memberships
and bookings help sustain this fantastic resource!



Annual Membership £25

To apply for pool membership please visit
www.knightstemplarswimmingpool.uk one membership required per
family. The account holder must be present.

Private Pool Bookings £25

Have the whole pool to yourself, or bring up to 25 friends or family
members along with you!

Watchet Singers

We have made a strong start to the autumn season under the direction
of Emily Feldberg once more. Our Taster session at the beginning of
September proved very enjoyable and encouraged a few more
members to join us.

Don't forget to come to our regular **Christmas Concert** on Thursday
14th December, and we will be singing carols around the town on the
following day.

In January, we shall be happy to meet new aspiring singers who would
like to join us for the Spring season. No auditions: we practise on
Thursday evenings in the Methodist Schoolroom 7.30-9.00. If you
would like to find out more, please contact
thewatchetsingers@gmail.com

Meanwhile, a very happy Christmas to you all. Mary Rhodes

Backgammon & Board Games Club

Every Tuesday at the Royal British Legion from
7:30pm to around 9pm (or later!)

Free! Just buy a drink at the bar to support the
RBL, please.

Latest news is on our Facebook page:
Watchet Backgammon and Board Games Club

Contact Chris on williamsart@mac.com or just turn up.



West Somerset Railway - Watchet Station

Seasonal Services on the WSR

Our standard train services may have finished for the year but there are still quite a few seasonal train services. Most run from Bishops Lydeard.



Dunster by Candlelight 1 & 2 Dec

Santa Express 2 to 24 Dec

Carol Train 17 & 18 Dec - stops all stations (Watchet around 7pm)

Winterlights 24 to 30 Dec

Dine with Santa / Afternoon Tea 3 & 10 Dec

Details on the WSR website below

New volunteers are always very welcome to join our happy team.
Email me or you might catch us on the station on Thursday mornings.

Chris, Friends of Watchet Station - fows.chris@gmail.com

<https://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk>

Mayfly Studios

The Mayfly Studios Season has proved to be the most remarkable success, the final exhibitor being Greshna Dibble and her lovely watercolours. Prompted by the road closure, the opening of the studios to a wide range of artistic and creative local talent has clearly fulfilled a need and added a new dimension to Swain Street. It is wonderful that an appreciative audience of over two thousand visitors have been surprised and delighted by the exhibits of individual artists and groups. In turn artists have had a great opportunity for the selling of work and promoting deserving local charities, all of whom have enjoyed the delightful setting of the Mayfly Studio this year.

It is the intention to run a full season of events in 2024. Starting in May and running until the end of September we will have weekly events and exhibitions in much the same way as this year. There was just not enough room to fit everyone in this year, as demand was so high, and we had to disappoint a number of people. Hopefully an extended season for next year may help. You may have an interest perhaps in exhibiting your work as an individual or promoting your particular charity. The studio will be available to each exhibitor for a week and will include setting up and taking down days. If you as an individual or your group /charity are interested please apply by email to lyndacotton@yahoo.co.uk

Meanwhile, keep your eyes open for something special in the Mayfly at Christmas!

Verena's Christmas Appeal

I will be helping local homeless people and struggling families this year in 3 ways. (All donated items will need to be new and in original wrapping please.)

- Non-perishable foods for example canned items, cereals, biscuits, pasta, rice, tea, coffee, sugar and so on.
- Kids toys or gifts suitable for ages 0 to 16.
- Medium sized gift bags. All bags will need in them: Shampoo and/or conditioner, toothpaste and brush, body wash, deodorant, flannel or shower sponge, and a sweet treat such as chocolate, biscuits, sweets. If you want to add any further items, the following are a few ideas to choose from: Hat, gloves, scarf, writing pad and pen, brush or comb, sanitary items, hair bands, torch and batteries.

The drop off address is at my mum's as usual:
Ann Oldfield (thanks mum!) 15 Quantock road, Watchet, TA23 0DZ.
Donations can be dropped off until Thursday 23rd November.

Any help what so ever will be truly appreciated, if you have any questions then please don't hesitate to ask me. Verena

EAST QUAY



KITCHEN AND BAR: Open daily for breakfast: (9am-11am), lunch (12-3pm) and evening meals and drinks (from 5pm-8pm) on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (special events some Thursdays, please check website).



NEW EXHIBITION:
COMMON THREAD, exhibition by local artist Lyn Barlow, alongside works by Grayson Perry.
16.09.2023-01.01.2024.

www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk 01984 263103

f i t @eastquaywatchet

Community Men in Sheds

We have had a busy period in Community Men in Sheds Taunton. In the last six months we have taken part in the Trash Trail. Our contribution was constructing Adam the Ant (see photo) and he (or she!) went for auction on 29th September. We are seeking funding to expand our facilities, into furniture restoration and upcycling.

