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PUBLISHED BY COMPTON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

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A **Happy New Year** to all our readers! We hope you enjoy receiving the NEWS – either delivered through your letterbox or via the wonders of electronic communication. We always welcome any news or items of interest you may have in the local area. The deadline for each month is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month before. Editor's details above. The NEWS is distributed FREE to every household in Compton and Littleton but not without the dedication of 22 volunteers who pound the streets in all weathers to make sure you receive it. It is funded by Compton Village Association and your annual subscription, due in January but usually paid in February (reminder in the February NEWS!), helps pay for it.

**Please support us and help us to spread the NEWS!**



## PETER PAN BY J.M. BARRIE

Not long to go before CLT's spectacular January production, *PETER PAN* by J.M. Barrie, specially adapted by Adam Lees and directed by Rhona Wilkie and Adam.

A fabulous cast of familiar and new faces are rehearsing like mad to bring you another stunning show. Are you new to the village? Or have you been here for some years but haven't yet experienced the professional skill of Compton Little Theatre, who have produced plays, pantomimes and musicals in the Village Hall since 1982? Prepare to be transported to another world. You will be astonished at what goes on in the transformed Village Hall!

The dates are Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm (doors open at 7.30pm), and 2.30pm on Saturday (doors open at 2pm).

*Tickets are flying away (excuse the pun!). They are £10 for all seats for all performances and are available from the Box Office on 07964 515103, by email to [tickets@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk](mailto:tickets@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk), or visit [www.ticketsource/clt](http://www.ticketsource/clt). Get your tickets NOW to avoid disappointment as CLT's January show is invariably a sell-out.*

Why not enjoy a meal prior to the show at Lemongrass, next door to the Village Hall?

Ideal for supper or lunch, before the evening show or the Saturday matinée.

Booking is essential on 01483 810594, making sure you indicate that it's 'pre theatre'.

*Peter Pan* is presented by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Samuel French Limited.

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French.

## ☆☆☆ THIS AND THAT ☆☆☆

☆ The January **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** has been put back one week and will now take place on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> in Puck's Oak Barn at 7pm. It is important for members of the Parish to know the work of their local Council and the best way to find out is to attend their meetings, which are held six times a year, usually on the third Wednesday of the months of January, March, May, July, September and November. Following the revised January meeting, the dates for 2019 are 20<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 17<sup>th</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> September and 20<sup>th</sup> November. *If you wish to raise a particular issue, please inform the Parish Clerk, Joanna Cadman, in advance of the meeting. Her contact details are [joanna@joannacadman.com](mailto:joanna@joannacadman.com), Tel: 01483 268627 or 07711 566458.*

☆ Are you new to the Parish, or perhaps you have been here for 3 or 4 years? **COMPTON VILLAGE ASSOCIATION** produces a **FREE WELCOME PACK** for newcomers and if you haven't already received one of these, please contact Jane Turner (details at the top of the NEWS). She is in the process of updating the current version, which should be ready in the next few weeks.

☆ **BELL RINGING** at St Nicholas Church, Compton, is flourishing. They have a new recruit and also welcomed one 'returner' in 2017 and two in 2018. How about a hat trick in 2019? Have you rung before and fancy giving it another try? The time gap doesn't matter – the 'returners' are back after 33, 34 and 47 years! The commitment is modest: they practise on one Tuesday evening a month (see **DIARY DATES** for January) and will typically ring for two Sunday services. *If this sounds appealing (!), contact Phil Gorton on 01483 420763 or [phil.gorton@btinternet.com](mailto:phil.gorton@btinternet.com).*

## GUILDFORD JAZZ IN JANUARY

### JAZZ AT THE PAVILION TIM WHITEHEAD QUARTET Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January

British Jazz icon **Tim Whitehead** is renowned throughout the UK, Europe and the USA as a remarkably fluent and muscular performer and composer. Winner of the Young Jazz Musician of the Year Award in the 1970s, he was a member of the ground-breaking *Loose Tubes* band. Expect an extraordinary evening of the finest in contemporary jazz.  
*Guildford Rugby Club. Music from 7.30pm. Tickets £15 in advance from [www.guildfordjazz.org.uk](http://www.guildfordjazz.org.uk).*

