

# Watchet, Williton & Quantock ADVERTISER



May 2026 Issue 205



*Working for the Community*

**FREE COPY**

*Welcome to the May Advertiser.*

Please support our community by using this free publication and if you would like to receive a digital copy please subscribe to our mailing list at [www.watchetadvertiser.com](http://www.watchetadvertiser.com). We welcome editorial contributions and do not charge for community content.

The coming months are filled with many different events including the spectacular Wheelbarrow Race on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May starting at 2.00pm on The Esplanade. Events such as this rely heavily on the dedication of volunteers so please support whenever you can. Wimbleball Lake Countryside Fair is on Sunday 17 May and with May Day on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and the Spring Bank Holiday on Monday 25<sup>th</sup>, there is lots going on in May.

*Front page image: PS Waverley at Minehead by Shaun Davey via Exmoor Commons*

PS Waverley returns to the Bristol Channel between 26 May and 17 June but due to the increased cost of fuel, a surcharge has had to be added to some ticket prices. There is more about this on page 10.



# THE RADIO MUSEUM

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# Watchet, Williton & Quantock ADVERTISER

## Working for the Community

Welcome to the Advertiser, a free publication offering community news & events, local business advertising and visitor information.

### ADVERTISE WITH US

Boost your customer base and support your local community.

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### ADVERTISING COSTS

**Full page** 18cm high x 12.8cm wide: **£55**

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**Eighth page** 4.4cm high x 6cm wide: **£12**

*Cost is per month/issue*

*Adverts can be black & white or full colour. We accept most file formats. We also offer smaller sizes and different term options to suit your budget.*

Please send advert artwork or other content via email to Bill or Christine at [advertise@watchetadvertiser.com](mailto:advertise@watchetadvertiser.com) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month for publication in the next month's issue.

We do not charge for community content.

The Advertiser is published at the end of each month, and is available as a printed booklet or to view online at:

[www.watchetadvertiser.com](http://www.watchetadvertiser.com) and

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

## People urged to back county businesses and ‘make the most of what’s on your doorstep’

Residents in Somerset are being encouraged to support local shops, cafés and attractions while enjoying days out or food and experiences close to home. Whether it is your local pub, café, deli, grocery or arts and craft centre, the message is - make the most of what's on your doorstep.

As businesses look towards the holidays after one of the wettest winters on record in the south-west, Somerset Council's Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets, Councillor Mike Rigby said: "Valuing the county's unique array of shops and eateries is vital for the local economy. It's been a tough winter with some businesses affected by flooding but with holidays on the horizon, along with the prospect of longer, sunnier days it's the deal time to explore what's on offer locally.

We need our local businesses, and they need us. It's about having healthy, connected communities and recognising what we have. We are lucky to have some brilliant local businesses, markets, attractions and leisure offerings across the county and now's the ideal time to get out there and rediscover what's on your own doorstep. It could be as simple as picking up supplies for a picnic, enjoying a pub meal or setting out for a walk along the Somerset stretch of the King Charles III Coast Path. Why not leave the car at home and take a bus - it costs just £3 for a single fare. This summer the Exmoor Explorer bus will be running again making a trip to Porlock and beyond to Lynmouth both easy and affordable."

Lots of information is available through the Visit Somerset and Visit Exmoor websites,

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Dear Readers,

This month we are going to take a look at public Wi-Fi. It is one of those modern conveniences we have all come to rely on and is pretty much everywhere we go. Even some supermarkets now offer it as standard and it can be a welcome relief when mobile signal is poor or data is running low and your shopping list is on Alexa (as mine is!) However, while it is undoubtedly useful, it is worth understanding that public Wi-Fi is not always as safe as it appears.

The key issue is that public networks are by design, open. Unlike your home broadband where you control who connects, public Wi-Fi allows many unknown users onto the same network. This creates opportunities for cybercriminals to intercept data, set up fake networks, or exploit unsecured connections. It sounds dramatic but in reality it often comes down to simple opportunism rather than sophisticated hacking.

One common risk is connecting to the wrong network. In busy areas, it is not unusual for an attacker to create a network with a name very similar to the legitimate one. For example, “Cafe\_WiFi\_Free” instead of the official name. Once connected, any information you send could potentially be monitored. For this reason, it is always best to confirm the correct network name with staff before joining.

Even on legitimate networks caution is sensible. Avoid accessing sensitive information such as online banking, entering passwords, or making purchases while

connected to public Wi-Fi. If it is something you would not be comfortable doing on a shared computer, it is best avoided on a shared network.