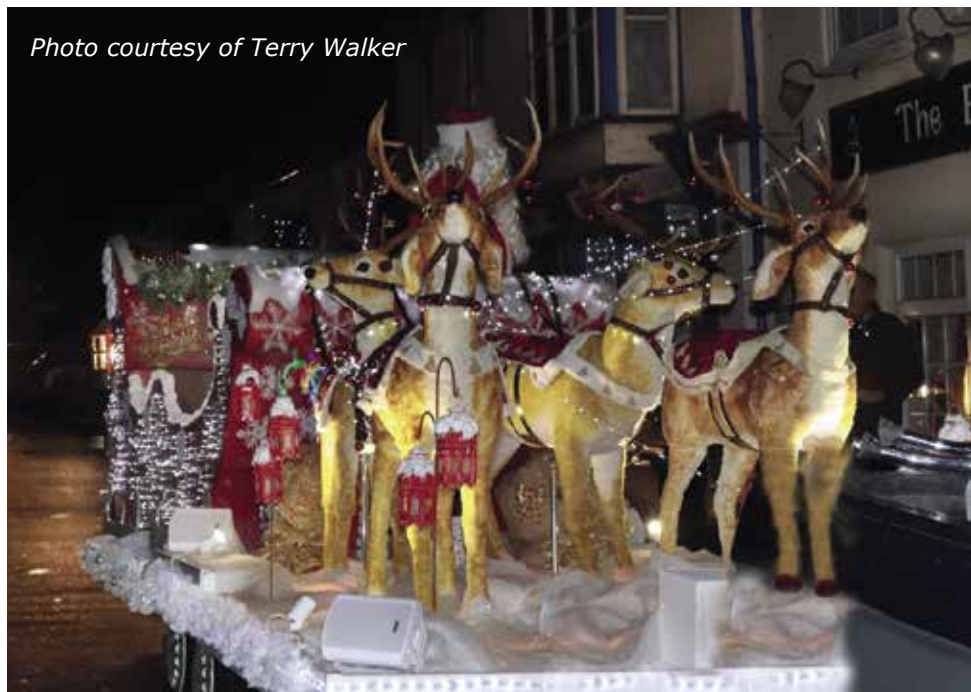
And we are looking into having an area for pottery clay working and also an area for metal working.

In Watchet we have shared market stalls in support of **Watchet Hedgehogs** and made approximately 10 hedgehogs boxes, so that rescued hogs can be released. We are also in the process of building a very large bug hotel for Nick Cotton and the **Pleasure Grounds** and once this has been sorted will be looking out for other community projects.

John Thwaites



Photo courtesy of Terry Walker



Watchet Market House Museum Winter news

As we draw near to our closing date for the season, November 4th. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our volunteers for their time and effort through the 2023 season. Without them we could not manage.

It has certainly been a moderate summer, weatherwise, and visitor numbers will be down on last year. How much is because of the road closure is hard to gauge but it has had some effect. We are still hoping to achieve over 20,000 visitors, which will be satisfying.

As we move into winter, we will be working hard to come up with something new for the 2024 season. Our winter talk season began on October 11th, and will be every second Wednesday of the month, through until March, in the Methodist School room. Check our website for details: watchetmuseum.co.uk

Jim Nicholas





VEGGIE PATCH
FARM SHOP

CALL 01984 634220





Trading Hours
Mon / Fri: 9am till 4pm
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Watchet Saint Renan Town Twinning

At the beginning of September, a small group from Watchet visited Saint Renan - our first visit in four years. A spell of hot weather put us all in the holiday mood, and we were wonderfully looked after. As usual we were welcomed in the town hall, and went on to visit the Saturday market, quite an experience! Our group ate and drank a great deal more than we normally do and generally re-strengthened the links between the two towns, renewing old friendships.

We were given a guided tour round the grounds of a magnificent castle, **Le Château de Kervéatoux**, by Olivier de Taisne who had recently inherited it.

We also had a very interesting outing to a purpose-built **Exhibition Centre** in Landerneau to view an exhibition of Tolkien's life, his creations and artworks based on the Rings of Power movie.

Our visit was an overall success, and we are delighted that our contacts in Saint Renan will be visiting Watchet for a few days next May. We look forward to seeing them, and will be looking for families to act as hosts and join in with our activities at that point.

There will be other events next year, the first being our regular New Year Hoe-down on January 13th.

A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Mary Rhodes

Le Château de Kervéatoux



Normal opening hours:

Tues/Wed 9am - 4pm

Thurs-Sat 9am - 5pm

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November Diary

Thursday 2nd Crime Fiction Book Club at The Library.

Lunchtime 1 – 2pm. Numbers limited but we have a waiting list. £1 per session for hire of book. Further info contact Lori on 07935 318 022.

