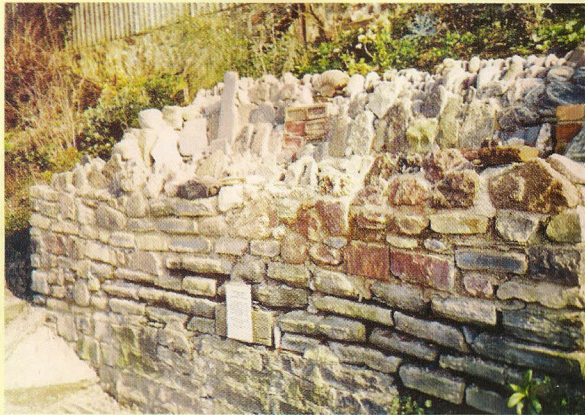


The Watchet Jubilee Geological Wall



The Wall

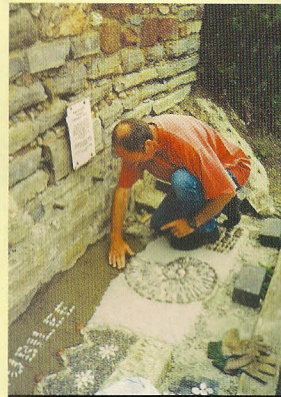
The wall was built by volunteers from the Seahorse Centre in Minehead, advised by Dr. Eric Robinson. Seahorse is a Social Services Day Centre for Adults with Learning Difficulties.

Dr. Eric Robinson is 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.



The Pebble Mosaic

Slate from quarries at Treborough in the Brendon Hills was shipped from Watchet to many places, including Wales from the 14th century up to 1924.

Iron Ore from the Brendon Hills came down the Mineral Line to Watchet West Quay, to be shipped to the Ebbw Vale ironworks.

Red Sandstone is one of the important building stones of Watchet and was

sent out by railway (look at the chapel on Harbour Road opposite the Wall).

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

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 **C**rown for the Jubilee and the **A**mmonite for Geology).

The wall was the outdoor project of the Seahorse Centre for eighteen months with the support of Friends of Watchet Station. It won a LASMO award in 2003 for the environmental initiative it demonstrates.



Ammonite

The Jubilee Geological Wall Watchet Station



Gryphaea
(Devil's toenails)



Members of
the Seahorse Centre Team
working on the Wall

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!

10p

WATCHET JUBILEE GEOLOGICAL WALL