### ELECTRIC THEATRE JAZZ CAFÉ LATIN JAZZ CAFÉ WITH QUINTO! Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

**Quinto** play the rhythms of Brazil and Cuba with a Jazzy vibe. Their show includes classics such as *Brazil, Mas Que Nada* and songs by Antonio Carlos Jobim. Featuring **Raul D'Olivera** (trumpet/vocals/percussion), **Terry Seabrook** (piano), **Tristan Banks** (drums) and **Marianne Windham** (bass).  
*Music at 7.30pm. Tickets £15, from The Electric Theatre Box Office on 01483 501200.*

## FARNCOMBE MUSIC CLUB - MUSIC IN ST JOHN'S CHURCH

**THE RUNAWAYS play THE SHADOWS & MORE**  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January. This is a fundraiser in aid of Farncombe Day Centre with **The Runaways** performing an evening of authentic *Shadows* classics and hits from the 60s and Rock'n'Roll music.  
*Tickets £12 in advance, £15 on the door*

*Doors & Bar open 7pm. Show starts 7.45pm. Tickets available from Record Corner, Godalming; Julian Lewry on 01483 421520 or [julianlewrymusic@aol.com](mailto:julianlewrymusic@aol.com); or from [www.WeGotTickets.com](http://www.WeGotTickets.com)*

**CARAVAN**  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January. Canterbury scene legends **Caravan** celebrated 50 years in 2018 and blend psychedelic rock, jazz and classic influences to create a distinctive progressive rock sound. The two previous shows in Farncombe have both sold out in advance so early booking is highly recommended.  
*Tickets £20 in advance, £24 on the door.*

## WATTS GALLERY NEWS

**INSPIRED BY NATURE: CELIA LEWIS.** The next exhibition in the Watts Contemporary Gallery, above the shop, opens on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January and runs until Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> February. It features original linocut prints and paintings by Surrey artist, **CELIA LEWIS**. Celia has lived in Surrey all her life and takes her inspiration from the countryside around her. She is a member of several local art societies and has exhibited with The Royal Watercolour Society, The Society of Woman Artists and Wildlife Artist of the Year. Apart from her paintings, Celia has written six books on a range of subjects, including chickens and pigs - beautifully and profusely illustrated - all of which will be for sale, as well as greetings cards.

*Complementing her exhibition, Celia will be leading two **LINO PRINTING** sessions on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 5pm. Design, colour mix and print an original artwork for framing, inspired by her drawings of fruit bowls. £45 (£40.50 Friends). Pre-booking required.*

### POETRY READINGS WITH JO SHAPCOTT Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm to 8pm.

*£15. Friends £13.50. Pre-booking required.*

**Jo Shapcott** has published ten books of poetry, including *Of Mutability* (2010), winner of the Costa Book Award, *My Life Asleep* (1999), winner of the Forward Poetry Prize and *Electroplating the Baby* (1988), which won the Commonwealth Prize. She is twice winner of the National Poetry Competition and in 2011 she received the Queen's Gold Medal for poetry. As well as readings from *Of Mutability*, she will read from her new collection and the event will include a book signing.

### CHRISTINA ROSSETTI – POETRY, ECOLOGY, FAITH

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm to 8pm

*£12.50. Friends £11.25. Pre-booking required.*

**Emma Mason** presents an absorbing new study of Christina Rossetti, focussing on her spiritual life and her connection with the natural world.

Drawing on poetry, diaries, letters and devotional commentaries, she offers a fresh narrative of the life and work of Rossetti.

### WATTS TOTS: CLAY

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 10am to 11am

*£5 per child, Adults Free. For under 5s.*

*Children must be accompanied. Pre-booking required.*

Led by artist Charlie Betts, have a play with air-dry clay in this fun and tactile session to explore squishing, squeezing and mark-making.

**Don't miss out!** If you are a resident of Compton or Littleton, take advantage of the offer of half-price admission to Watts Gallery – Artists' Village during January. Details on page 3.

*For information about events and to book tickets, phone 01483 813593 or visit [www.wattsgallery.org.uk](http://www.wattsgallery.org.uk)*



## COMPTON CLUB

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of **COMPTON CLUB**, held on 14<sup>th</sup> December, was attended by well over 30 people. The accounts were presented which showed that after several years of healthy trading, the last financial year to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 incurred a loss of £6,635, which is a disappointing result. This was due to reduced Bar takings and also Function Room Hire.

The Chairman, Ted Corner, reported that the Club signs on the corner of Spiceall and The Street were constantly being removed. He urged anyone who has an issue with the signs to please contact the Club, or one of the Committee, so that their objections can be discussed.