Thursday 2nd Watchet Mothers' Club meet at The Methodist Schoolrooms at 2.30 pm. Today a talk about participating in reenactment events. New members welcome, contact Anne Reeder on 01984 631 635

Saturday 4th Watchet Town Councillors' Surgery at Reception in The Visitors Centre 10.30 am – 12noon. 01984 633 344.
Come and have an informal chat with a Town Councillor.

Wednesday 8th Watchet Market House Museum Talk at the Methodist Schoolrooms 7.30 pm Jeff Cox will talk about **Lysaght and Shakleton**. £3 non members, £1 members.

Saturday 4th Light Night at East Quay 6-9pm. East Quay's annual alternative to Fireworks, a spectacular musical projection mapping on EQ entire building. Free of charge.

Thursday 9th Craft Group at The Phoenix 2pm – **Christmas Projects**, including personalised crackers, wrapping paper and boxes, bookmarks, cards, knitted and felt Xmas ornaments etc. Parking free and £2.00 per session + material costs if needed. For further info contact Lori on 07935 318 022 or Ann on 01984 634 203.

Friday 10th Watchet Community Cinema at Knights Templar School, doors open 6.30pm for 7pm. Tickets £4. **Oppenheimer** (180 minutes) For information contact Anne Harrison 07557 734 795

Saturday 11th Salvation Army Coffee Morning to raise funds for Little Saints parent and toddler group.
Homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

Friday 17th Watchet Gardening Club British Legion at 7.30pm. Jane talking about looking after wildlife (especially hedgehogs!) in our gardens. Cost £1 inc Raffle ticket.
For further information contact Lori on 07935 318 022.

Saturday 18th Watchet Live Carnival Fundraiser Coffee Morning at The Phoenix 9.30 – 12.30pm. Bake Sale, Raffle.

Saturday 18th Methodist Christmas Fair and Table-Top Sale from 10am. Tombola, stalls and refreshments.

Thursday 23rd Don't Decorate Rectangles

East Quay 7.30 – 8.30pm £5, please book. Rose Davey shares her thoughts on the life and work of 20th Century Painter Philip Guston.

Friday 24th Watchet Community Cinema at Knights Templar School doors open 6.30pm for 7pm. Tickets £4.

And Then Come the Nightjars (81 mins)

For information contact Anne Harrison 07557 734 795

Saturday 25th at The Sanctuary. **Watchet Community Bookshop Christmas Book Sale**. 10 am – 12 noon.

Saturday 25th Salvation Army Grand End-of-Year Sale

New and previously owned items for sale plus light lunches and refreshments. 10am-2pm.

Saturday 25th Christmas Fayre at Knights Templar School 11am – 2pm.

Tuesday 28th Watchet Coastal Community Team AGM

for member organisations and their representatives. 7pm at Watchet Phoenix. Contact admin@watchetcct.co.uk for further information.

Thursday 30th Watchet Summertime Annual General Meeting at The Phoenix Centre 7pm – 9pm.

December Diary

Friday 1st Christmas Tree Festival at St Decuman's Church 10am – 4pm. Stalls, raffle, refreshments, hot soup from midday.

Saturday 2nd Watchet Town Councillors' Surgery

at the Visitors Centre 10.30 am – 12noon. 01984 633 344.
Come and have an informal chat with a Town Councillor.

Saturday 2nd Christmas Tree Festival at St Decuman's Church 10am – 4pm. Christmas Fayre, bacon rolls etc 10am – 2pm.

Saturday 2nd Watchet Community Choir at The Salvation Army Hall at 7pm. No tickets needed (donations welcomed).

Sunday 3rd Christmas Tree Festival at St Decuman's Church. Advent Sunday, 11.45 am – 4pm, followed by the **Festival Christingle Service** at 4pm

December Diary continues overleaf:

December Diary continued:

Thursday 7th Crime Fiction Book Club at The Library. Lunchtime 1 – 2pm. Numbers limited but we have a waiting list. £1 per session for hire of book. Further info contact Lori on 07935 318 022.

Thursday 7th Watchet Mothers' Club meet at the Methodist Schoolrooms at 2.30pm. Today making a *Christmas Floral Decoration*. New members welcome, contact Anne Reeder on 01984 631 635

Friday 8th Christmas Crafts for old and young at The Methodist Church 5pm – 8pm

Friday 8th Late Night Shopping in Watchet Town – see poster. From 5pm

Friday 8th Watchet Community Cinema at Knights Templar School doors open 6.30pm for 7pm. Tickets £4. **Barbie** (114 mins). For information contact Anne Harrison 07557 734 795

Saturday 9th Christmas Crib Festival at The Methodist Church 10am – 4pm. Over 80 crib sets on display. Christmas crafts and refreshments.

Sunday 10th Guides Christingle Service at St Decuman's Church 4pm.