There are, however, simple ways to use public Wi-Fi more safely. Ensuring that websites use “https” (most browsers now indicate this clearly) at the beginning of the domain eg <https://www.lyntonadvertiser.com> adds a layer of encryption. Keeping your device updated also helps protect against known vulnerabilities. If you regularly rely on public Wi-Fi, you may also consider using a VPN (Virtual Private Network) which encrypts your internet traffic and adds an extra layer of privacy. There are a number of free ones out there. Tunnel Bear is one option.

It is also good practice to turn off automatic Wi-Fi connection on your phone or laptop. This prevents your device from joining unknown open networks without you realising. Likewise, disabling file sharing while on public networks reduces the risk of exposing personal files.

None of this means you should avoid public Wi-Fi altogether. Used sensibly, it remains a very convenient tool. The key is simply to treat it a bit like any public space, perfectly fine to use but with an awareness of what you are doing and who might be around.

As always, any questions please send them to me, Andy at [ICT@lyntonadvertiser.com](mailto:ICT@lyntonadvertiser.com)

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## TASTE EXMOOR FOOD & DRINK FAIR

ALLERFORD VILLAGE HALL\*

*20 & 21 June 2026*

\*New venue! Find us at TA24 5HL.

[WWW.EXMOORFOODFEST.COM](http://WWW.EXMOORFOODFEST.COM)

## Spring COVID-19 vaccinations

If eligible, you need to book an appointment through the NHS App or website **before 30 June**



## NELSON'S DECORATING

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# Dementia Action Week

## Small Moments, Big Impact

18th–24th May 2026



**MINEHEAD**  
**DEMENTIA**  
**ACTION**

**Dementia Action Week is an important opportunity to raise awareness and remind ourselves that people living with dementia are very much part of our community.**

Dementia can affect more than memory. It may also affect communication, confidence, and the way a person experiences the world around them. Everyday situations can become more difficult, both for those living with dementia and for their families and carers. Small acts of understanding can make a real difference. Taking a little extra time when someone is finding it hard to communicate, offering reassurance if they seem unsure, or simply sharing a friendly smile can help someone feel more at ease. These simple moments help people living with dementia remain connected, valued, and included.

At Minehead Dementia Action (MDA), we see every week how important these connections are. We are a small local charity providing friendly and welcoming activity groups for people living with dementia and their carers in the Minehead area. Our sessions offer opportunities to meet others, build friendships, and enjoy meaningful time together in a supportive environment. Dementia Action Week is not just about awareness - it is about action. Together, we can help create communities where people living with dementia feel understood, supported, and that they belong.

To find out more about Minehead Dementia Action and our regular activities, please visit [mineheadda.org.uk](http://mineheadda.org.uk) or call 07550 014828.

We are also on Facebook, follow us by searching 'Minehead Dementia Action' or go to [facebook.com/mineheaddementiaaction](https://facebook.com/mineheaddementiaaction).

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

After 48 years of serving the West Somerset community, we have made the difficult decision to permanently close the West Somerset Advice Bureau also known as Citizens Advice West Somerset on **Thursday 30 April 2026**.

**This decision comes after careful consideration of long-term financial viability.**

### **What this means:**

Our last day of operation will be **Thursday 30 April 2026**

We will endeavour to complete current client support activities or redirect clients to an alternative option for ongoing support.

We want to express our gratitude to everyone who has supported us over the years.

# **0808 278 7842**

# Watchet

## Jumble Trail



**Date**  
Sat 30th May

**Time**  
10am - 4pm



### Explore Watchet's Community Wide Jumble Trail!

Residents will be selling items outside their homes and businesses. Follow the trail and discover great bargains and unique finds!

More details and trail maps can be found on the Watchet Jumble Trail Facebook Page or at the Watchet Visitor Centre for paper maps two days before the date.

For More Info  
Contact Kate  
Kennedy:  
**07964059296**



# Wimbleball Lake COUNTRYSIDE FAIR

Brompton Regis, Dulverton TA22 9NU  
Sunday 17 May 2026  
11am to 4pm

craft & trade stalls • food and drink • nature trail  
classic cars • watersports

Part of Exmoor Nature Festival 2026



Free entry  
and free  
parking

Wimbleball Lake Trust  
wimbleballlake.org.uk  
01566 771930  
#ItsYourOutdoors

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# Birnbeck Pier



**The Government has awarded North Somerset Council £19 million from their Growth Mission Fund in an unexpected and delightful development in the restoration project.**

This is, of course, the same government fund which has supported the Southport Pier project. With the “Pier Bridge” reconstruction works already in hand and in progress, it would seem that this funding will be directed to one of the later building phases; for the refurbishment of the island buildings.

