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Compton Little Theatre (CLT) unveils details of its hugely popular Panto for January 2027, plus tickets remain for the October Dinner & Drama.

SAVE THE DATE for "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", directed by CLT's **Rachel Jenner**, at *Compton Village Hall*. Performance dates: Thursday 14 to Saturday 16 January 2027, which includes a Saturday matinee. Box Office is now OPEN. Tickets £15 with discounts available for group bookings.

LAST CHANCE to buy tickets for CLT's October Dinner & Drama. Thursday 8 to Saturday 10 October.

"A Ballyhoo in Blighty" comprises four fantastic, funny, one-act comedies by **Andrew Biss**. Don't miss the chance to see these clever vignettes brought to life by our wonderful cast under the expert direction of **Noel**

Ruddy. Tickets are £24 and include a two-course supper. Doors open 6.45pm, dinner 7.15pm, curtain up 8.15pm. Box Office: www.ticketsource.com/clt OR scan the QR code.



Deadline for submissions for CLT's Summer Production 2027 is Saturday 31 October 2026. Do you have an idea for a production for May/June 2027 and ideally one you'd like to direct? All ideas and formats welcome. This is a great opportunity for people who have never directed before. We can provide plenty of support for new directors, including insights from an experienced production team. Please email committee@comptonlittletheatre.org.uk for more information and to share your idea.

Sandra Billinge – 1938-2026

Sandra (née Parsons) Billinge was born in August 1938 to a working class family in South London. At school she shone academically and was awarded a scholarship place at High School. There, her love of literature, history, art and music took flight. She became an avid Shakespeare enthusiast and frequently attended plays in Stratford-on-Avon.

Having met Brian, a research chemist, through his sister at school, they fell in love and married in 1958. Over the next four years they had Philip in 1959, moved to Leatherhead for Brian's work and had Maria in 1962. Moving again, to Guildford for the good schools, Sandra also started giving yoga classes. She was soon a teacher of great repute and carried on giving classes for 50 years. An incredible achievement.

On the tragic death of Brian in 1991, Sandra moved to her cottage in Farncombe, a source of continual pride and pleasure, especially her garden. This also became a venue for yoga classes each summer.

Her son Philip married Carol in 1996 but tragically he also passed away, too young, to cancer in 2021. Daughter Maria has four children and one granddaughter, who thankfully Sandra got to meet and spend time with.

Sandra was very busy in the community — Compton Little Theatre (CLT), the Parish Council, the Village Hall, Wey Navigation and Compton Fete. During her years with CLT, not only was Sandra involved in the technical side on lighting and sound, she also directed three memorable plays — *Shadowlands*, *The Caine Mutiny Court Martial* and CHAUCER's *Canterbury Tales*. She abseiled down Guildford Cathedral, gained her pilot's license and was well travelled. She went to book club, folk club, U3A and as many local socials as she could. She was a Trustee of the UNITED CHARITIES OF COMPTON, a successor of a trust fund dating back some 150 years, originally to help residents of the old ecclesiastical Parish of Compton who were experiencing hard times.

Having finally retired from teaching two years ago, health concerns started to frustrate Sandra. Tests were ongoing but nothing indicated or prepared us for her sudden death from a heart attack on 14 August 2026 at her home.

Sandra was kind and generous with a great sense of humour, talented, interesting and interested in everything. She was universally liked and admired by everyone and she will be hugely missed by her family and all her friends.

Remembering Ken Miller. A small ceremony was held at *Watts Gallery* on Wednesday 23 September to unveil a plaque in memory of Ken, who died just over two years ago. It was attended by members of Ken's family and representatives from the village, including the VILLAGE ASSOCIATION and PARISH COUNCIL who funded the project. It was followed by a reception in The Old Kiln where the superb portrait of Ken by **Emma Palmer** was on display. The plaque was created by **Bahareh Khomeiry**, previously Resident Potter at the Gallery, and was framed and installed by **Richard Paxton**. Villagers may have noticed the arrival of a new bench on the recreation ground, just outside the playground, which is also in memory of Ken and funded jointly by the PARISH COUNCIL and the VILLAGE ASSOCIATION. An inscription will be added to it in due course.

Do you remember COMPTON YOUTH CLUB? Sally and Philip Gorton are researching the history of Compton Youth Club, which flourished during the 1960s and 1970s. They would love to hear from anyone who remembers the Club and, in particular, from anyone who has photographs they would be willing to share. They hope to publish the work on their Compton History website, www.compton-history.uk. If you can help, please contact Philip and Sally at house.history@btinternet.com / 01483 420763.

