The Watchet Jubilee Geological Wall

The wall was built by volunteers from the Seahorse Centre in Minehead, advised by Dr. Eric Robinson. Seahorse is a Social Services Day Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties. Dr. Eric Robinson is a senior lecturer in Geology at University College London and Honorary Vice President of the Royal Archeological Institute.

The project was supported by The Friends of Watchet Station and The West Somerset Railway Association.

Eric Robinson
2004

Our local Limestone (grey coloured) was much used for building (the station and the Boat Museum), but also shipped to many places on the Bristol Channel to be burnt to make Lime. The fossil shells tell us that it was formed in the Jurassic Sea. The West Cliff Red Marls are rich in seams and lenses of the white mineral, Alabaster. This was shipped to Bristol to make Plaster of Paris for ornaments and quickset cement. All garden rockeries in Watchet have lumps of alabaster.

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The Pebble Mosaic

The Pebble Mosaic is a tradition in Watchet (see the pavement in the Library illustrating the life of St Decuman) so the team added it to the base of the wall (W for Watchet, the Crown for the Jubilee and the Ammonite for Geology).

Bath Stone (yellow) was brought by Brunel’s railway after 1862 (again in the chapel).

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The coast at Watchet offers very good outcrops of Limestones and Shales, which are of the Jurassic Age. The Fossils, which the rocks contain, are world-famous, some unique. Examples have been collected from the beach and brought together with the Red Sandstones quarried inland at Williton and Washford in our Jubilee Wall for all to see.

Visit the Town Museum at the foot of Market Street to see better fossils!
WATCHET JUBILEE GEOLOGICAL WALL

Jurassic: c. 190 million years ago

Lias limestone
with fossils

Top capping of beach pebbles and boulders

Limestone
with burrows

Black Mendip limestone
(Coast protection)

Triassic: c. 220 million years ago

Vein Quartz

Limestones with white calcite veins

Brendon Hills
Iron Ore

Treborough slate

Red sandstone
from Williton and Washford

Lias limestone

Local bricks

Iron slag

Alabaster

Large Ammonite

Alabaster

Alabaster