Most encouraging are the suggestions that the provision of a landing jetty will imminently be planned for and would also be supported by this same funding. Article sources describe the work as “Restoration of the North Jetty”, although in reality it will almost certainly involve “demolition and replacement in full”, since the jetty’s present condition is irrecoverably poor throughout.

So far, the accumulated funding is now at a very substantial £44 million; probably the most grant funding awarded to any given pier restoration project and wholly deserved here.

*National Pier Society, March 2026*

## **Birnbeck Pier restoration provides opportunities for local students**

Local construction students are getting hands-on experience at Birnbeck Pier in Weston-super-Mare thanks to a partnership between North Somerset Council and Weston College. Those studying at Weston College for a T-Level in Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction will benefit from time on the Birnbeck Pier construction site. This will include guided technical walks, and opportunities to directly interact and learn from construction professionals.

In addition, two students have been selected for placements with the council’s appointed contractors following a competitive process.



*Ashton and Finton, Weston College T-Level students on placement at Birnbeck Pier.*

A combination of college and practical work-based learning, the T-Level course provides the technical skills and workplace experience needed to kick-start careers in the construction industry. 315 hours of practical experience is required in order for students to pass the course, which is a technical qualification equivalent to three A Levels.

To find out more about all the T-Level opportunities available at Weston College, visit [www.weston.ac.uk/t-levels](http://www.weston.ac.uk/t-levels).

# SEA SHANTY EVENING

A NIGHT OF  
BRASS, BOATS & SONGS

WEST SOMERSET BRASS BAND  
and DAVID MILTON

FRIDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2026  
7.30 PM

**ON WATCHET ESPLANADE**  
RAISING FUNDS FOR A NEW FORMAL  
COAT FOR THE TOWN CRIER  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH WATCHET COURT LEET

# WATCHET WHEELBARROW RACE

## 24th MAY 2026

Race starts: **2.00 p.m**

Starting Grid/Finish Line on the Esplanade.

Watchet's spectacular and 'wacky' F1 thrilling wheelie infamous race.

Teams of 2 in their racing wheelbarrows visit pit stops around the circuit of Watchet.  
Amazing customised wheelbarrows.  
Spectacular Fancy Dress.  
Grand (prix) atmosphere and barrow loads of fun!

For more details contact Jen on 07786511405 or email [info@watchetcarnival.co.uk](mailto:info@watchetcarnival.co.uk)

Watchet Town Council

# WATCHET WEDNESDAY MARKET

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
8TH APRIL TO END OF SEPTEMBER 2026  
9:30AM - 3:30PM  
ON THE ESPLANADE • WATCHET TA23 0AJ  
ENQUIRIES: [ENQUIRIES@WATCHETTOWNCOUNCIL.ORG](mailto:ENQUIRIES@WATCHETTOWNCOUNCIL.ORG)

# DUNSTER TITHE BARN ANTIQUES FAIR

**SUNDAY 10:00 TO 4:00**

March 29 <sup>th</sup> 2026.	August 30 <sup>th</sup> 2026
April 26 <sup>th</sup> 2026	September 27 <sup>th</sup> 2026
May 31 <sup>st</sup> 2026.	October 25 <sup>th</sup> 2026
June 28 <sup>th</sup> 2026.	November 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2026
August 9 <sup>th</sup> 2026	

# PS Waverley returns to the Bristol Channel in May and June

Waverley's 2026 Bristol Channel and South-West Wales timetable has now been released with the ship operating from 26th May to 17th June offering a great variety of cruising options and trips.

**SURCHARGE INTRODUCED** 13th April 2026

Waverley burns Marine Gas Oil (MGO) which heats the water in her twin boilers to generate steam, the steam is then used to drive her engine and turn the paddles. MGO is also used to create electrical power across the ship. Over the past few weeks we have been closely monitoring the price of MGO ahead of Waverley's 2026 summer season. Unfortunately we are now facing a severe price increase of over 65% compared to 2025. This level of increase is more than we can possibly bear or we will face the reality of not being able to meet the cost of the 2026-27 winter refit and dry docking. Reluctantly, we have therefore had to introduce a modest Fuel Surcharge to partly meet the increased cost of fuel. The Fuel Surcharge will be introduced from Tuesday 14th April and will have two levels. A Fuel Surcharge of £2 will be applicable on Adult or Senior Fares under £45, or £4 on Adult and Senior Fares set at £45 or over. No Fuel Surcharge will be applicable on Child or Dog fares.

The Fuel Surcharge will be kept under review as the season progresses and will be amended if the cost of fuel changes significantly.

