

events

- 19 May Friday Fun: Mother Nature 
- 20 May Saturday Craft: Fetching Fans 
- 30 May–1 Jun Holiday Happenings: Puzzling Puzzles 
- 3 June High Weald Walks – The Plants
- 9 June Springlines opens
- 17 June Saturday Craft: Chalybeate Super Spring 
- 21 June Behind the Scenes of... Springlines
- 23 June Friday Fun: Beautiful Birds 
- 1 July High Weald Walks – Broadwater Warren
- 14 July Friday Fun: Hidden Gardens 
- 22 July Saturday Craft: Show your colours 
- 5 August High Weald Walks – Newbars Wood
- 8–9 August Summer Fun: Bug Hotels 
- 10 August Mini beasts – Grosvenor & Hilbert Park 
- 12 August Birds of a Feather 
- 15–16 August Summer Fun: I Spy Treasure 
- 17 August Mini beasts – Tunbridge Wells Common 
- 22–23 August Summer Fun: Water Explorers 
- 24 August Mini beasts – Dunorlan Park 
- 29–20 August Summer Fun: Triumphant Trees 
- 31 August Mini beasts – Rusthall Common 
- 2 September High Weald Walks – Brakeybank Wood
- 9 September Creative writing workshop with Clare Best
- 16 September Harvest & Hops
- 14 October Springlines closes

 Family activities

Want to see even more behind the scenes?
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How to contact us

Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery
Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1JN
Telephone: 01892 554171
Fax: 01892 554131
Minicom: 01892 545449
E-mail: museum@tunbridgewells.gov.uk
Website: www.tunbridgewellsmuseum.org

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 @TWBC_Museum
 TunbridgeWellsMuseum

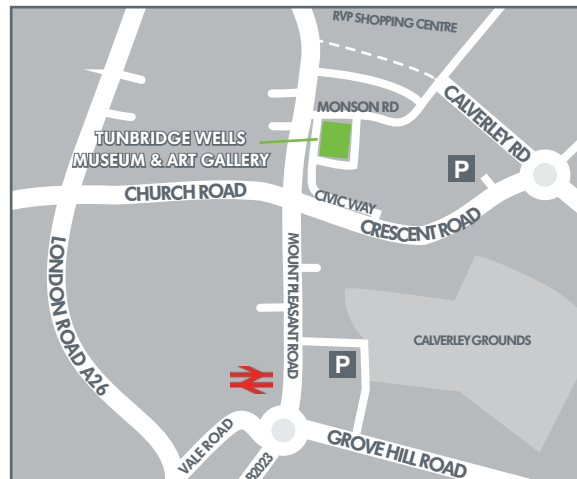
Opening hours

Tuesday – Saturday 9.30am – 5pm
Closed Sunday, Monday and Bank Holidays

How to find us

Royal Tunbridge Wells is less than an hour by train from London (Charing Cross) and Hastings, and regular direct services run from both daily. The town is a half hour drive from the M25 and M20.

The Museum and Art Gallery are situated in the town centre, on the first floor of the Library and Museum building, next to the Town Hall.



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Available in large print, telephone
01892 554171

exhibitions & events

Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery

May – September 2017
Admission FREE!



Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery shares the special story of the Borough of Tunbridge Wells through fantastic collections of art, natural history, archaeology, craft, toys and so much more. It is a fascinating tale beginning with the discovery of the spa waters in 1606, eventually giving birth to the Georgian 'den of iniquity' which would become the byword for Victorian respectability.

The collection began in 1885 when the 'Literary and Scientific Society' began displaying their collections on The Pantiles. However, it was not until the 1950s that the bespoke art-deco building was completed which currently houses the Museum & Art Gallery along with the local library.

The Museum & Gallery holds collections of regional and national importance, including the largest collection of Tunbridge Ware, a large toy collection dating back to the 1700s, and one of the best Georgian portrait collections outside of London.

The story of Kent's spa town is featured throughout, highlighting the decadence of the manor house and the Spartan lifestyle of the humble hop-picker.

All of this is complemented by a regular calendar of special exhibitions in the Art Gallery, which range from displays of modern or classical art to history and science. Exhibitions strive to show the world to Tunbridge Wells and Tunbridge Wells to the world.

Gallery Map



The Tunbridge Wells story

exhibitions

Our exciting calendar of special exhibitions is designed to show the best of the world to Tunbridge Wells, and the best of Tunbridge Wells to the world. Exhibitions coming up are:

Springlines

9 June – 14 October 2017

Exploring hidden and mysterious bodies of water

Paintings by Mary Anne Aytoun-Ellis and words by Clare Best

They chased out sunlight,
charcoaled the woods,
flooded the Weald
with noise and smoke.
For three hundred years
the sky was dark.

Now streams and lakes
are lucent, hushed –
no hammers, no forges,
no cannon, no soot,
but fire that smoulders
in rusty pools.

Ironmakers, 2016 by Clare Best



Image credit: *Furnace Pond* by Mary Anne Aytoun-Ellis

During the drought of 2012, writer Clare Best and painter Mary Anne Aytoun-Ellis went in search of bodies of water that are concealed, forgotten or overlooked. They found places rich in history, wildlife, culture and myth. Through *Springlines*, Mary Anne's paintings and Clare's words celebrate the variety and vitality of this water. Their work explores some of the most evocative hidden corners of the English landscape – from dewponds to ancient wells, from old clay pits to furnace ponds, from chalk springs to man-made pools.

