

COMPTON

NEWS



Number 401 – December 2023

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It doesn't seem that long ago we had the Compton Village Fete and a Coronation picnic and now here we are with the final issue of the News for 2023. It includes some local updates, plus details of carol-singing and other festive events taking place in and around Compton. Wishing you all a Peaceful and Merry Christmas, whatever your plans for the day. Happy New Year too and may 2024 hold lots of potential and promise for good things (and less rain!).



The COMPTON CLUB

Committee has signed a rental agreement with a local business to hire out part of the Club as a soft play centre for children, starting in early 2024. This means that potentially the Club can reopen for its members soon. The plan is to initially open on Thursday and Friday evenings. The Committee is looking for volunteers to help the Club out and work a bar shift. With enough volunteers, people should expect to do only one shift (6.45pm–11pm) a month. Anyone interested in helping out should send an email to timcarter405@gmail.com, with details of availability on any evening, in addition to Fridays and Saturdays. With a sufficient number of volunteers, a date for reopening will then be communicated.

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL is planning a **public meeting** concerning the water outage that affected Godalming, Binscombe and Compton in November. It will be held on Friday 8 December. According to his Facebook page, **Paul Follows**, Leader of Waverley Borough Council, is inviting representatives from **Thames Water, Surrey County Council** and other relevant bodies as well as **Jeremy Hunt, MP for South West Surrey**. Details are being formalised so do check out www.facebook.com/PaulFollowsGodalming/ or local politics news organ waverleyweb.org for updates, where it is also reported that Jeremy Hunt and MP Angela Richardson have invited Thames Water to their own, separate public meeting with details to be finalised.



SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL is looking at potentially expanding the scope of a traffic-calming scheme for Compton, to encompass not only The Street but also Down Lane, which is used by pedestrians to get to the Watts Gallery, the Chapel and the North Downs Way. It looks as if the village of West Meon, in Petersfield, may offer some clues into traffic-calming measures that could be applicable to Compton. Once funding options have been confirmed, engagement with the village and the Parish Council will begin, to gather feedback.
- The first **COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL** meeting in 2024 will be held on Wednesday 17 January, 7pm at *Pucks Oak Barn*. Details of 2024 meetings will be published in due course. For more information, visit www.comptonparishcouncil.co.uk.

✿ Need ideas for Christmas gifts and stocking fillers? Then peruse **OLD BARN ANTIQUES**, for something a little unusual. *The Street, Compton, GU3 1EB*. Open 10am-4pm, Thursdays and Saturdays and 10am-1pm, Wednesdays and Fridays.

✿ **VAN ARNHEM NURSERY**, on Priorsfield Road, is selling Hans Christmas Andersen's locally grown CHRISTMAS TREES. The nursery is open for Christmas trees seven days a week through this month, 9am to 4pm, until Wednesday 20 December. Father Christmas will also be putting in an appearance at Hans Christmas Andersen's **Santa Fir Christmas Tree Farm** in *Shamley Green*. For more information including dates and times, visit www.hanschristmasandersen.co.uk.

THE LIGHT OF OTHER DAYS. RANDOM RECOLLECTIONS OF A PAST AGE, BY RICHARD JEFFERIES

Many of you may remember Richard Jefferies who was Assistant Curator (to Wilfrid Blunt) and subsequently Curator of the **WATTS GALLERY** for 37 years, retiring in 2004. By an extraordinary coincidence, he was actually born in the Gallery, when his mother was visiting relatives. Richard's uncle, William Westbury, was custodian at the Gallery and he and his wife lived in the flat. For many years, Richard has been writing memories of his childhood. Hilary Calvert and Jane Turner have put these amusing and evocative little stories of a bygone time into a short A5 booklet for the delight of his family. There are photographs and some beautiful pen and ink drawings created by Jonathan Moore. Veronica Gates has used her expertise to get it ready for the printer. Copies are available for a contribution of £5 and the aim is to get it ready before Christmas. Please email janeturner@mac.com, or phone 01483 810789 / 07763 146448 to reserve a copy.

✿ Why not begin 2024 with a **NEW YEAR'S DAY** walk, on Monday 1 January, around the **MANE CHANCE SANCTUARY**, taking in the fresh air and the stunning views of the Surrey Hills? Walks start at any time between 10am and 2pm and will take about an hour. Participants will be able to see and meet the Sanctuary's rescued horses and ponies. Hot food, hot chocolate, mulled wine and hot drinks are available at the end in the barn to reward everyone who comes along. Tickets cost £3 for adults, £2 for children and seniors while children under 5 (and dogs!) can come for free. To book, visit www.manechancesanctuary.org/_Years_Day_Walk_2024.html.

† † † WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH? † † †



† All are welcome to the Christmas services this month, which can be found in the accompanying e-document or postcard, with printed copies of the December issue. In addition, there will be services of Holy Communion on both **Sunday 10 and Sunday 17 December, at 10.30am.**

† Toddler group **Fledglings** takes place at *Pucks Oak Barn* on Monday mornings in term time at 9.30am. Contact **Catherine** at fledglingscompton@gmail.com / 07779 022419.

† **Inside Out** meets on Saturday 2 December, 10am to 12 noon, (every first Saturday of the month) to keep the church and churchyard looking good. Contact stnicholascompton.wardens@gmail.com.

† **Bell ringing** practice takes place once or twice a month on Tuesdays at 10am. The group rings on Sundays from 10am to 10.30am. Contact phil.gorton@btinternet.com.

† If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, please contact our Rector, Sally: stnicholascompton.rector@gmail.com. Confidentiality will be respected.

Thanks & blessings, Revd Sally Buddle

ST NICHOLAS CHURCH has spaces in its choir stalls and welcomes any adults who are interested in church singing to try the choir out. It sings on most Sunday mornings and once a month in the evening (preceded by the monthly choir practice). There are extra services at Christmas and Easter and occasional weddings and funerals. The current choir members can all read music (to some extent!). Anyone who joins does not necessarily need to commit to singing every week. For further details, contact **Steven Salmon**, the organist, at stnicholascompton.organist@gmail.com.



Curains will be raised for **COMPTON LITTLE THEATRE'S SLEEPING BEAUTY**, on 11-13 January 2024. The panto promises to deliver plenty of puns, a dame, bad and good fairies, a handsome prince and a fair maiden, plus hapless sidekicks. All good family fun so do book tickets soon. Performances: Thursday 11, Friday 12 and Saturday 13 January 2024 at 7.45pm plus a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. Tickets are £12 and are available via tickets@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk and www.ticketsource.co.uk/clt.

HOWLING OWL in Godalming is hosting an "open mic" night, with 20% off pizza, on Thursday 7 December. Having rejuvenated the pavilion at the Holloway Hill sports ground, the HO team have created an inviting venue that serves coffee and pastries in the day and drinks and pizza in the evening. Kick back with 2-for-1 cocktails on Fridays/Saturdays, 5-7pm. For details and to make reservations visit www.howlingowl.co.uk. *Holloway Hill Pavilion, Busbridge Rec, Godalming, GU7 1QD.*

FREE "GODALMING CREATIVES" MACMILLAN FUNDRAISER at *Compton Village Hall, 8pm on Saturday 9 December*:

- Local artists, including Jane Richards and Nicky Ford, will be exhibiting their paintings.
 - Godalming Writers Group will be promoting books for sale and reading excerpts.
 - Photographic exhibition.
 - Gordon Ayshford & Martyn Adams are performing their songs.
 - Licensed bar selling beer, wine and soft drinks.
 - **CARD PAYMENTS** accepted for any purchases made on the day.
- Visit the Godalming Creatives JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/godalming-creatives.



UNDER 20? GET AROUND FOR A POUND ON SURREY BUSES. **Surrey County Council** has agreed further funding to reduce the cost of travel for under 20s, with many single bus journeys now costing £1. The **Surrey LINK** card, which entitles all people aged 20 and under to 50% off all adult bus fares across the County, has been extended to include tickets purchased under the Department for Transport (DfT) £2 bus fare cap scheme. Until December 2024, buses in the DfT fare cap scheme will offer a £1 single fare on adult tickets when a LINK card is shown. Participating operators include: Compass, Diamond Bus, East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership, Falcon, First, Metrobus, Stagecoach, Thames Valley Bus, Waverley Hoppa. For details of participating routes, visit www.gov.uk/guidance/2-bus-fare-cap#south-east.

Surrey Connect is a recent public transport service, launched by Surrey County Council, based on accessible minibuses, with journey bookings made on a first come first served basis. It uses software algorithms to group customer demands together in real time. The service has several Digital Demand Responsive Transport (DDRT) routes, with Farnham and Cranleigh DDRT currently the closest to Compton residents. An adult single fare under five miles costs £2 and £1 for any one under 20 years of age. Surrey Connect operates Monday to Saturday during the day. It can be booked up to seven days in advance or on the same day. To find out more about the service and to set up an account to use it, visit www.surreyconnect.org.uk/login.

