

COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

BRIEFING NOTE

May 2022

Operations

We are continuing to monitor and follow government and industry COVID guidance to ensure the safety of our visitors, volunteers and staff.

Although COVID is still impacting on the business, as there is a downward trend in the UK infection rate, we have decided that face coverings are no longer required for staff and volunteers. We have also removed our capacity limits but are retaining one-way routes and encouraging online booking.

Both COVID restrictions and staff shortages have been a challenge for our fabulous Teashop team; meaning at times we can only offer a takeaway service.

Thank you to all staff, volunteers, and visitors for your continued support.

Exhibitions

Our current temporary exhibition *Pre-Raphaelite Treasures, Drawings and Watercolours from the Ashmolean Museum* continues until 12 June 2022. This exhibition offers the chance to bring select works on paper by the Pre-Raphaelites' contemporary G F Watts out from the Watts Gallery archive.

On 2 May we closed the Sculpture Gallery to enable a redisplay of the collection. It will reopen on 28 June as part of our next temporary exhibition *A Fragmented Legacy: G F Watts and Sculpture*. Watts is best-known today as a painter. Despite this reputation, Watts dedicated significant time to sculpture. Inspired by our fragmentary sculpture collection saved from the artist's London and Surrey studios – this exhibition will be the first to explore Watts's experimental, obsessive, and even destructive ways of working. Watts Gallery Trust is deeply grateful to the Exhibition Circle for their support of this exhibition.

Now on until 19 June in our Contemporary Gallery *Creative Spaces: Artists in the early decades of the 20th century*. Entry is free and all works are for sale.

This exhibition explores the working spaces of British artists in the 1900s to 1950s.

Few artists enjoyed the luxury of a separate studio space, and this exhibition gives a fascinating insight into how living and working spaces often merged.

Presenting works by over a dozen artists, including Stephen Bone, Evelyn Dunbar, Douglas Percy Bliss and Charles Mahoney, *Creative Spaces* shows how artists portrayed the people and objects nearest and dearest to them.

The exhibition is in collaboration with **Liss Llewellyn** presents works that have never previously been shown in public or available for sale. All profits from this exhibition will support Watts Gallery Trust's *Art for All* learning programme which delivers transformative artist-led workshops to members of the local community who might not otherwise have access to art.