DON'T FORGET to turn your clocks BACK an hour when you go to bed on Saturday 24 October

JOHN MOORE – 1959-2026

It was a huge shock to learn that John died in June after a short illness, far too young at the age of 66. He was born in Harrogate in 1959. His father was an airline pilot and when John was about 10 the family moved down to Cranleigh. He went to Godalming Grammar and stayed on when it became GODALMING SIXTH FORM COLLEGE. As it happens his future wife Karen was there at the same time but they didn't actually meet until later.

He met Karen properly through mutual friends and they married in 1993, in Las Vegas. John hated formality so they combined a three-week group tour of the States with a quick break for their wedding! Karen's mother Pam and sister Vanessa attended - at the time Vanessa was working in the States as a presenter for MTV - and all the members of the holiday group were waiting outside the Chapel to shower them with confetti!

John lodged at Westbury Manor for a while and then moved to Limnerslease to stay with Ros Lawson and her family, while attending Guildford College of Law. In 1992 he very bravely shared the driving of a huge lorry, packed with aid for the hospitals in Zagreb, Croatia, during the war in the former Yugoslavia. It was a mammoth undertaking and not without risk. The lorry set off from The Rectory and everyone watching had a tot of plum brandy to wish them well on their journey.

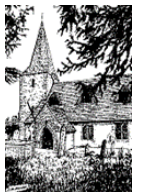
He will mostly be remembered in Compton as an enthusiastic, cheerful, amusing and talented member of COMPTON LITTLE THEATRE (CLT). His first appearance was in 1987 in the chorus of the pantomime *Beauty and The Beast*. CLT was where he performed with Pam Snare, little knowing that one day she would become his mother-in-law. Memorable roles included Priscilla the Goose in *Mother Goose* where he was unrecognisable in the most enormous Goose costume, having great difficulty getting on and off the small stage in the Village Hall. John surpassed himself in *Abigail's Party* where he played the husband to his future mother-in-law! There followed a number of roles over the next five years, from young Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* and finally Sneezy the Dwarf in *Snow White* in 1996.

Few people in Compton will know of John's huge involvement with WOKING FOOTBALL CLUB, where he was the Club's press officer and was affectionally known as Moorsie. He worked alongside BBC Surrey commentators and contributed hundreds of post-match interviews with managers and players.

John qualified as a solicitor and was a mentor and wise head to many. He was remarkably well read and knowledgeable about politics, history and world affairs. He had an obsession for growing palm trees and had recently wanted to develop his Farncombe home into a Los Angeles-style house, complete with a plethora of palm trees and exotic plants. John shared his love for music with his daughter Alicia and he was proud of her developing a music career while being realistic about the pitfalls of the music industry. Recently he went back to Westbury Manor with Alicia to make a film of her singing.

John was a kind and gentle person, charismatic and ebullient, an extrovert who made friends easily. He leaves a devastating gap in the lives of Karen and Alicia, as well as his mother Hazel and sister Fiona. He will be truly missed by his many friends and colleagues.

✦ WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH? ✦



Muddy Church. A space for all for wandering & wondering with God, for all the family, on the first Sunday of each month in term time.

Fledglings. Out toddler group meets at Pucks Oak Barn on Monday mornings from 9am in term time. Contact fledglingscompton@gmail.com.

Inside Out meets Saturday 3 October, 10am-12 noon to keep the church & churchyard looking good. Just turn up or contact wardens@stnicholascompton.org.

Bell Ringing. Sunday service ringing 9.50am-10.30am (1st Sunday only 5.30pm-6pm). Bell ringing practice alternate Tuesdays, 10am-12pm. Practice sessions can also be arranged at other times to suit those who cannot manage a weekday morning. Contact phil.gorton@btinternet.com.

Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals. Please contact our **Rector Sally** if you would like to mark a family milestone at St Nicholas.

If you would like someone to pray for you or with you, please contact our Rector Sally at rector@stnicholascompton.org. Confidences will be respected.

OCTOBER SERVICES

Sun 4	<u>10.30am</u> Muddy Church - Harvest	Sun 11	<u>10.30am</u> Holy Communion
	<u>6pm</u> Evensong St Michael & all angels	Sun 18	<u>10.30am</u> Holy Communion
Wed 7	<u>10.30am</u> Holy Communion Book of Common Prayer	Sun 25	<u>10.30am</u> Holy Communion

Visit our website for full details of upcoming services & events: stnicholascompton.org.

Try church bell ringing at St Nicholas Church

If you fancy trying something completely different come and learn to ring our newly refurbished bells and discover a hobby that keeps both brain and body active. No previous experience is needed. New starters can be from about 10 years old and up!

Our instructors are DBS checked.

If you have rung before, then why not consider refreshing these skills.

