

# SPLASH POINT

**WELCOME TO SPLASH POINT PLEASURE GROUND  
THIS IS A COMMUNITY SPACE WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Please feel free to use the BBQ, but please never leave a fire unattended  
Please also help take care of this beautiful area and take your litter home with you**



**The distinctive pavilion was built over the course of a weekend in September 2015 by 50 local volunteers.**

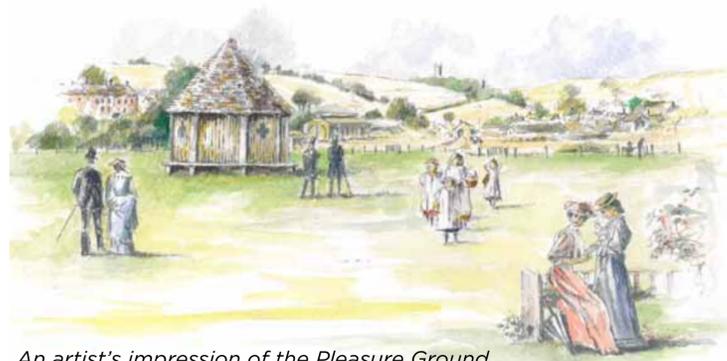
**It is an on-going community project to create a wonderful space for events, picnics, star-gazing, games, music or just to sit, enjoy the view and reflect. The newly established orchard has been created by Watchet Conservation Society.**



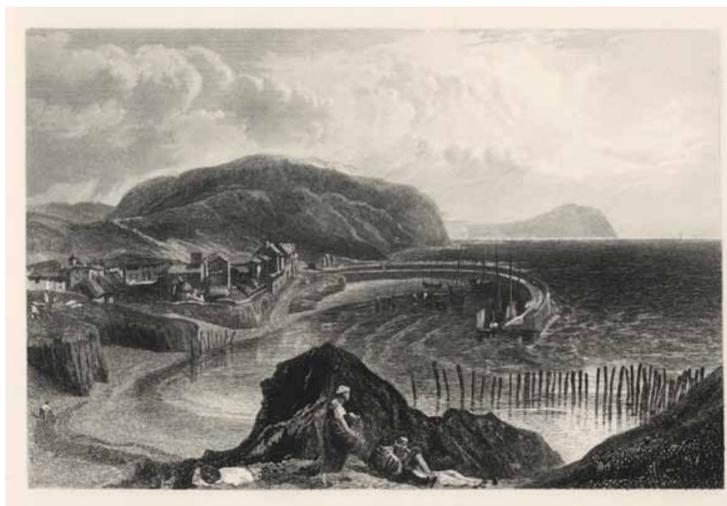
onioncollective

## Victorian Pleasure Ground

From the 1860s this area was known as 'The Pleasure Ground' where visitors came to enjoy the view, it was also the site of tea rooms known as The Beehive. This site was given to Watchet by the trustees of the Estate of Lord Egremont following the arrival of the railway in 1862. This was a time when visiting the seaside had become newly fashionable.



*An artist's impression of the Pleasure Ground*



*Watchet Somersetshire, JMW Turner*

## JMW Turner in Watchet

Artist JMW Turner came to Watchet in 1814. He had been commissioned to complete a series of drawings that would be engraved for a book titled 'Picturesque Views on the Southern Coast of England' published by John & Arthur Ash of Cornhill in London. His completed sketches are in the Tate Gallery.

Turner was an English Romanticist Landscape painter, now considered to be one of the finest painters in British history. Often called 'The painter of light' his work is sometimes thought to be the precursor to Impressionism. One of his most famous paintings is The Fighting Temeraire which hangs in the National Gallery in London.



*John Mallard William Turner 1775-1851*



Watchet was not a large port when Turner made his visit and was particularly involved in lime manufacture and fishing. Its ships were involved only in coastal trade operating mainly between the smaller Bristol Channel ports of Somerset, Devon and South Wales. By the time of Turner's visit, the Bristol Channel was experiencing a golden age of shipping, possibly providing inspiration for Turner's images of tranquil landscapes and historic buildings.

**WATCHET**  
SCRATCH THE SURFACE