

COMPTON

NEWS



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This issue we're remembering **KEN MILLER** who died on 31 August 2024 (obituary overleaf). The singular energy and passion he brought to so many aspects of Compton (proofreading the *NEWS* once a month being just one of these) were unmatched. This issue, incidentally, features some of the projects and initiatives that drew his characteristic enthusiasm — including an upcoming book about the village and an update about *Compo*, the village bus. A funeral service to remember Ken's life will be held at *St Peter & St Paul's Church, Godalming* on Thursday 10 October at 12pm. This will be followed by a reception at the *Tithe Barn, Loseley Park* at 1.30pm. To assist the family, please email info@kenmiller.family to advise of your intention to attend. Family flowers only please, with donations welcome to **Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice** and **Bright Cancer Care**, a charity based at the St Luke's Cancer Centre, Royal Surrey Hospital, Guildford, which funds vital research and new treatment options for cancer patients. <https://miller-ken.muchloved.com/>.

All are welcome to the book launch of *Compton Village – Past & Present*, written and compiled by former resident of Compton and one-time Chairman of the Parish Council, **Fiona Curtis**. Compton is a village rich in history and contributions from more than 50 residents, which include photos, newspaper cuttings and anecdotes, have brought this unique history to life. The fully illustrated A4 hardback book covers a wide range of topics on residents over many decades, houses and events. A book launch will be held on Friday 11 October at **COMPTON CLUB**. The evening starts at 6pm, with Fiona speaking at 7pm.

After the launch, copies will be available to purchase for **£20 each** for Compton residents and their friends, from David Hunt or Jane Turner. Collection can be arranged, either with a bank transfer in advance or cash on collection. For mailings, please provide full address and include an additional charge of £5.50 in the bank transfer for tracked postage and packing. Bank transfers should be made to the **Compton Village Association** account at Lloyds Bank, Sort Code 30-93-49, Account No. 00115047 and reference Book. Details for ordering as follows: **David Hunt** — david.hunt0808@gmail.com/07831 768970 OR **Jane Turner** – janewturner@mac.com/07763 146448. Copies retail at Watts Gallery for £25. The book launch discount has been made possible through the Compton Village Association.



Playpark refurbishments on Spiceall are complete. There is now a zip wire, a multiplay unit, for young children, and an accessible 'rock and bowl'. There will be an official opening of the playpark on Thursday 3 October at 5.30pm, which will be attended by the **Mayor of Guildford**, Councillor **Sallie Barker**. Refreshments, including "bubbly", will be provided by **Nick and Charlotte Wyschna** (of **Guildford Fringe** and **The Fallen Angel** bar).

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Tuesday 8 October at 7pm, in *Pucks Oak Barn*.

Compton is not a candidate for average speed cameras, according to **SURREY HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT AND SURREY POLICE**.

Despite three very recent accidents in the village, numerous serious accidents in the last few years and countless other dangerous driving incidents recounted by residents, average speed cameras will only be used as a "last resort", Surrey Highways and Transport told the Parish Council in an email dated 27 August. Despite clear evidence that average speed cameras are the most effective way to reduce speeding through rural villages, the approach will be to implement "traffic-calming" measures.

Surrey Police told *Compton NEWS* "the permanent installation of speed cameras would only be considered once other alternative engineering highway improvements have been explored, which Surrey County Council will lead on".



CLT's dinner drama "Anybody for Murder", runs from Thursday 10 to Saturday 12 October, 7.15pm (doors open 6.45pm). Tickets are **£22** (includes a Greek meze-style dinner with dessert). Book by scanning the QR code below, or by visiting www.ticketsource.co.uk/clt or by emailing tickets@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk. Box office deadlines are Monday 7 October 12pm (for Thursday evening), Tuesday 8 October 12pm (for Friday evening) and Wednesday 9 Oct (for Saturday evening). Make sure to let CLT know of any dietary requirements. Front of house volunteers are also needed on these evenings. Email committee@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk.

CLT Panto auditions for **Red Riding Hood** will take place on Sunday 20 October at 3pm in the **Village Hall**. Email the committee to receive an audition pack and to be added to the mailing list to receive news about forthcoming productions and social events: committee@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk.



