

27 May 2009

## **LOCAL ART AT THE PANTILES**

The historic Pantiles in Royal Tunbridge Wells will be transformed into an outdoor art gallery as local artists line the colonnade with their original creative works from Saturday 6 to Sunday 14 June, between 10am and 5pm.

Organised by the Tunbridge Wells Borough Council in partnership with Targetfollow, owners of the Pantiles, the Open Air Art Exhibition is the largest of its kind in the Tunbridge Wells area and is now in its 75<sup>th</sup> year. Art lovers will be able to admire the range of art which will be displayed amongst The Pantiles' boutique shops and cafes.

There will be everything from traditional paintings and water colours, to contemporary art, sketches, cards, abstract designs, photography and popular box canvases. Artists associated with the Royal Tunbridge Wells Art Society will also feature their works, as they have been doing for the past seventy years.

Cllr Catherine Mayhew, Portfolio Holder for Health and Well-being, said:

'One of the Council's priorities is to encourage a prosperous area and by supporting local artists to exhibit in one of the town's most significant retail areas, we are doing just that. The standard of art produced locally is exceptional and this event provides the perfect opportunity to appreciate it.'

Chairman of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Art Society, Fran Holland, said:

'We love seeing The Pantiles alive with local art. The exhibition is a great opportunity for people to enjoy the artistic talent in Kent and Sussex in an elegant and sophisticated environment, and for us to encourage interested 'dabblers' to develop their skills by joining the Art Society.'

For more information about the Open Air Art Exhibition contact the Tourist Information Centre on 01892 515 675 or e-mail [touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:touristinformationcentre@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).