For this exhibition Clare and Mary Anne have developed some new work for their *Springlines* project, reflecting the overlooked water sources of Tunbridge Wells. Inspired by the collections at Tunbridge Wells Museum & Art Gallery and walks throughout the Borough, their paintings, photographs and poetry capture the essence of our natural and industrial heritage. The exhibition also features objects, prints and paintings from the Museum collection.

Behind the Scenes of... Springlines

Wednesday 21 June Time: 2pm Cost: Free

A curator-led guided tour of *Springlines* with special behind the scenes stories of how the exhibition came together..

Creative Writing with Clare Best – Artist Workshop

Saturday 9 September Time: 1-4pm Cost: £35

Spend a half-day with *Springlines* poet Clare Best as she takes you through the finer points of creative writing – poetry and prose. Clare, who describes herself as “always living closely with words”, has been a bookbinder, a bookseller and an editor. Her work has appeared in *The Rialto*, *Resurgence*, *Agenda*, *Poetry News*, *The London Magazine*, *Magma* and *The Warwick Review*, to name but a few. She has also been the writer in residence at Woodlands Organic Farm from 2006 to 2008, and at the University of Brighton in 2014–15.

Places on this workshop are extremely limited, so booking is essential

*Minimum age 16 years

For more information about Clare, go to www.clarebest.co.uk

Eduardo Paolozzi

General Dynamic F.U.N.

A Hayward Touring exhibition

27 October 2017 – 27 January 2018

A new Hayward Touring exhibition of screenprints by Eduardo Paolozzi will open on 27 October as part of a national tour.

Sir Eduardo Paolozzi (1924–2005) was one of the pioneers of the pop art movement in the UK. Born in Scotland, Paolozzi was a compulsive collector and a jumbler of icons. The artist, who described himself as 'a wizard in Toytown', transformed the mundane, the derelict and the mass-produced into images that zap with electric eclecticism and impress with their graphic complexity.

Paolozzi's canny alchemy is vividly apparent in General Dynamic F.U.N, a series of fifty screenprints and photolithographs created between 1965 and 1970. Here Paolozzi employs the technologies of mass-reproduction and gorges on its idols – the household names and familiar faces of consumer advertising, high fashion and Hollywood. The artist's friend and sometime collaborator, J.G. Ballard, described General Dynamic F.U.N as a 'unique guidebook to the electric garden of our minds'



Image credit: The Accident Syndrome, the Genesis of Inquiry (Copyright the artist and DACS)



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

HAYWARD TOURING
SOUTHBANK CENTRE

Family Fun May – September 2017

Saturday Craft Club

Monthly free drop-in craft sessions for all ages. Self led sessions from 10am – 12 noon & 2–4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times. Cost: Free

20 May Fetching Fans
17 June Chalybeate Super Spring
22 July Show your colours
16 September Harvest & Hops

Friday Fun

Monthly free drop-in art, craft and storytelling sessions for 2 – 5 year olds with an accompanying adult. Sessions run from 10.30 – 11.30am. Cost: Free

19 May Mother Nature
23 June Beautiful Birds
14 July Hidden Gardens

Holiday Happenings: Puzzling Puzzles

Tuesday 30 May – Thursday 1 June
Time: 10:30am – 12.30pm & 2 – 4pm
Cost: Free

Get your brains working for a puzzling Holiday Happenings. Make something out of nothing. Using the materials given, what can you make? Impress us with your creativity and genius! This event is drop-in, so there's no need to book!

Summer Fun

Time: 10:30am – 12.30pm & 2 – 4pm
Cost: Free

Tuesday 8 – Wednesday 9 August:
Bug Hotels

Get inspired by our insect collection and make your own bug hotel. Learn about how different insects need different environments to survive, and explore the Museum to find out where the insects may have made their homes.

Tuesday 15 – Wednesday 16 August:
I Spy Treasure

Are you a treasure hunter? Explore the Museum and follow the map to find the hidden treasure. Make a treasure chest to fill with your own treasures, and learn about the treasure that's been found in Royal Tunbridge Wells.

Tuesday 22 – Wednesday 23 August:
Water Explorers

Inspired by our Springlines exhibition, learn about the hidden waters in Tunbridge Wells. Explore different stations where you can use natural materials to build a raft, understand how spring water forms, and search the Museum for different water sources!

Tuesday 29 – Wednesday 30 August:
Triumphant Trees

Take inspiration from some of the triumphant trees shown in the Springlines exhibition. Make your own tree, explore the different trees shown in the Museum, and learn about how they have shaped people's lives in the borough and beyond.

Young Nature Hunters & Mini Beast Safaris

Free bug hunts around Tunbridge Wells every Thursday through the holidays. Young Nature Hunters (YNH) are for all ages, and Mini Beast Safaris (MBS) for those 6 and over.

Time: 10.30 – 11.30am (YNH) & 2.30–4pm (MBS)

10 August Grosvenor & Hilbert Park
17 August Tunbridge Wells Common
24 August Dunorlan Park
31 August Rusthall Common