COMPTON QUIZ MASTERS Jo Ayshford and Rhona Wilkie are holding a **Fundraising Quiz** at 7pm on Saturday 9 November 2024 in the *Village Hall*. Jo's granddaughter, 14-year old **Millie Ayshford**, has been given an opportunity to travel to Eswatini, Africa, next year to help at a neighbourhood care point, which provides access to food and early education for children. To undertake this opportunity, Millie will need to pay all her travel and accommodation costs. Jo and Rhona are holding the quiz to help fundraise for her trip — a truly worthwhile cause. If you have been to one of their quizzes before, then you know they are great fun and they would love to see you all there. The price is **£12** per ticket, including supper and a pay bar. Teams are a maximum of six people. Email rhonawilkie@hotmail.co.uk to enter a team and provide any dietary requirements.

Ken Miller – 1939-2024

It was incredibly sad to learn at the end of August that Ken had died. His energy, cheerfulness and bravery throughout his illness was an example to us all. He never let it get in the way of his work on behalf of Compton and his generous support and advice for his large circle of friends and family. Tributes have been pouring in for this exceptional man whose death at the age of 85 will leave an enormous vacuum in the lives of so many. Here are some of the things that have been said: A man of his word; No pride, just passion and humility; An uncanny ability to get things done; One in a million; A true gentleman with a lovely, gentle sense of humour; A pillar of the village; No eulogy can do Ken justice for all the work he did for Compton.

After settling in Compton in 1987 with his wife Jean, Ken became an indispensable member of the community. He took an interest in every single aspect of the village and how it affected the residents. Nothing was too much trouble. His leadership of Compton Village Association covered a wide range of issues which he addressed with tireless enthusiasm and expertise. Traffic loomed large and he fought tirelessly to introduce traffic calming measures which are ongoing even today. His advice to the Parish Council over so many years was much sought after and invaluable.

With Peter Jelffs, he pioneered the launch of *Compo*, the village minibus, and remained involved with its day-to-day operation until his last weeks, monitoring its finances, the transfer of ownership to the Watts Gallery, the Section 22 Agreement making it a designated bus route from Compton and Puttenham to Godalming. He never ceased to acknowledge the help given by many residents to keep *Compo* on the road – repairing, maintaining, driving, timetabling.

Ken's vital support for the Compton Club was immeasurable, particularly when it was experiencing financial difficulties until recently. The Watts Gallery benefited from his professional skill and wisdom throughout the Restoration campaign, and beyond. He and Jean worked for months in advance on the Fete which he loved, Jean turning the Barn into an enormous warehouse for Bric-a-Brac, and Ken spending hours creating a playlist of music which changed every year. He meticulously proof-read the *Compton NEWS* every month, his emphasis constantly on the use of commas and apostrophes and replacing the word 'that' (which he considered an Americanism!) with 'which'! Never one to look for recognition or reward, he nonetheless received the Mayor's Award for services to the community in 2009.

Ken was born in London on 4 February 1939 and lived with his parents and younger brother Peter in South London where his father worked for the Post Office and his mother was a teacher. From Birnham Prep School in Wimbledon, he won a scholarship to Surbiton Grammar School in 1950. Maths was his best subject and after school he became an Articled Clerk. After he qualified, he was offered the position of Assistant to the Group Finance Director at the Hunting Group of companies. He started work there on 31 July 1961, little knowing that he would be with the group until his retirement 40 years later to the day, and that he would finish up as the Chief Executive of Hunting plc.

His interests and talents were limitless. He loved music and had wide ranging musical tastes, spanning classical, rock and roll, pop (pre-1990s) and jazz. He was a huge sports fan, especially football, cricket, rugby and athletics. He was a lifelong Arsenal fan (he had some of the turf from Highbury in the garden at South Cottage) and supported Middlesex Cricket Club. In terms of participating in sport, athletics became his primary pursuit and he competed for Belgrave Harriers over many years and ran several marathons. He picked up many medals, the most important one to him being the London to Brighton Road Relay race.

Ken had a lifelong love of the mountains. After visiting Sue, his daughter, in Meribel in 1991, where she was spending a ski season, there started another passion in his life: skiing. He went skiing 26 times with the family and became a competent skier. He last hit the slopes when he was 80 years old and was massively frustrated when this was stopped by Covid and his cancer diagnosis.

He also loved sailing and built a Mirror sailing dinghy in his dining room at their house in Lingfield. He was very proud of this boat and sailed it across the Solent to the Isle of Wight. Later in his life he bought a small yacht which he kept moored in Southampton. He competed twice in the Round the Island yacht race and thoroughly enjoyed messing about on the water.

Ken leaves behind a large family who all adored him – his wife Jean, two children, two step children, four grandchildren, five step grandchildren, nine step great grandchildren, a brother and sister-in-law and five nephews and nieces. And of course, Yogi the dog. There will never be another like him. His death has deprived his family and Compton community of a very wise and loving friend and mentor.

