



## *In The News*

### *Compton Chamberlayne*

#### ***Oil Painting of Churchyard to be Sold at Christie's***

An oil painting of St Michael's churchyard at Compton Chamberlayne is set to fetch up to £8,000 at auction. The painting by Dame Laura Knight is undated but is known to have been exhibited at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool in 1937.

Dame Laura was the first woman to be elected to the Royal Academy (in 1936) and some of her work is now owned by the National Portrait Gallery, the Tate collection, the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial War Museum. The painting will be put up for auction at Christie's in London on December 16.

*(The Salisbury Journal - Monday 29th November, 2010)*

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#### ***Oil Painting Sells for £6,875***

An oil painting of St Michael's church at Compton Chamberlayne has been sold for £6,875. The painting by Dame Laura Knight was auctioned at Christie's in London. Before the auction the 24" by 20" painting - which is undated but possibly produced in the 1930s - had been expected to fetch between £6,000 and £8,000. It was bought by a mystery bidder. Dame Laura, who was in her early nineties when she died in 1970, was a friend and a frequent house guest of George Cross, an estate agent and property developer who owned the estate surrounding St Michael's church. According to auctioneers Christie's: "George Cross had a stylish mistress, Blanche Gertrude Ealand, who George called Heather.

"Laura became fond of Heather Ealand and painted her many times and a portrait of her was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1928."

Dame Laura was the first woman to be elected to the Royal Academy (in 1936) and some of her work is now owned by the National Portrait Gallery, the Tate collection, the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Imperial War Museum.

*(The Salisbury Journal - Tuesday 28th November, 2010)*



*Painting of St Michael's Church at Compton Chamberlayne by Dame Laura Knight*