Wednesday 13th Watchet Market House Museum talk at The Methodist Schoolrooms 7.30 pm, Phillip Ashford will talk about **Illustrated History of Watchet and Williton in the 17th Century** £3 non-members, £1 members

Thursday 14th Crafts at The Phoenix from 2pm. Christmas projects, including personalised crackers, wrapping paper and boxes, bookmarks, cards, knitted and felt Xmas ornaments etc. Parking free and £2.00 per session + material costs if needed. For further info contact Lori on 07935 318 022 or Ann on 01984 634 203.

Thursday 14th Watchet Singers Concert at The Methodist Church 7.30pm Christmas Carols and songs. Retiring collection for The Quantock Food Bank.

Friday 15th Watchet Gardening Club British Legion at 7.30pm. A fun gardening quiz plus come along to help us plan our next year's programme. Cost £1 inc Raffle ticket. For further information contact Lori on 07935 318 022.

Sunday 17th Salvation Army Christmas Carol Service at the hall, 10.30am.

Sunday 17th Traditional Carol Service in St Decuman's Church at 6pm.

Sunday 17th Carols by Candlelight with Watchet Baptists. 6pm at Knights Templar School.

Monday 18th Judging for **Watchet Live Carnival Illuminations** competition from today – see poster

Wednesday 20th Outdoor Carol Service at St Decuman's Church 4pm.

Friday 22nd Christmas Community Meal at The Sanctuary 5pm – 6.30pm.

Saturday 23rd Watchet Community Choir from 4pm. Come and enjoy festive tunes in The Courtyard.

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve Service with Watchet Baptist Church at Knights Templar School 10.30am.

Sunday 24th Christmas Eve Crib Service at St Decuman's Church 4pm

Sunday 24th Father Christmas on his sled, from Cherry Tree at 5pm, and finishing at Lorna Doone.

Sunday 24th First Eucharist of Christmas at St Decuman's Church 10pm

Monday 25th Methodist Church. **Methodists and Baptists** unite to celebrate Christmas Day. 10.30am

Monday 25th Service of Holy Communion at St Decuman's Church 10.45am

A date for your January 2024 Diary

Friday 5th January
The **Watchet Consort** and friends present
Old Christmas Eve

Watchet Boat Museum 7pm for 7.30pm

All welcome. Proceeds to the Quantock Food Bank

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 Agents

Izzy Silvester 07960 029 780 izzy@somersetccc.org.uk

Steve Grice 07958 415 270 stepheng@somersetccc.org.uk

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

Watchet Drives and BickWatch Community Car Schemes

Community Vehicle Co-ordinator Donna Stevens

07599 955 096 coordinator@watchetcct.co.uk

Working hours: Tuesday-Friday, 9.30am-12.30pm

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

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

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

Churches

Watchet Methodist Church

Rev Andy Day 01643 705 175

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

St Decuman's Church

Revd Mark Phillips 01984 639 669 revdmarkphillips@outlook.com

Janet Bremner 01984 632 118 or janetbremner31@btinternet.com

www.watchetandwillitonbenefice.com

Watchet Baptist Church Minister Mike Sherburn

The Sanctuary number 01984 248 169 www.watchetbaptist.org.uk

Watchet Salvation Army Samantha Searle 07979 575 453

Samantha.Searle@salvationarmy.org.uk

Watchet Catholic Church Deacon Vincent Woods 01984 634 681

More Useful Contacts

Magna Housing 0800 138 6107

Age UK Somerset

Info and Advice 01823 345 613

www.ageuksomerset.org.uk

Somerset Sight

Info and advice 01923 333 818

or www.somersetsight.org.uk

Home-Start West Somerset 01643 707 304

Mind in Somerset Mindline Somerset 01823 276 892

Emotional Support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Harbour Community Bookshop Jeff and Mary Bird 01984 634 749

Watchet Chamber of Trade (WACET)

07836 239 932 visit-watchet.co.uk

Market House Museum

Gill Williams 01984 634 001 or Gay Chilcott 01984 631 411



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The old Civil Parish of St. Decuman's and a discovery!

Nestling between the Quantocks and the Brendon hills, the old civil parish of St. Decuman's occupied the coastal plain at the mouth of a broad valley. On the coast in the north-west corner of the parish is the former borough and market town of Watchet, and two miles south on the southern boundary lies the large village of Williton. Hamlets and farms were scattered throughout the parish and by the 17th century Doniford, Bardon and Stream were the principal hamlets. In 1894 the rural district of Williton was formed and St. Decuman's Parish Council created. The parish was divided in 1902 and Watchet urban district (probably the smallest urban district authority in the country) was formed, with the remainder of the ancient parish becoming the separate civil parish of Williton. Joyce and I have found the old parish boundary sign between Watchet and Williton, still at the side of the road near where it turns into Five Bells. It must be over a hundred years old and is badly in need of a coat of paint, but the raised words are still visible. I can remember it being painted white with the wording in black. I wonder if Watchet Conservation Society could facilitate this being brought back to life again?

