



WATCHET CONSERVATION MATTERS

Issue 6

June 2009

Stoates Mill Care Home — Planning Approval?

The Stoates Mill Care Home proposal was re-considered and approved by the Planning Committee on April 30th. The scheme aims to convert the old mill buildings into 10 residences and simultaneously construct a 61 bed care home by the Washford river and the WSR railway line.

The scheme was comprehensively introduced by Mrs Peeks, the Planning Officer before the Chairman, Tony Knight, reported that a successful site visit had led to his changing his view of the proposal.

David Simpson-Scott – our casework officer – again spoke in favour of the scheme, focusing on the issues identified as being problematical: an increase in less able and visually impaired users of Anchor Street, the size of the care home and its visual effect in the conservation area.

The scheme was approved – but with the prospect of extensive conditions, details of which have yet to be made public. The scheme has been submitted to the Government Office for the South West for comment - thus doubts remain as to whether the scheme will proceed in its present form. The West Somerset Free Press reported the scheme approved. We'll keep you informed.



An artist's impression of the entrance to Stoates Mill after completion of the works



“WONDERFUL WATCHET” ESPLANADE EXHIBITION Saturday 16th May 2009

The Society held a successful recruiting drive on Watchet Esplanade, led by Myra and Ian Barratt and Society member Jo Watson.

Our exhibits in three parts: History, Community and Geology, were praised by a party of amateur geologists studying the Kilve to Watchet coastline.

Between 11am and 4pm we felt we succeeded in bringing our aims and ethos to the public, and that those who came to see and talk with us were more informed about the architecture, history and industry of our unspoilt town.

Our exhibition in praise of Watchet was well received by locals and by three families who, after falling in love with the town, are moving here. Interest was evident in developments under consideration. Opinions were expressed about the future of the East Quay.

Roy Chave of The Esplanade Club kindly supplied tables, and other Society members supported our first attempt to bring our message to a wider audience. More will follow.

Don't Miss

Hands to Make and Mend

John Gilman

Author and Historian of Bristol Channel ports

Tuesday June 23rd 7.30 pm

Methodist Church Hall Harbour Road-Watchet
Admission free but donations welcome.

John Gilman lived in Somerset and attended Minehead Grammar School. He spent some years at sea before becoming a teacher and headmaster. A fascinating and amusing speaker, immensely knowledgeable about Watchet, he promises us an evening of entertainment about what sailors did to while away their long hours at sea. He has a lifelong interest in model ship-making and nautical crafts and is one of only a handful of experts world-wide who model in bone.