Compo needs drivers. The weekly shopping service to Godalming aboard *Compo* is a vital community resource that relies on the generosity and commitment of volunteers. The service provides a much-needed connection for those who may otherwise find it difficult to access essential goods. If you have the availability on a Tuesday morning approximately once a month to drive the bus, thus contributing to this valuable service, contact **Jon Maslin** at j_maslin@hotmail.com or **Richard Paxton** at paxtonrichard@gmail.com.

On Thursday 17 October, 7.30pm-9pm, **Odile Hughson** will talk (in French) about the family of King Louis-Philippe during its period of exile in England at **LES AMITIÉS FRANÇAISES'** next lecture. *Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre, Godalming, GU7 1DY*. To consult the group's programme and to book, visit www.amitiesfrancaisesgodalming.com.

On Friday 18 October **Milford Probus'** guest speaker is **Dr Helen Naylor** who will discuss how the arrival of coffee in London in the mid-1600s fostered an age of sobriety and enterprise that laid the foundations of spectacular economic, scientific and artistic growth lasting more than a century. Through coffeehouses, the stock exchange, insurance industry and auctioneering burst into life, facilitating the expansion of Britain's global trade. They cemented the foundations of some of our societies and institutions in science, literature and the arts, as well as charities such as the RSPCA. Lunch is at 12.30pm (pre-lunch drinks from 12pm), *Godalming Masonic Hall, GU7 1RQ*. If interested visit www.milfordprobus.com, or book a lunch (book the Monday before please) with Jon Warnke ([jgwarnke@btinternet.com/07818 602699](mailto:jgwarnke@btinternet.com)).

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



- † **Muddy Church**, a space for all for wandering & wondering with God, is on the first Sunday of every month (except school holidays).
- † Toddler group **Fledglings** is held on Mondays, 9am at *Pucks Oak Barn*. Contact: fledglingscompton@gmail.com.
- † **Inside Out** meets on Saturday 5 October, 10am to noon (first Saturday of the month) to keep the church and churchyard looking good. Contact stnicholascompton.wardens@gmail.com.
- † **Bell ringing** practice is once or twice a month on Tuesdays at 10am, with bell ringing on Sundays from 10am to 10.30am. Contact phil.gorton@btinternet.com.
- † **Baptisms, weddings & funerals**: Please contact our Rector Sally if you would like to mark a family milestone at St Nicholas.
- † If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, contact our Rector, Sally: stnicholascompton.lector@gmail.com. Confidentiality will be respected.

Thanks & blessings, Revd Sally Buddle

		Upcoming dates	
Wednesday 2 October	<u>10.30am</u> Book of Common Prayer	Sunday 3 November	<u>10.30am</u> Muddy Church Autumn
Sunday 6 October	<u>10.30am</u> Muddy Church Harvest <u>6pm</u> Evensong	Friday 8 November	<u>3pm</u> Service in Memory of Loved Ones <u>4pm</u> Quiet Fireworks at the Rectory
Sunday 13 October	<u>10.30am</u> Harvest Holy Communion	For more details visit www.stnicholascompton.org	
Sunday 20 October	<u>10.30am</u> Holy Communion		
Sunday 27 October	<u>10.30am</u> Holy Communion		

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♪ **Holly Graham**, a soprano from Shackleford, has partnered with virtuoso harpist **Imogen Ridge** to form the classical ensemble, **ELOQUENT DUO**. Scholarship graduates of the **ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC**, Graham and Ridge craft classical recitals that merge music with visual art to create immersive, multi-sensory experiences where the music deepens the emotional impact of the artwork, and the art adds new meaning to the music. At Watts Gallery, Eloquent Duo will pair the works of **GF WATTS** with timeless masterpieces by **SCHUBERT, DEBUSSY, MOZART** and more. The event is on Saturday 19 October, with doors opening at 6.30pm. Tickets can be purchased at www.eloquentduo.com and www.eloquentduo.com/upcomingevents.

♪ **CONSERVATOIRE CONCERTS** is organising a thrilling performance by the award-winning **Kyan Quartet**, which has been established since 2020 and is made up of musicians from the UK, US, China and France. Programme consists of string quartets by **HAYDN, BARTOK, CAROLINE SHAW** and **MENDELSSOHN**. Saturday 12 October, 7pm at *Godalming Baptist Church, GU7 1BA*. To book, visit www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk. Attendance is FREE with a retiring collection towards musicians' fees and expenses.