In 1974 the two areas became constituent parishes in the West Somerset district, with Watchet having a Town Council and Williton retaining its Parish Council. Williton then became the centre for much of the administration of West Somerset District Council until its closure in 2023 to form part of the new Somerset Council. In 2013 Mrs. Loretta Whetlor became Watchet's first mayor. Boundary changes were also made in the early 1980s, including the transfer of Rydon to West Quantoxhead.



An old boundary sign situated at Five Bells, presumably indicating the directions to Watchet Urban District and Williton Rural District. Watchet Urban District was definitely formed in 1902, so the sign must be over 100 years old.

Photo: Joyce Chidgey

The total population of St. Decuman's old parish in 1801 was 1,602, rising to 3,302 by 1901. Watchet's population was 1,936 in 1931 and had increased to 4,400 by 2002; Williton's totalled 1,161 in 1931 and 2,710 in 2002. At the present time there are 3,078 people on the Watchet electoral register and 2,200 on Williton's. Besides the expansion of Watchet and Williton in the last and present centuries, two other areas of growth have been Five Bells and Doniford. Some areas of Doniford, where the Swill or Swilly river runs into the sea, are still within Williton parish, while others are part of Watchet. In 1925 there was another milestone in local history with the arrival of the military at Doniford, a link which was to last for over 45 years.

North of Williton is a site named Battlegore (opposite Danesfield School) where a battle against invading Danes is said to have taken place in AD918. An archaeological dig took place there in 1931, but nothing of any significance was found. When Watchet folk good-humorously boast about their sporting prowess over Williton, the inevitable retort they get is: "But it was the Williton lads who sent the Danes packing at Battlegore!"

Prophetess Mother Shipton's tomb in Blackdown Wood, just outside of Stream, is said to be a copy of one at Knaresborough in Yorkshire. Nevertheless, one of her legendary prophecies has been passed down by generations of Williton and Watchet folk:

*Watchet and Doniford both shall drown,
And Williton become the seaport town.*

Strange how the coastal scene seems to have been working out lately!
Maurice Chidgey

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Email: holisticfit.training@gmail.com

The deadline for copy and adverts for Jan/Feb 2024 issue is **24 Nov**

Message from Sam Searle at The Salvation Army

I can't believe it's November, where has the time gone?

November 5th is bonfire night: I wonder, do we really understand why this date is in the calendar? It's because many years ago, a man called Guy Fawkes tried to burn down the Houses of Parliament. Here at the Salvation Army on November 25th between 10am and 2pm we have our **Grand End-of-Year Sale** that we hope will go off with a bang. We have new items, lots of bits and pieces and light lunches on offer (jacket potatoes, soup and of course homemade cake and tea.)

By the time you receive your Watchet Connects book our **toy appeal** will be well underway for less fortunate children in our area for Christmas. If you are able to give a NEW toy to help the appeal then there are collecting points around town. Look for the poster. We also have The Works on board in Minehead.

On Saturday November 11th we are holding a special Coffee morning to raise funds for the **Little Saints** (parents and toddler group). Everyone is welcome to join us for homemade cake, tea or coffee as well as a good old chat.

On Saturday December 2nd we have **Watchet Community Choir** singing in the hall at 7pm. Everyone welcome, no tickets needed (donations appreciated).

Our **Christmas Carol Service** will be on December 17th, all welcome.

Thank you to all for your support over the last year and the in the future. Happy Christmas and a peaceful and Blessed New Year. We are available over Christmas on 07979 575 453

Sam

The Forget-Me-Not Cafés in Watchet

10.30 am to 12.00 noon in The Sanctuary, Swain St, Watchet

All very welcome!

1 November	Coffee, Chat & Cake
15 November	Christmas Tree Crafts
29 November	Christmas Cards
13 December	Christmas Meal at The Star Inn

Helping the whole area become dementia friendly.

For more information, please contact Margaret Tatham
07973 638 030 or watchetdementia@gmail.com



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What's on at East Quay in November and December?

Saturday 4th November 6 – 9PM

Light Night Free

Come along to our annual alternative to fireworks with a spectacular musical projection mapping on East Quay's entire building.



Thursday 23rd November 7.30 – 8.30pm **Don't Decorate Rectangles**

Artist Rose Davey shares her thoughts on the life and work of 20th Century painter Philip Guston. £5, please book.

Friday 8th December until 8pm **Christmas Late night Shopping and Open Studios**. Pick up perfect creative presents at our East Quay shop and Christmas Open Studios and stop for a warming drink and some festive cheer.

Saturday 23rd December **Watchet Community Choir** in The Courtyard from 4pm. Celebrate the holidays with festive tunes from Watchet's very own community choir in the East Quay Courtyard.

Thursday Food Nights in the East Quay Kitchen. Join us for some special themed feasts this autumn:

Thursday 9th November – *Noodles and Dumplings*.