Ted Corner was not standing for re-election after his third stint as Chairman and he was thanked for his services to the Club over many years. The following office holders were elected:

President – Ken Miller

Chairman – Colin Longley

Treasurer – Peter Lambert

Committee – Colin Allerton, Ted Austin, Sandra Billinge, Callum Brown and Karen Simmons

Bev Allerton has been appointed as Events & Functions Organiser.

The position of Secretary is vacant. This is an important role and if anyone is interested in considering taking it on, please contact the Club. 01483 810268.



### ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, COMPTON - SERVICES FOR JANUARY

**SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Sung Holy Communion; 6pm Evensong

**SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup>** – 8am Holy Communion (1662)

**WEDNESDAY 16<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Said Communion

**SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup>** – 10.30am Sung Holy Communion

### POST-CHRISTMAS RECYCLING

★ Guildford Borough Council has **CHRISTMAS TREE** recycling depots until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January at **Artington Park & Ride** and **Onslow Village Hall Car Park**. Remember to remove all decorations.

★ **CHRISTMAS CARDS**. According to their website, **Sainsbury's in Godalming** is collecting Christmas cards until Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, helping to raise funds for the Forest Stewardship Council. (No cards with glitter, please.) **Compo shoppers on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> might find this useful.**

★ If you have been keeping **USED STAMPS**, please let Jane Turner know, contact details at the top of the NEWS. She will collect and she gives them to the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice.

★ Do you have **SURPLUS GIFTS** looking for a good home? Jane Turner will happily accept these to use in local raffles and for prizes, such as Compton Club and Compton Little Theatre. Again, she will collect.

★ Finally, **glitter can't be recycled**. A lot of Christmas wrapping paper and cards contain metal in the form of glitter or decoration and sadly this is unsuitable. Also **laminated or coated (shiny) paper is also unsuitable**. The test is if it crunches up, it's okay to recycle. If not, it's unsuitable - put it out with your refuse, not with the recycling.



**DURING JANUARY, RESIDENTS OF COMPTON AND LITTLETON ARE INVITED TO ENJOY HALF-PRICE ADMISSION TO WATTS GALLERY – ARTISTS' VILLAGE.**

Perfect timing to see the acclaimed exhibition in Watts Gallery:

**Christina Rossetti: Vision & Verse** and also **Inspired by Nature** by Celia Lewis in the Watts Contemporary Gallery.

**Please bring proof of address to the Admissions Desk in the Visitor Centre to redeem this offer.**

Offer available Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm. Tuesday is already half-price day!

### DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

**THURSDAYS** – Art Classes in The Old Barn, 10am-12 noon.

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning, Old Barn, 10am

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – *Compton Village Association Committee*, 7pm

Tues 8<sup>th</sup> – Bell Ringing Practice, Compton, 8pm

Wed 9<sup>th</sup> – Jazz at the Pavilion, Guildford Rugby Club, 7.30pm

Wed 16<sup>th</sup> – Poetry Reading with Jo Shapcott, Watts Gallery, 7pm

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>, Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Sat 19<sup>th</sup> – CLT's *Peter Pan*, Village Hall,

8pm each evening and 2.30pm Saturday

Sat 19<sup>th</sup> – *The Runaways*, St John's Farncombe, 7pm

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> – Deadline for the February NEWS**

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> – Coffee Morning, Old Barn, 10am

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> – *Compton Village Hall Committee*, 8pm

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bell Ringing Practice, Puttenham, 8pm

**Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> – Parish Council meeting, Puck's Oak Barn, 7pm. Please note later date.**

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> – Watts Tots: Clay, Watts Gallery, 10am-11am

Fri 25<sup>th</sup> – *Caravan*, St John's Farncombe, 7pm

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> – Lino Printing led by Celia Lewis, Watts Gallery, 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> – Talk by Emma Mason on Christina Rossetti, Watts Gallery, 7pm

Tues 29<sup>th</sup> – Electric Theatre Jazz Café, 7.30pm

**Trish Moorey née Munday**, was brought up in Almsgate from 1948 and she has written this poem about her life there and the people she knew in all the houses. The story is a little bit of social history and gives a wonderful glimpse into the families who lived there all those years ago. Many names are familiar and will be remembered even today. Trish now lives in Farncombe and receives the NEWS every month by email. She is delighted to have her poem published here.

### ALMSGATE – CIRCA 1948-1963

I lived in Almsgate, number **Six**  
In a village called Compton, out in the sticks.  
The day we moved there I will always remember.  
'Twas my sixth birthday, 1948, 15<sup>th</sup> December.