To find out more phone or email Phil Gorton at phil.gorton@btinternet.com / 01483 420763.

PHOENIX PILATES rises in Compton. The first class, in COMPTON CLUB, was a success with 12 local residents taking part in a fun, energising evening. Classes take place *every Wednesday at 7pm* in the Club.

Classes are suitable for all levels, from complete beginners to those with previous experience. Men and women are welcome and you'll find a friendly, supportive atmosphere where you can build strength, improve flexibility and posture, and boost your overall wellbeing.

Chrissi, your local Pilates instructor, is a Compton resident and is delighted to be bringing Phoenix Pilates to the village. Classes cost £10 per session, payable by card. Please bring a mat, water and comfortable clothing. Whether you're completely new or already love Pilates, you'll be very welcome. For more information or to book your place, contact Chrissi on 07811 47454.



Compton Club events.

Local band THE FARLEYS are playing on Saturday 3 October.

Doors open from 7pm.

Halloween Party, Friday 31 October.

Women Who W(h)ine (WWW), Thursday 17 November at 7pm.

Club AGM, Friday 4 December.

Christmas Party, Saturday 5 December.

New Year's Eve Party, Thursday 31 December.

PUMPKIN FUN WEEKEND AT VAN ARNHEM NURSERY ON SATURDAY 24 AND SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER, 10AM TO 3PM. FOR MORE DETAILS CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

www.hanschristmasandersen.co.uk.

Come Quizzing in aid of Shooting Star Children's Hospices.

Godalming Friends Group is holding its annual Quiz Night on Friday 9 October.

RHONA is Quiz Master!!

Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. *Shalford Village Hall*, GU4 8BQ £12.50 per person. Tables/teams of up to six. Raffle and 'Heads and Tails'. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks (plus glasses etc.). To buy tickets contact

Louise Healy on 01483 898539 / louise.healy605@btinternet.com.

Gather your cleverest friends and join **HOME-START GUILDFORD** for a fun-filled Quiz Night on Saturday 14 November at *Compton Village Hall*, starting at 6.30pm. Tickets cost £15 per person, including dinner. For further details or to book, email sarahblack536@googlemail.com. Home-Start Guildford is a fantastic charity which supports local families with at least one child under five who are facing challenges. Home-Start recruits and trains volunteers to visit their matched family every week for a couple of hours. The volunteer helps the family build resilience as they get to know each other over a period of 9-12 months. Activities are family-led and can include going to the park or a Toddler Group, playing with the children while Mum has a shower or well-earned nap. It's a simple concept but many families describe their volunteer as a "lifeline". A large percentage of the charity's income comes from fundraising and regular donations, so come along, have some fun and know you are helping others at the same time.

WATTS GALLERY NEWS FOR OCTOBER

Watts Gallery is now six open days a week, including Tuesdays, until 27 October. Future changes to opening times will be updated in the *NEWS*.



★ Our new exhibition, *A New Paradise*, can be viewed in WATTS CONTEMPORARY GALLERY until Sunday 15 December. Featuring new work by five artists reinterpreting William Morris's love of the natural world for the 21st century, it sits alongside our ongoing *Art of Wallpaper: Morris & Co*. Free entry, all works for sale.

★ Get ready for spooky fun this October half term with *Monsters, Magic & Mischief*, running Tuesday 21 October to Sunday 1 November. Follow the woodland witches trail, brew concoctions at the potion station and help build a monster menagerie across the Gallery, Limnerslease and woodland. Costumes are warmly encouraged. For younger makers, our *Halloween Craft Club* runs three sessions a day on Wednesday 28 and Friday 30 October (£8 per child, all materials included).

★ *Watts Tots* returns on Friday 2 October, with a *Tiny Treasures* theme, while *Clay Club* turns spooky later this month with pumpkin lanterns, monster mayhem and a ghostly sweetie jar from Thursday 28 to Saturday 31 October.

★ For the grown-ups, author **Anna Brook** leads a day of guided creative writing inspired by MARY SETON WATTS on Saturday 3 October, and Curatorial Advisor **Hilary Underwood** takes us behind the scenes for an hour in (and out of) the archive on Thursday 8 October. Our free with admission Art of Wallpaper curator's tour also running on the Thursdays 1 and 15 October.

★ If you hold a *Surrey Libraries* card, bring it along on Saturday 10 October for free entry and explore *A New Paradise* as well as our various other galleries at no cost. And if you're looking for a way to get more involved locally, come to our *Volunteer Recruitment Morning* on Thursday 15 October (10.30am–11.30am) for a chat, a mini tour and a hot drink. Email volunteers@wattsgallery.org.uk to register.