Thursday 30th November – *Game, Field and Forage*.

Thursday 14th December – *Middle Eastern Christmas Dinner*.

For more information and to book, please visit:

<https://www.eastquaywatchet.co.uk/events>

Millie Laing-Tate 01984 633 496



Watchet's resident cartoonist **Chiz** sells his cards, prints and T-shirts online at [Etsy.com](https://www.etsy.com/shop/ChizInkFunnyCards) (ChizInkFunnyCards) and many cards – like this one – can be bought from

Watchet Visitor Centre

This is part of a range entitled the **Lesser-Known Patron Saints**.

This card is a best-seller online, appealing to **Strictly** fans. St Rictly is the patron saint of Ballroom Dancers.

The card is printed with an "antique gold frame" using the finest eco inks and FSC card.

Another Great British Beach Clean!

Huge thanks to all those who joined us at West Street Beach in September for Watchet's Great British Beach Clean, part of the Marine Conservation Society's annual coastline survey in 300 locations around the UK.

Over 50 of us took part, including members of Watchet Sea Scouts and Watchet Guides alongside older volunteers and families with younger children.

With a relatively large amount of seaweed on the 100m stretch of beach surveyed, much of the time was spent separating fishing line, weights and hooks from the seaweed on the tideline. Discarded drinks cans, plastic bottles and plastic cups formed much of the rest of the waste collected along with some larger metal items washed up by the high tides.



All that was collected sorted outside The Sanctuary

Some of the group also undertook a wider litter pick of the town and coast path towards Helwell Bay with everyone gathering back together at The Sanctuary to sort the waste and be rewarded with tea and cake.

Our next event will take place early in the new year. Look out for dates in January's issue or follow us on Facebook at *Plastic Free Communities in West Somerset*. Our enthusiastic steering group is always keen to welcome new faces and skills to the team. Interested? Email us at pfwcommunitylead@gmail.com

Andy & Ruth Levett for Plastic Free Watchet

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Watchet Live Carnival

presents

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Shine Bright Watchet

JUDGING W/C 18TH DEC

Prizes given for the best decorated house, street and best decorated shop/business window.

Tis the season to make Watchet sparkle bright with festive light and bring some cheer.

Don't miss Father Christmas on his annual visit around Watchet on Christmas Eve.

Santa's Sleigh route starts 5.00 p.m. from Cherry Tree Way and makes its way around Watchet finishing at Lorna Doone.

Wishing you a Happy, Healthy & Wonderful Festive Time.

<https://www.watchetcarnival.co.uk>




Watchet Summertime 2023

I am sure you will all agree that, despite some challenges, Watchet Summertime week truly did go out with a bang this year!! (to quote Tony James from the *Free Press* 25-8-23). The committee is so grateful to all who participated, attended, performed, volunteered and supported the event to make sure this popular week continued in true Watchet style. We are so chuffed that we were able to raise enough funds from all your support to hope to secure this week for 2024.



However, before we get too ahead of ourselves, we need to have our **Annual General Meeting**. This is now booked for Thursday 30th November 7-9 pm at the Pheonix Centre. Please do attend, especially if you volunteered with us as we would like to show you our appreciation and secure your support for this next year!! Hope to see you there.

Dates for next Year's Summertime are 19th - 24th August

Bernice Scott-Field, Roger Ham, Don Jones, Molly Quint, Philip Bramell

The Quantock Poetry Trail Group

The Quantock Poetry Trail group is a group of about seventeen poets, writers and creatives. We have been walking together since the summer of 2022, and creating **Poetry Of Place** inspired by particular locations in and around the Quantocks.

What is entirely original about this project is that the poems are recorded then literally become **The Poetry Of Place**, by being digitally embedded into the landscape as a series of geo-located poemscape walks, discoverable, (as audio) through your smartphone.

On 28th September the first Watchet Poemscape Walk launched with words and poetry at East Quay. Now you can listen to our poems as you walk around Watchet, and also on a walk between East Quantoxhead and Kilve.

Details of how to access the poems together with the map of the Poemscape can be found in Watchet Information centre at the Boat Museum. Enjoy our words!

Look out for the roll out of the next walk in the Quantocks.

Watchet Methodist Church

Sunday services are at 10.30am each week.

Our **Saturday Coffee mornings** are from 10am. In November we are raising money for **Children in Need** and in December for **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** and the school we support in Puri, India. Thanks to everyone who contributed £343 in August for **Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance** as well as to everyone who contributed £438.46 for **Macmillan Nurses**.

Thursday Nov 9th at 2.30pm Jane and Haydn will be showing slides from their recent trip to South Africa.

Thursday Dec 14th at 2.30pm Clive Wooldridge will be joining us, with a theme of **"Christmas"**.

