



**COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
BRIEFING NOTE
January 2024**

Watts Chapel & Cemetery Lychgate

An application was submitted to the Archdeacon and DAC before Christmas for the repair work to the lychgate. This was approved on 3 January 2024 and Thomas Ford & Partners are in the process of tendering the work. The deadline for tenders the end of January. We are awaiting a timeframe for the work and updates will follow as soon as we have this.

Abandoned cars in Watts Chapel's layby

Two abandoned cars were removed by the fire brigade in late December. They will be used for training.

Physical Energy

The application to install G F Watts's allegorical work Physical Energy in the grounds of Limnerslease will be submitted this month.

Small Fire

On 23 November we suffered a small fire in one of our external buildings. It was quickly contained but we were forced to close the whole site on the day of the fire. We have subsequently reopened Limnerslease, Sculpture Gallery, Visitor Centre (shop and contemporary gallery) and café. Watts Gallery's main and exhibition galleries remain closed.

We are aim to reopen as quickly as possible. We will update you as soon as we have a reopening date.

Exhibitions

- **Victorian Virtual Reality: the Brian May Archive of Stereoscopy
Watts Gallery**

Closed on 25 February 2024

This exhibition is currently closed (see above)

- **Edo Pop: Japanese prints 1825-1895**

Opens 12 March 2024

Watts Gallery

Through the lens of ukiyo-e, or Japanese woodblock prints, the exhibition will look at both the influence of Japan on the West and the influence of the West on Japan.

It will explore the world of Edo (1604-1868), the predecessor to Japan's capital, through the lens of: yakusha-e (kabuki theatre actors); bijin-ga (beautiful women); boshi-e (mother and child); yokai and yurei (monsters and ghosts); sumo wrestlers; samurai warriors; and geisha. These categories will explore the shifting notions of celebrity, gender and class and the relationship between Japan and the West.

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Roots and Journeys

Opens on 18 January 2024

Watts Contemporary Gallery

From artists' garden sheds to the furthest peaks of the Himalayas, the works in this exhibition span the globe. Starting close to home with scenes and places familiar from every day, seven Surrey-based artists take us on voyages of discovery, sharing their wonder at the palazzos of Venice, the coastline of Cape Cod and beaches of Thailand, the busy streets of Hanoi as well as some of Britain's best-loved landscapes.

Artists include Sue Cook, Chris Forsey, Paul Nelson, Philippa Richardson, Paul Simmons, Lindsay Sword, John Whittall.