🌿 **Wild About Compton** 🌿

Walks are a great way to get back to nature and banish the January blues. Compton is blessed with routes on its doorstep, including the **PILGRIMS WAY**, not to mention the 4.4 hectare **PUCKS OAK BARN AND MCALMONT RESERVES**, managed by Surrey Wildlife Trust. Up the road is **PUTTENHAM COMMON**, where trees and scrub are being removed to create new areas of wood pasture, beneficial for species such as glow worms and nightingales. The Middle car park has been closed since 1 November while these works take place, so use the top car park on *Suffield Lane, GU10 1JJ* or visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/countryside/sites/visitor-information. Alternatively, enjoy stunning Surrey Hills views from **CHINTHURST HILL**, a nature reserve near Shalford, with access on *Kings Road, Wonersh Common, GU5 0PR*. A little further afield is **FARNHAM HEATH**, which the RSPB has spent the last 20 years transforming from a conifer plantation into a rich heathland with views across the Weald. It is home to roe deer, crossbills, nightjars, woodcocks and tree pipits. Visit www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/farnham-heath. A short drive down the A3, just past Witley, is **THURSLEY NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE**, consisting of areas of open dry heathland, peat bogs, pine and deciduous woodlands spread over 325 hectares and home to species of dragonflies and damselflies as well as deer and birds (including Dartford warblers, stone chats, gold crests, white throats and wheatears). Thursley has over 1.3 km of boardwalks with viewing platforms, providing access to the ponds and wetter parts of the reserve. Check out <https://surreyhills.org/places-to-see/thursley-national-nature-reserve/>.

♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪ MUSIC ♪♪

♪ On Sunday 24 December, at 10pm, CONSERVATOIRE CONCERTS is holding a **Family Christmas Eve Concert** at *Godalming Baptist Church*, which will feature CORELLI'S CHRISTMAS CONCERTO as well as carols with the opportunity to join in the congregational singing. Refreshments will be served at the end of the concert at 10.45pm. Admission is FREE.

On Tuesday 26 December at 4pm, at *St Michael and all Angels Church, Pirbright*, **Paul Bambrough** will be giving a short talk followed by a performance of JS BACH'S GOLDBERG VARIATIONS. The event will be around an hour long. Retiring collection towards Purcell Music School. Book at www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk or email suzanne.cacciottolo@gmail.com.

♪ Rejoice with star soprano **Eleanor Pennell-Briggs** at *Godalming Choral Society's Christmas Concert* at *St John's Church, Farncombe* on Saturday 16 December, from 7.30pm. Music director **Paul Jeanes** will conduct soloist and choir in movements from BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO, GEOFFREY BUSH'S CHRISTMAS CANTATA and lots of Christmas carols for choir and audience. Tickets £18 (under 18s free) from **Record Corner** in *Godalming* (cash only), online at www.godalmingchoral.org.uk, or at the door.

GUILDFORD JAZZ

BEN HOLDER – “HOT CLUB JAZZ”

Friday 8 December 2023, from 7.45pm, *The Stoke, Guildford, GU1 4RP*.

Ben Holder is the rising star of STEPHANE GRAPPELLI-style jazz fiddle. The evening promises an energetic mix of traditional jazz, mainstream and swing with a sprinkling of Ben's own infectious originals, all harking back to the fun and abandon of the 1920s and 1930s.

CLAIRE MARTIN'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Friday, 15 December 2023, from 7.45pm, *St John's Church, Farncombe, GU7 3EJ*.

An evening with multi-award winning vocalist Claire Martin OBE and her quartet. Expect some stylish reworkings of much-loved standards from the GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK, plus some Christmas classics to enjoy and sing along with.

Visit guildfordjazz.org.uk to book

Local foodbank charity **GODALMING & VILLAGES FOODSTORES** acknowledges its “legendary supporters who share what they can to help keep others afloat through hard times”. An updated list of much-needed items can be found on <https://godalmingcommunitystore.org/> alongside details of ways to give/donate during what can be an exceptionally challenging time of year for some individuals and families.

JINGLE BELLS – Not-for-profit community radio station **KANE FM 103.7**, in Guildford, is looking for show sponsors and advertisers on the station.