<https://waverleyexcursions>





10-16 The Avenue  
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# LYNTON CINEMA

LEE ROAD, LYNTON, EX35 6HN  
01598 753397

## Coffee Morning in the Bar

Saturday 2 May 2026, 10.00 – 12.00

## REGAL COMEDY NIGHT

Saturday 2 May – 7.30pm

Get ready for a night packed with fun, big laughs, and something a little different for The Regal Theatre. We're bringing you a top-class lineup from the very best of the UK comedy circuit, featuring four fantastic professional comedians guaranteed to keep you entertained all night long.

## ROYAL BALLET & OPERA - EUGENE ONEGIN

(The Metropolitan Opera LIVE)

Tuesday 5 May 2026 - 6:00pm

Following her acclaimed 2024 company debut in Puccini's Madama Butterfly, soprano Asmik Grigorian returns to the Met as Tatiana, the lovestruck young heroine in this ardent operatic adaptation of Pushkin. Baritone Igor Golovatenko reprises his portrayal of the urbane Onegin, who realizes his affection for her all too late. The Met's evocative production, directed by Tony Award-winner Deborah Warner, "offers a beautifully detailed reading of ... Tchaikovsky's lyrical romance" (The Telegraph).

## ILLUMINATE - Spotlight

Friday 15 – Saturday 16 May – 7.30pm

We bring to the Regal Theatre a fun for all family dance show full of fabulously talented students from SDA! Everything from ballet, tap, commercial dance, lyrical and acro, there is something for everyone!

## The Regal Film Society Screening - TBC (Cert 15)

Tuesday 19 May 2026 - 7:30pm

## Exhibition on Screen -

### FRIDA KAHLO: THE MAKING OF AN ICON

Thursday May 21, 2026, 7.30pm

Who was Frida Kahlo? Everyone knows her face but who was the woman behind the bright colours, the big brows and the floral crowns? Take a journey through the life of a true icon, discover her art, and uncover the true story of her rebellious, passionate and turbulent life.

Tickets for all events may be booked in advance online at <https://regaltheatre.co.uk/whatson> or from the Box Office (Tel 01643 706430) between 9.30am and 12.00pm Monday - Saturday

Friday 1 May for 7 days at 8.00pm

Matinee Monday 4 May at 2.30pm

## HOW TO MAKE A KILLING

GLEN POWELL, MARGARET QUALLEY

*Disowned at birth by his obscenely wealthy family, a blue-collar will stop at nothing to reclaim his inheritance.*

15 105 minutes

Friday 8 May for 7 days at 8.00pm

Matinee Monday 11 May at 2.30pm

## GLENROTHAN

ALAN CUMMING, BRIAN COX

*Comedy drama in which a man returns after 35 years to his family's Highland Distillery to reconcile with his brother.* 12A 99 minutes

Friday 15 May for 7 days at 8.00pm

Matinee Monday 18 May at 2.30pm

## THE DRAMA

ZENDAYA, ROBERT PATTINSON, ALANA HAIM

*A happily-engaged couple are put to the test when an unexpected turn sends their wedding week off the rails.*

15 105 minutes

Friday 22 May for 7 days at 8.00pm, Matinees on

Saturday 23, Sunday 24, Monday 25 May at 2.30pm

## THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE

ANDREW GARFIELD, PHOENIX LAROCHE,

JESSICA GUNNING, JENNIFER SAUNDERS

*A modern family relocates to the countryside where the children discover a magical tree with eccentric residents. They're transported to fantastical lands, rekindling their family bond through adventures.* PG 110 minutes

Friday 29 May for 7 days at 8.00pm

Matinee Monday 1 June at 2.30pm

## THE SHEEP DETECTIVES

HUGH JACKMAN, NICHOLAS BRAUN,

EMMA THOMPSON, PATRICK STEWART *Every night a shepherd reads a murder mystery, pretending his sheep can understand. When he is found dead, the sheep realise at once that it was murder and think they know everything about how to go about solving it.*

PG 109 minutes

Friday 5 June for 7 days at 8.00pm

Matinee Monday 8 June at 2.30pm

**MADFABULOUS** 2026 British historical drama film about Henry, 5th Marquess of Anglesey.

# DOTS & SLOTS BINGO

**SPECIAL OFFER**

**WEEKEND MONEY MATCH OFFER!**



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**The Avenue, Minehead**

Offer applies weekends only (Fri-Sun). Exclusively to new members only. Deposit £10, get £10 Bingo credits. Must stay a member for 4 weeks. Credit added at first time of play. Please see our social media for full T&Cs



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18+

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