♪ On Saturday 30 November, **GODALMING CHORAL SOCIETY** will be holding a concert that includes the **SCHUBERT MASS IN G MAJOR** and **CHILCOTT'S ON CHRISTMAS NIGHT**. 7.30pm, *St John's Church, Farncombe, GU7 3EJ*. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays, 7.30pm, at the *Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Godalming*, if you'd like to sing with them. For further information and tickets for the concert, visit www.godalmingchoral.org.uk.

GUILDFORD JAZZ AND SOUL FESTIVAL

<p>Natalie Williams <u>Saturday 5 October</u> Natalie Williams' Soul Family is a 10-piece band that has held a residency at RONNIE SCOTT'S jazz club for the past 16 years. <i>Motown and More</i> features some of the greatest songs by legends including Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin. <u>From 7.30pm</u> <i>G Live, London Rd, Guildford, GU1 2AA.</i></p>	<p>Alyn Shipton <u>Wednesday 9 October</u> An evening host of BBC Radio 3's "Jazz Record Requests", Alyn Shipton, discusses and plays the music from his latest book, "The Gerry Mulligan 1950s Quartets". <u>From 7.15pm</u> <i>Guildford Pavilion Woodbridge Road, GU1 4RP.</i></p>	<p>Bill Laurance <u>Thursday 17 October</u> Classically trained composer, and five-times Grammy award-winning pianist, Laurance has been demonstrating his unique creativity and improvisation for many years as a founding member of Snarky Puppy. His latest release "Affinity" is a tribute to jazz pianist Bill Evans. <u>8pm</u> <i>University of Surrey Stag Hill, Guildford GU2 7XH.</i></p>	<p>El Chamuyo Quartet <u>Thursday 24 October</u> El Chamuyo Quartet performs a wide sweep of Argentinian tango music, ranging from the 1920s and '30s, through to the <i>tango nuevo</i> masterpieces of Piazzolla, and on to a few contemporary composers, blurring the boundaries between tango and jazz in exciting and innovative ways. <u>From 7.15pm</u> <i>Guildford Pavilion Woodbridge Road, GU1 4RP.</i></p>
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Visit www.guildfordjazz.org.uk to book

Guildford mental health charity **Oakleaf** (www.oakleaf-enterprise.org) is holding a Dinner & Dance fundraiser on Friday 15 November, from 7pm, at the *Harbour Hotel, Guildford*. The night, sponsored by Kelly's Storage, will kick off with a drinks reception, followed by a three-course dinner and live music by XO Party Band. This five-piece local band will be performing dancefloor fillers from the 60s through to the current chart performing classics. For further details and to purchase tickets, visit www.tickettailor.com. For group bookings, tables seat 8-10 people. For offline group bookings and sponsorship packages, please contact janelfelton@oakleaf-enterprise.org.

Women's Support Centre, a service from Surrey charity **Catalyst Support**, hosts a weekly art group. On Tuesday 8 October, there will be an awards ceremony at **Watts Gallery**, for the artwork produced by the women of the group. The art will then be displayed in the gallery throughout October. <https://catalystsupport.org.uk/services/womens-support/>.

WATTS GALLERY NEWS



- ✦ Step inside the enchanting world of **CICELY MARY BARKER** at Watts Gallery this month with our new family-friendly exhibition, *Flower Fairies: The Magical World of Cicely Mary Barker*, opening on Tuesday 22 October. Explore Barker's journey as an artist, from her early years as a young girl with a vivid imagination, to commercial success in adulthood. Alongside the exhibition, embark on an adventure across the Watts Gallery grounds with a Tree Fairy Trail inspired by Barker's botanical illustrations and traditional folklore.
- ✦ There are only a few weeks left to explore **Edges**, a site-specific ceramics installation and sound trail across Limmerslease and the Watts Cemetery Chapel, closing Sunday 3 November. Co-curators **KAY APLIN** and **JOSEPH YOUNG** will be joining Watts Gallery on Saturday 19 October, each leading a masterclass in their art forms.
- ✦ Head to the Watts Contemporary Gallery to browse beautiful lustreware by one of the world's leading makers in **Jonathan Chiswell Jones: 50 Years a Potter**. Pieces are selling fast, don't miss out!
- ✦ Families can enjoy creative time together with our weekly **Clay Club** sessions on Sundays. This month explores the themes of birds, creepy crawlies and mystical creatures. **Watts Tots** is making a return on Friday 4 October, in the Historic Galleries providing sensory, playful sessions.
- ✦ There are many ways to scratch that creative itch this month. Make a ceramic mug on Friday 11 October, and there are still a few afternoon slots left on the five-week pottery course with ceramicist **LUISA CACCIOTTI**, starting on Tuesday 15 October.
- ✦ Searching for things to do over the half term break? Have an adventure with a day out at Watts Gallery. Explore *Flower Fairies: The Magical World of Cicely Mary Barker*, followed by a Tree Fairy Trail across the site. Children and teens can also be dropped off to take part in a figure drawing workshop, inspired by the artist.

