



COMPTON PARISH COUNCIL
BRIEFING NOTE
March 2024

Watts Gallery 120th Birthday

Please join us on Easter Bank Holiday Monday (1 April) at midday for drinks and jazz from The Stacey Dawson Trio on the lawn at Watts Gallery to celebrate our anniversary and 120 years of *Art for All by All*. party forms part of a day of celebration when you can also take part in craft activities, see a special display of Watts Gallery's 120 year history, and add your memories and messages to our anniversary banner. Everyone is welcome.

Watts Chapel Lychgate

Tenders for the work on the lychgate have now been received and reviewed by our architect and structural engineer. Two companies submitted tenders from five companies who were approached. The tenders have been reviewed and passed to the loss adjusters. We are awaiting their response to be able to progress with work.

Watts Chapel Water Leak

In January we received a water bill for Watts Chapel of £9,879.57. Water provider Castle Water identified a leak. To identify where the leak is, and to repair it, will cost at least £940 plus VAT.

Until it is repaired, we have turned off the water, and visitors to the cemetery can access water from the dipping trough at the entrance to the cemetery.

A site visit with Watts Gallery, Head of Operations Claire Griffin is recommended as part of the next Cemetery Committee meeting.

Physical Energy Project

The application to install G F Watts's allegorical work Physical Energy in the grounds of Limnerslease was submitted on 19 January 2024 and validated on 1 February 2024. Neighbour consultations ended on 1 March and the planning officer conducted a site visit on 7 March. We are expecting a response towards the end of April.

Small Fire, November 2023

Following the small fire in the external plant room behind Watts Gallery, we were able to reopen the Sculpture Gallery and temporary exhibition Victorian Virtual Reality in January.

We have completed the works to repair the damage in the plant room and cleaned the vents and ducts throughout Watts Gallery. Now that the exhibition *Victorian Virtual Reality: Photographs from the Brian May Archive of Stereoscopy* has closed, conservation cleaning is taking place throughout the historic and temporary exhibition galleries.

Watts Gallery will fully reopen to the public on Tuesday 19 March.

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Watts Gallery Trust is a company limited by guarantee. Company number 61475725
Registered office Down Lane, Compton, Guildford, Surrey GU3 1DQ VAT Reg No. 974 9894 34
Founded in 1903 Registered as a charity in 1905 Registered number 313612

Exhibitions

Edo Pop: Japanese Prints 1825 - 1895

Watts Gallery

19 March – 6 October 2024

Showcasing 19th century Japanese woodblock prints from the private collection of art historian and writer Frank Milner, this exhibition will present a world where tradition and modernity collide. It will be the first public display for a number of these works, which were hugely popular in Japan and also in Europe, where editions were collected by artists including Rossetti, Whistler, Van Gogh and Monet.

Demonstrating the enduring influence of Japanese woodblock prints, the exhibition also features new work by Tokyo-born artist Hiroko Imada, with a site-specific installation in Sculpture Gallery.

Angie Lewin: Patterns of Nature

Watts Contemporary Gallery

24 March – 16 June 2024

This Spring, Watts Contemporary Gallery presents a solo exhibition of watercolours, prints, textiles and wallpapers by one of Britain's best-loved artists. *Angie Lewin: Patterns of Nature* features over 40 works reflecting the artist's strong connection to the natural world – including illustrations for Angie's new book, *The Book of Wild Flowers*.

This exhibition follows Angie as she explores seashore, hedgerow, country lanes and garden. The plants and natural features she finds there inspire watercolours, linocuts and wood engravings, screenprints and lithographs in her distinctive, gentle style.