It's a great and inexpensive way to promote a local business whilst supporting a charity in the area. All income goes directly back into running the station and the radio/DJ-based youth projects supporting local young people.

Contact: sponsorship@kanefm.com or visit www.kanefm.com/local-business-advertisements/.

NORMANDY VILLAGE SHOP & CAFÉ is recruiting for a full-time café manager/supervisor, a part-time cook and a part-time barista. All three are paid roles and the store is looking for candidates with some experience in similar jobs/roles, who ideally live nearby. There is some flexibility on hours, while reliability is key as the roles can include operating tills, as well as opening and closing up. To find out more and to apply, contact karen.dunn@normandyshop.co.uk or call 07866 427 537. Normandy Village Shop & Café stocks local fresh food and groceries, plus refills for cleaning products and other convenience store items. It is open from Monday to Saturday. Over Christmas it will be closed from Saturday 23 December until Tuesday 2 January. For details of opening times and other information **visit www.normandyshop.co.uk**.

On Thursday 7 December, 7.30pm to 9pm, **LES AMITIÉS FRANÇAISES** is hosting an evening where Peter Prowse will entertain with Parisian melodies and facts about the city. Anyone with a reasonable understanding of French and an interest in French lifestyle and culture is welcome. The venue is *The Pavilion, Guildford Rugby Club, Guildford Road, Godalming, GU7 3DH*.

To find out more visit www.amitiesfrancaisesgodalming.com.

Sandra's yoga classes will be back in 2024 to help you burn off the excesses of the festive season. Classes resume at the Village Hall in JANUARY, starting Thursday 18 and Friday 19, 10.30am-12 noon. Call 07759 002981 to book.

MILFORD PROBUS CLUB'S next date in the diary is Friday 19 January. After a congenial lunch, **David Bickerton** will entertain members and visitors with a talk on an enduring and fascinating episode of World War II. More than a hundred British warships were involved in the five-day, 1,750 mile hunt for German battleship, The Bismarck. The British battlecruiser HMS Hood was sunk within 10 minutes of engaging The Bismarck, which escaped. David was inspired to research this historical event as his father was a crewman aboard HMS Dorsetshire which was involved in the final action. The talk follows lunch, which begins at 12.30pm (pre-lunch drinks from 12 noon), at *Godalming Masonic Hall, GU7 1RQ*. Milford Probus is a club for retired and semi-retired business and professional men and women who enjoy convivial company, informative talks and wider activities. Prospective members are welcome to join lunches as paying guests before committing to membership. Visit www.milfordprobus.com or book a lunch (book the Monday before please) with Jon Warnke, jgwarnke@btinternet.com / 07818 602699.

ONCE CHRISTMAS IS OVER, HERE IS WHAT TO DO WITH ...

CHRISTMAS TREES. Guildford Borough Council does usually recycle trees, sans tinsel. Check the Council's website from December for locations, at www.guildford.gov.uk.

STAMPS. Used stamps are much appreciated by charities. Please save yours for Jane Turner—01483 810789 / 07763 146448, who gives them to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice. Let her know and she'll arrange to collect.

WRAPPING PAPER. Christmas wrapping paper and cards are not suitable for recycling if they contain glitter or are coated/laminated (shiny). If it scrunches, recycle it. If not, it needs to go in with the general waste. Check tips for sustainable wrapping and other recycling tips at Surrey Environment Partnership — www.surreyep.org.uk.

WATTS GALLERY NEWS



WATTS GALLERY is gearing up for the festive season. LIMNERSLEASE has been dressed for Christmas by Verey Head Gardener, Chris Sharples, and the wonderful Estates team. Visit George and Mary Watts' home to see the beautifully decorated Christmas trees, provided by Hans Christmas Andersen, and enjoy the Victorian era-inspired festivities. Merry Christmas from Watts Gallery!