Remember: Compton residents get 50% off admission! Valid with a proof of address.

For more information and to book tickets, visit wattsgallery.org.uk/whats-on



Get your house in order! SURREY HILLS DECOR & RESTORATION (SHDR) is booking jobs to start from November.

If you want any decorating done before Christmas do get in touch for a FREE quote. 07981 256908.

♦ Interiors ♦ Exteriors ♦ Domestic ♦ Commercial ♦ Painting
♦ Wallpapering ♦ Wooden floors/doors ♦ Wood repairs ♦ Small tiling jobs ♦ Plastering repairs ♦ Boxing in pipes ♦ Panelling.

uktsa.com/business/surrey-hills-decor-and-restoration/

www.checkatrade.com/trades/surreyhillsdecorrestoration

Looking for a meaningful card for an occasion?
Heart-felt poems
and reflections written
in Compton by **Catherine**
on sale at

www.grainofsand.org.uk.

New Home/ Anniversary/
Sympathy/ Friendship and more.



Locally printed by the Royal British Legion.
Free delivery to GU3 or GU7.

Listings and links for events and regular meetings in the wider local area

TALKS

- **Guildford & District Knights of St Columba talk:** “Experience the Thrill of America’s Most Extreme Weather”.

Storm chaser **James Smith** will share breathtaking photographs and first hand accounts of pursuing tornadoes and spectacular supercell thunderstorms across Texas, New Mexico, Colorado and Nebraska. Saturday 10 October, from 10.30am to 12 noon. St Pius X Roman Catholic Church, 10 Laustan Close, Guildford GU1 2TS.

www.ticketsource.com - search “Storm Chasing”. All proceeds support the Guildford & District Knights of Saint Columba, a Catholic organisation supporting the Church, local communities and charitable causes.

- **Arts Society Woking talk:** “Shocking Schiaparelli!” Tuesday 13 October at 10.30am (doors open 9.45am for tea, coffee & biscuits). *Normandy Village Hall, GU3 2DT.*

www.wokingdfas.org.uk/talks-arts-society-woking-2026.htm.

- **Les Amitiés Françaises’ lecture:** “Belgium under the Microscope”. Thursday 15 October, 7.30pm. Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Oglethorpe Hall, Crown Court Car Park, Godalming, GU7 1DY. www.amitiesfrancaisesgodalming.com.

- **Milford Probus Lunch & Talk:** “The Effectiveness of Protest”. Friday 20 November, from 12pm. Godalming Masonic Hall, GU7 1RQ. Visit **www.milfordprobus.com** or book lunch (book eight days before) with Miranda O’Brien: miranda.obrien@btinternet.com / 01483 423398.

Music

- **Conservatoire Concerts** hosts a Piano Concerto performed by SUTTON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA under the baton of **Brian Choi**. Saturday 17 October, 7pm at Godalming Baptist Church.

Book tickets at www.conservatoireconcerts.org.uk.

- **Guildford Jazz events:**

Nicolas Meier on Friday 2 October, 8pm, at *The Stoke, Stoke Road, GU1 4JN.*

Martin Shaw (Lunchtime Jazz) on Monday 5 October, 2pm, at the *Guildford Institute, Ward Street, GU1 4LH.*

Five-Way Split on Thursday 8 October, 8pm, at *Guildford Pavilion, Woodbridge Road, GU1 4RP.*

Price & Smoldas on Wednesday 28 October, 8pm, at *Guildford Pavilion, Woodbridge Road GU1 4RP.*

To find out more and book tickets, visit www.guildfordjazz.org.uk.

REGULAR DATES

Fledglings, Pucks Oak Barn, Mondays, 9am
(term-time).

Compton Club, Spiceall, Thursdays & Fridays, from
7pm.

Sue’s Progressive Pilates, Godalming Unitarian
Chapel, Tuesdays, 9.45am.

Parish Council - Puck’s Oak Barn, Wednesdays,
18 November, 7pm.

Deadline for NOVEMBER Compton NEWS
Tuesday 20 October.

St Nicholas Sunday service bell ringing,
9.50am-10.30am (except first Sunday of every
month, 5.30pm-6pm).

Watts Gallery Shop & Café. Tuesdays to Sundays and
Bank Holidays, 10am.

Watts Cemetery Chapel. Open daily, 10am.

KD Fine Art (on Watts site). Monday to Saturday,
10.30am.

Old Barn Antiques. Thursday, Friday and Saturday,
10am to 4pm.

Compo minibus service, every Tuesday morning to
Sainsbury’s, Godalming. Departs 9.15am and returns
at 11.15 to 11.30am. Phone Margaret Cox, 01483
810158.