Bible Reading Fellowship group meets 2.30pm on Nov 13th & 27th and Dec 11th.

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of these events.

If you wish us to keep anyone or any situation in our prayers, please contact Rev Andy Day on 01643 705 175

Sunday Dec 24th at 10.30am Carol service

Christmas Day service at 10.30am united with the Baptist Church

Visit our new website www.westsomersetmethodists.org.uk



Watchet Harbour Community Bookshop

The bookshop has had a very successful season. There has been a record amount of sales compared to previous years, despite the Cleeve Hill closure. We have received many compliments about how well our stock is presented and also about the funds we raise for our main charity and for Watchet organisations. Compliments come not only from West Somerset customers but from all over the UK and we are aware that some people come to Watchet specifically to visit the shop, then avail themselves of what the town has to offer.

We have donated £13,000 to the **Cystic Fibrosis Trust** and given 13 grants/sponsorship to local groups totalling £4,640. Grants have been made to, amongst other groups, the Sea of Songs event, the outdoor film (Dirty Dancing) during Summertime and the Guides trip to London.

Please note that in the light of inflation we have increased the maximum grant we normally give to £500.

We are pleased to announce that we have agreed to extend our lease for another 3 years. This will enable us to continue our valuable contribution to the research to improve the lives of young people with cystic fibrosis as well as continuing to assist local voluntary groups and sponsor local events that help to put Watchet on the map and enhance the visitor experience.

We are now closed for the winter and re-open at Easter 2024. During the closed period we are happy to collect donations and also consider any requests for grants.

Contact us on www.watchetcommunitybookshop.co.uk or 01984 634 749.

We are holding a **Christmas Book Sale** at the Sanctuary in Swain St. on Saturday 25 November between 10.00am and 12.00pm.

Table Tennis

Have fun and keep fit! Age 55+

Mondays 2pm £2.50 PAYG Watchet Community Centre TA23 0TE

Age UK Somerset 01823 345 626 ageingwell@ageuksomerset.org.uk

The deadline for copy and adverts for Jan/Feb 2024 issue is **24 Nov**

Message from Mike at Watchet Baptist Church

I'm looking forward to Bonfire Night. For me, it's not so much the bonfires that I love – it's more the fireworks. I like lots of colour and lots of light. As a child, I always wanted to see a Catherine Wheel because my dad's attempts to get them to work in the back garden never quite delivered.

Actually, with that and the occasional firework failure (when you light them and step back and nothing happens), there are ways in which fireworks can be disappointing. I feel that way about the ones that shriek their way into the sky but don't give you a burst of light. All noise, no substance.

I reckon that's a real issue with people, too – unfulfilled promises and those people who are all noise and no substance. I wonder how many of us hope we're not like that.

I'm looking forward to Christmas, too. But there are a couple of things that mean it isn't all easy. This year, it's 20 years since my dad died. And I still miss him at this time of year. Also, Christmas is a really busy time, both in good ways and in tough ways, too. Lots of people to see, places to go, presents to find and so on. It may be that I'm not alone in all this. If you're going to be missing someone this year, or you'll be working over Christmas, or you'll be flat out getting ready and might just run out of steam, then I want you to know that you are not alone.

From my point of view, church is a lot about making sure there is always room for those who need comfort. Jesus went out of his way to hang out with people who were hurting, and if he did it, it's something church should do too.

Look out for how we're opening our doors (literally, when it comes to The Sanctuary on Swain Street) this Christmas – and throughout the winter.

Finally, celebrating Christmas is all about Jesus – who is all substance and no excess noise. And we're doing that in a few ways this December:

17th: 6pm – **Carols by Candlelight** at Knights Templar School

22nd: 5-6.30pm – **Christmas Community Meal** at The Sanctuary

24th: 10.30am – **Christmas Eve Service** at Knights Templar School

25th: 10.30am – **Joint Service** at Watchet Methodist Church

It would be great to see you this Christmas, lots of familiar faces and new ones, too.

God bless, Mike.



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Knights Templar Community Church School

What a busy start to the new school year we have had! We have welcomed lots of new families across the school and have been delighted with how our youngest learners have settled into school life.

The development of our learners, in and outside of the classroom, is key to our work and we are proud that many children across the school volunteer for roles such as being Digital Leaders, Eco-Warriors, House Captains, Prefects and Head Boy and Girl. Our Eco-Warriors currently have some of their work on display at the local library and our current School Council, made up of representatives from each class, are taking a leading role in developing plans for new playground equipment which we are all very excited about!

The **Knights Templar School and Community Association** (KTSCA) have already scheduled many of their fundraising events for this year and we are very much looking forward to their upcoming **Christmas Fayre** on Saturday 25th November, 11am – 2pm; please do come along and support the school! Already this academic year, the KTSCA have funded some amazing history-based workshops for our learners which really brought history alive.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to support with reading across the school: if you would be interested in joining our volunteer army, please do give the school office a call so we can explain the application process.