- ✦ **Festive Family Days** are being held on Sundays 3, 10 and 17, as well as on Wednesday 20 December, 10.30am-4pm. There will be winter themed drop-in workshops, storytelling in the **Historic Galleries** and the opportunity to meet **Father Christmas**. Check the website for details, prices and booking.
- ✦ Create a sustainable winter wreath with wreath-making workshops, led by Chris Sharples, using an array of natural materials found across the Watts Gallery estate. Workshops are held on Friday 1, Saturday 2, Thursday 14 and Saturday 16 December at the times of 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.20pm-3.30pm. Booking and prices can be found on the website.
- ✦ Artist in Residence this month is **EDGES**, a ceramics and sound art collaborative project produced by artist-curators **Kay Aplin** and **Joseph Young**. Come and visit the open studio on Wednesday 6 December, 12pm-4pm and on Wednesday 13 December, from 12pm-4pm to find out about the artists' practice and their residency.
- ✦ Browse and buy unique and colourful prints from the **Watts Contemporary Gallery** exhibition, **IN PRINT: JOY**. Featuring 10 artists, the artworks on display draw inspiration from everyday scenes, beautiful landscapes and quirky animals to create playful prints that are guaranteed to bring a smile to your face. With print prices from £25, they make the perfect Christmas present for the art lovers in your life. Meet some of the artists on Saturday 9 December at 2pm to discover more about the inspirations behind their works.
- ✦ Explore the **Victorian Virtual Reality** exhibition in more depth and join Watts Gallery curator **Laura MacCulloch** and the curators of the Brian May Archive of Stereoscopy on Thursday 14 December at 12pm for a highlights tour. Included with admission.
- ✦ Round off the Christmas holidays and start celebrating the New Year with a carousel of crafts in the **Make Space** sessions, running from Thursday 28 until Sunday 31 December.
- ✦ **Watts Gallery, Limnerslease** and the **Tea Shop** will be closed from 23–26 December, reopening as normal on 27 December. They will be closed from 4pm on 31 December and on New Year's Day, reopening as normal on 2 January 2024. **The Chapel** will remain closed during the Christmas period, from 23 December and will reopen on 2 January 2024. **KD Fine Art** will be closing for Christmas at 5pm on Saturday 23 December and reopening on Tuesday 2 January 2024 at 10.30am.

CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO BOOK TICKETS: www.wattsgallery.org.uk.

On Tuesday 12 December, **THE ARTS SOCIETY WOKING'S** festive talk will be "**A Right Royal Christmas: How our Royals have celebrated Christmas through the ages**". Our royal families have celebrated Christmas throughout their long history, from WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR making sure of his claim to the English throne by being crowned in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day 1066. Feasting on a spectacular scale characterised medieval Christmases. Present-giving always marked the season, from the extravagant: the City of London presented RICHARD II with a camel and a pelican, to the witty: MRS THATCHER sent the QUEEN a pair of yellow washing-up gloves having seen Her Majesty doing the dishes without any. The **Royal Christmas Broadcast** is now an established part of our celebrations. This lecture explores these Royal traditions, many of which we have adopted as a necessary part of our own celebrations. The speaker, **Roger Askew**, has combined a teaching career with professional singing in London. After obtaining a further degree in Music, he became Director of Music at Daniel Stewart's and Melville College in Edinburgh. Doors open at 9.45am for tea and coffee, with the talk beginning at 10.30am, at *Normandy Village Hall, GU3 2DT*. Members may bring a visitor, who may want to make a £5 donation to the Society. For more information, visit www.wokingdfas.org.uk/talks-arts-society-woking-2023.htm.

DATES FOR DECEMBER

Yoga, Compton Village Hall, Thursdays & Fridays, 10.30am-12 noon.

Fledglings, Pucks Oak Barn, Mondays, 9.30am.

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Thurs 7th – Les Amitiés Françaises, Guildford Rugby Club, Godalming, GU7 3DH, 7.30pm.

Fri 8th – Waverley Borough Council meeting with Thames Water, with time and venue TBC.

Fri 8th – Guildford Jazz, The Stoke, Guildford, 7.45pm.

Sat 9th – Godalming Creatives, Compton Village Hall, 8pm.

Tues 12th – The Arts Society Woking's talk, Normandy Village Hall, 10.30am.

Fri 15th – DEADLINE FOR JAN/FEB ISSUE OF COMPTON NEWS.

Fri 15th – Guildford Jazz, St John's, Farncombe, 7.45pm.

Sat 16th – Godalming Choral Society, St John's Farncombe, 7.15pm.

◇◇ **January 2024** ◇◇

Mon 1st – New Year's Day walk, Mane Chance, 10am-2pm.

Thurs 11th to Sat 13th – Sleeping Beauty, Village Hall, 7.45pm and Saturday matinee at 2.30pm.

Weds 17th – Parish Council Meeting, Pucks Oak Barn, 7pm.

Fri 19th – Milford Probus, Godalming Masonic Hall, from 12 noon.