When Mum and Dad showed us inside,  
Tony my brother took one look and cried.  
He was then only three years old  
And Six Almsgate was absolutely freezing cold!

The estate called Almsgate was very small.  
In fact, only fourteen houses in all.  
At number **One** were the **Leonards** from Wales.  
They had lived in the Mumbles, according to the tales.

The daughter of the house was my friend named Wendy  
Who had a brother Eric who was older and seemed so trendy.  
He was in the Navy and had been for years  
But when he went away his mother always shed tears.

At number **Two** lived the family of **Gees**.  
Mr Gee was a councillor if you please.  
Robin was the eldest son here  
Followed by twins so alike it did seem queer.

Number **Three** housed the family of **Woods**.  
Mum, Dad, Heather, Michael and Gill who each wore hoods.  
Heather was a little older than me -  
Her birthday was 26<sup>th</sup> September, same as Tony.

At number **Four** lived the **Webbers**, Elizabeth and Bill.  
Elizabeth came from Hungary. When she left, war was raging  
still.

There were two daughters, Sylvia and Angeline,  
Followed years later by John who was seldom seen.

**Five** was where the family called **Hughes** hung out.  
We always knew when they were about.  
I can't remember the names of them all  
But can still hear Mrs Hughes as "Father" she'd bawl!

Then came us at number **Six**, Alfred, Rhoda, Pat and Tony.  
I hated my name, it made me feel groany.  
Why couldn't I be called something like Leonie?  
I longed for a sister and my wish came true  
When along came Shirley, out of the blue.

This came as a really great surprise  
And my pleasure I didn't attempt to disguise.  
I was fourteen when Shirley came along  
And I danced round the dining room, singing a song.

Number **Seven** housed the **Thompsons**, Bill and Grace,  
With just a small fence between theirs and our place.  
Marion lived here with Linda and Trevor.  
Marion and I have been friends it seems like forever.

**Eight** Almsgate was the **Crouchers'** home.  
They had just one son, Aubrey alone.  
To their graves a big secret they carried  
For Aubrey discovered they were never married!

In front of the houses was a huge green  
Where sometimes the grass was so high we couldn't be seen.  
Plans for our future were made out here  
And shouts and laughter you'd often hear.

Across the green at number **Nine**  
Lived the **Smiths**, Win, Tony and Graham, another friend of  
mine.

The boys' father went down on the *Hood*.  
This was the excuse given for Graham not being good.  
The three lived with grandparents whose names I can't recall.  
Grandad charmed away my brother's warts, three in all.

Number **Ten** was the **Sherwins'** abode.  
I remember them moving in with their huge truckload.  
Mrs Sherwin was always rather aloof.  
Mr was called 'Gunner'. Why? I don't know and that's the  
truth!

Peter was the eldest boy; he became a guard.  
Next came David. To imagine them as brothers was awfully  
hard.

John, the younger brother, sat next to me at school  
And we were always being naughty and playing the fool.  
Margaret, a girl of my brother's year, was their young sister.  
Margaret, bless her, never found her special Mister.

What can I say about number **Eleven**?  
They were the **Terrys**, children numbering seven.  
Win was the Mother's name you know  
And when she shouted, you should have seen them go!

**Twelve** found the **Vidlers**, children numbering five.  
Joan had a terrible accident and was lucky to survive.  
Her birthday was 15<sup>th</sup> December, same as mine.  
She was four years older and I thought she was fine.

Alec was the eldest with very dark hair.  
Brian was the next boy and very fair.  
Dennis was dark, as were Rita and Joan.  
Years later Raymond was born (number six) so he played  
alone.

Mum's friend **Mary Warren** lived at number **Thirteen**  
And most days over cups of tea they could be seen.  
Don was her husband who wore a flat cap  
To one side of his head, the funny chap.

Don looked after the hedgerows all around  
And attended his allotment where he was often found.  
They had four children including my friend Fred.  
Mum and Mary wanted us to marry, they said!

Peter was the next lad, rather quiet and shy,  
Then came Lynda, blonde hair and blue of eye.  
Graham came later and took to trikes  
And very quickly progressed to motorbikes!

**Fourteen** housed the **Chandlers**, Nellie and Bill.  
Their house was at the top of a very small hill.  
John, Mary, Joan and Peter were their four offspring.  
Joan was my friend, treated so badly you never heard her sing.

Of course, things changed and people moved

But on these characters no-one improved.  
I moved away when I married at twenty  
But memories of Almsgate linger and there are plenty.