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

NORNEY CREATIVE ARTS GROUP is holding an exhibition in *Shackleford Village Hall, GU8 6AE*, on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 November, 10am to 4pm each day. Free entry, refreshments available and plenty of parking.

Is your child a budding artist who loves to doodle? Join **CARTOON CLUB** — a fun and friendly group for kids who love to draw! Led by local artist **Sarah Jane Vickery**, these hour-long Zoom classes are held every Saturday at 3pm (term time). Each week features a new, exciting topic to inspire creativity and imagination. Perfect for kids who want to explore their artistic talents in a supportive environment. To join visit: www.sarahjanevickery.com or email sarahjanevickery@gmail.com.

On Tuesday 8 October, **THE ARTS SOCIETY WOKING'S** talk is *Frederic Lord Leighton. Eminent Victorian Artist*. At the time of his death in 1896, Frederic Leighton was the most celebrated artist of his generation. Recently ennobled, he had been the president of the Royal Academy since 1878 and was widely credited with enhancing the status of art and artists in late Victorian society to unprecedented heights. The lecture, by **Daniel Robbins**, explores Leighton's life and work; from his continental upbringing to his dramatic debut at the Royal Academy, the construction of his remarkable studio-house in Kensington and his rise to international fame and recognition. Talks start at 10.30am but doors open 9.45am for tea and coffee. The venue is **Normandy Village Hall, Manor Fruit Farm, Glaziers Lane, Normandy, Guildford, GU3 2DT**. Members may bring a visitor, who may want to make a donation to the Society of £5. Visit www.wokingdfas.org.uk/talks-arts-society-woking-2024.htm.

Wendy Taylor's FitSteps (non-partnered Latin and Ballroom dance exercise) and *Yoga Flow* classes continue to run at *Compton Village Hall* in term time. FitSteps runs on Wednesdays, 10am to 11am and *Yoga Flow* runs Wednesdays, 11.15am to 12.15pm. Classes are suitable for beginners and improvers. To book, email wendygtaylor@gmail.com.

Sandra's popular yoga classes have resumed and will continue until December. Mondays and Fridays, from 10.30am until 12pm. The classes are full-ish with enthusiastic attendance, so email Sandra if interested at willpower24@talktalk.net.

DATES FOR OCTOBER

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

FitSteps, Compton Village Hall, Wednesdays, 10-11am (term-time).

Yoga Flow, Compton Village Hall, Wednesdays, 11.15am to 12.15pm (term-time).

Fledglings, Pucks Oak Barn, Mondays, 9am (term-time).

Compton Club, Spiceall, Thursdays/Fridays, 5-10pm.

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Thurs 3rd – Playpark opening, Spiceall, 5.30pm.

Sat 5th – Guildford Jazz, G Live, GU1 2AA, 7.30pm.

Tues 8th – The Arts Society Woking's talk, Normandy Village Hall, 10.30am.

Wed 9th – Guildford Jazz, Guildford Pavilion, GU1 4RP, 7.15pm.

Thurs 10th – Ken Miller's funeral service, St Peter & St Paul's Church, Godalming 12pm, then reception at Tithe Barn, Loseley Park 1.30pm.

Thurs 10th to Sat 12th – CLT's dinner drama, Village Hall, 7.15pm.

Fri 11th – Book launch of Compton Village – Past & Present, Compton Club, 6pm.

Sat 12th – Conservatoire Concerts, Godalming Baptist Church, 7pm.

Thurs 17th – Les Amitiés Françaises' talk, Wilfrid Noyce Community Centre, GU7 1DY, 7.30pm.

Thurs 17th – Guildford Jazz, University of Surrey, GU2 7XH, 8pm.

Fri 18th – Milford Probus Club lunch, Godalming Masonic Hall, GU7 1RQ, from 12 noon.

Sat 19th – Eloquent Duo performance, Watts Gallery, 6.30pm.

Sun 20th – DEADLINE for November issue of the NEWS.

Thurs 24th – Guildford Jazz, Guildford Pavilion, GU1 4RP 7.15pm.