



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
BRIEFING NOTE
September 2023

WATTS CHAPEL

Lychgate

On 5 June 2023 a bus travelling along Down Lane reversed into the lychgate severely damaging it. Our insurers are dealing with the claim, and we are working with John Bailey from Thomas Ford & Partners and Alistair Piper from Cooper & Withycombe to draw up plans for conserving and repairing the lychgate. We require permission from several organisations and the work will take around six weeks. During this time, there will be no access to the chapel and cemetery via the lychgate. We will ensure that there is alternative access. We will continue to update Compton Parish Council on our progress.

Beech tree

In May, we discovered that a beech tree behind the chapel had Ganoderma (wood-decaying fungus). This fungus causes serious damage to trees including the roots but, working with specialists, we believe that the tree can be saved.

To that end, we have been granted the necessary permissions from Guildford Borough Council and the Diocese of Guildford and, whilst the work takes place, we will ensure that the cemetery's graves are fully protected. The work will be completed in September 2023.

The work is essential because it will:

- Prevent damage to Watts Chapel, the Cloisters and the graves.
- Negate the health and safety risk to visitors and mourners to the chapel and cemetery.

Watts Gallery Trust respectfully requests Compton Parish Council to consider supporting this work with a grant of £5,535.

Car in chapel layby

We contacted the police about a grey Peugeot which has been in the chapel layby for some time. The police confirmed that the car has not been abandoned and there are no concerns about the car owner's welfare. Following their advice, we have contacted the DVLA, and we are awaiting a response. If the DVLA is unable to deal with the matter, the police will remove the car.

EXHIBITIONS

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

This exhibition opened on 4 July with a very well attended private view on 3 July, including Sir Brian and Lady May. The exhibition has been popular with visitors and has a range of events planned across its run. The exhibition presents highlights from Brian May's archive of stereoscopy and is a

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chance to explore the nineteenth-century photography craze that, for the first time, enabled pictures to appear in 3D. The exhibition will close on 25 February 2024.

We would be delighted if Compton Parish Council were able to join us for an out-of-hours tour of the exhibition on Thursday 19 October at 7pm.

Formations: Fiona Millais and Lucy Lutyens

Watts Contemporary Gallery

This contemporary exhibition opened on 7 September. Combining painting and sculpture, both artists in this exhibition have a deep fascination with the landscape around us, how it's been shaped by previous generations and continues to impact those who inhabit it today. By distilling the essence of natural forms down to their simplest elements, both artists manage to capture the timeless quality of landscape. As always in the contemporary gallery, all art works are for sale.