Laura Weaver, Acting Head

How do you like your Watchet Connects in full colour?

Obviously it costs us a bit more to print, but we'd really like to keep it in colour if we can. But we need help from **advertisers and sponsors**. So please get in touch: see overleaf for details.

Summertime Fireworks

Photo by Terry Walker



The Regal, Minehead

The Regal Theatre Minehead has a new Facebook account – please help this grow by 'liking' and sharing the new page.

November

After Henry – The Musical.

Thursday 2nd – Saturday 4th
7.30pm. A comedic musical drama based on Simon Brett's radio and television sit-com series.

Don Quixote Tuesday 7th

7.15pm The Royal Ballet LIVE from The Royal Opera House

The Titfield Thunderbolt (1953)

Cert U Saturday 11th 11.15am.
All proceeds to go to the Regal Theatre support fund.

Past Lives (Cert 12A) Regal Film Society. Tuesday 14th 7.30pm.

Past Lives tells the story of two deeply connected childhoods. Subtitled.

Klimt And The Kiss – Thursday

16th 7.30pm – **Exhibition on Screen** Discover the scandalous life and the rich tapestry of extraordinary influences behind one of the world's favourite paintings The Kiss by Gustav Klimt.

Avalon – The Birth of a Legend

– Thursday 23rd – 25th 7.30pm. A Waterfront Production by Fred Owen. Outside, the civil war is over, but inside the walls of the abbey it's just beginning.

Tickets for all events may be booked in advance online at regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson or from the Box Office 01643 706 430 9.30am – 12.00pm Mon – Sat; or by phone only from 1.30 – 4pm.

December

Nativity – The Musical – 7th

– 9th. In association with The MATA Regal Theatre Co. Ltd. Featuring all of your favourite sing-a-long hits from the movies.

The Sitting Duck (Cert 15)

Tuesday 12th 7.30pm. The film is based on the book by investigative journalist Caroline Michel-Aguirre. Subtitled.

The Santa Show 2023: Santa's

Christmas Wish – Friday 15th 4.00pm. Suitable for 2–8-year-olds, followed by a meet, greet & treat with Father Christmas.

Scrooge The Musical (1970)

Saturday 16th 11:00am.
All proceeds go to Regal support fund.

The Nutcracker Sunday 17th

2:00pm The Royal Ballet *Encore Live Broadcast* from The Royal Opera House

The Snow Queen Saturday 30th

until Saturday 6th January 7.30pm with some matinees. Minehead Panto People present 'The Snow Queen' Adapted from Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale this is an entirely original version of The Snow Queen which has been adapted for Pantomime.

Watchet Connects Advertising

Watchet Coastal Community Team CIC

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

Generally, not-for-profit and charitable organisations can submit articles for free. Watchet Connects depends very much on the generosity of local businesses to support our cause via advertising and sponsorship.

Watchet Connects is published bi-monthly and is distributed to over **2000 households** in Watchet by volunteers. The handy A5 booklet is usually around 32-44 pages and is available to outlying villages at cost.

Copies of this booklet are available at cost (approx 50p per copy) to outlying villages: enquire at Watchet Visitor Centre.

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

Copy deadlines are normally the beginning of the month preceding publication.

Interested?

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

Contact Rachel on editor@watchetcct.co.uk
or contact Chris on 07566 742 677 or email williamsart@mac.com

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

Watchet Connects Advertising Rates to April 2024

Size	H x W mm	1 issue	2 issues
Full page	186 x 128	£50	£95
Half page	91 x 128 [or 186 x 62]	£28	£50
Quarter page	91 x 62	£15	£25
Inside Front or Outside Back			£N/A
Inside Back			£N/A

NOTE: advertising and sponsorship rates may change from the above after April 1st.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER DATES

Saturday 4th November

Top of the Pops - 8:30-Late

Sunday 12th November – Remembrance Sunday

Mick Cleveland - 4-7pm

Sunday 19th November

Old Skool Rox - 3-6pm

Sunday 3rd December

Old Dogz New Trix - 3-6pm

Friday 15th December

Xmas Bingo - 6:30pm - eyes down 7:30pm

Sunday 24th December - CHRISTMAS EVE

Ben Prescott Xmas Eve Disco - 7-10:30pm

Tuesday 26th December - BOXING DAY

Boxing Day Skittles - 2pm Kick Off

Sunday 31st December - NEW YEARS EVE

Emma Cox Northern Soul - 8pm-Late

Opening Times:

Monday-Thursday 7pm-11pm

Friday 4pm-12am

Saturday 12pm-12am

Sunday 12pm-11pm

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

Backgammon & Board Games

every **Tuesday** 7:30-9pm,
newcomers always welcome

Cribbage

every **Thursday** at 7:30pm

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



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

Members and Non-Members Welcome