About Elmbridge Museum

Elmbridge Museum is committed to placing its services closer to the heart of the community with temporary displays in public places and a thriving education and learning programme. As an outreach museum we offer a series of monthly family fun events themed around local history and we provide 24 hour access to the Museum’s collections on our website.

We aim to produce a positive impact in our local community, and are working on creative ways to share the collections across the Borough with pop up events.

We are based at the Civic Centre in Esher from where we provide our outreach services. We also have a space featuring our local heritage at the Civic Centre.

We preserve and document over 40,000 artefacts and archives on behalf of the Borough.

We are expanding our temporary exhibition programme at key public locations across the Borough.

The Learning and Outreach programme for schools and community groups has been revitalised and expanded.

Our popular monthly Family Fun craft activities and events will continue throughout 2018.
Elmbridge Museum Collections

Elmbridge Museum has a collection of over 40,000 objects illustrating life in the Borough from the Stone Age to the 21st Century. There are objects, photographs and documents relating to the themes of archaeology, costume, domestic, education, geology, natural history, personal, local history, social history, trades, war and services.

Many of the objects are available to view by searching the catalogue on the Museum’s Collections web page. The web page is continually being updated with further images and text to enable quick and easy access to the collections. There are also suggested topics, often relating to an exhibition, or other highlights of the collections for browsing on the web.

We provide access to the collection through our online catalogue and online exhibitions.

Our local studies room is now open by appointment only.

Opening times: Mondays 10am – 1pm, Tuesdays 2pm – 5pm and Wednesdays 10am – 1pm and 2pm – 5pm.

A team of volunteers are able to assist with answering local history enquiries and to give researchers access to the reference and Museum collections. Please call to book your time slot.
Opportunities for Families

Our Family Fun events are a great opportunity for families to have fun learning about Elmbridge’s local history, with hands-on and creative activities based around some of the fantastic objects in our collection.

The sessions take place on a Saturday once a month, from 2.00pm to 4.30pm and cost £1.50 per child.

Please note that the Museum Family Fun events will be held at a different location each month this quarter.

Please check the venue carefully before you travel there.

Please note children must be accompanied by an adult.

Lights, Camera, Action! Saturday 15 September – Cecil Hepworth Playhouse, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1AU
Find out about local cinema pioneer Cecil Hepworth and make your own clapperboard and megaphone.

Marvellous Marchpane Saturday 13 October – Walton Library, Walton-on-Thames KT12 1GH
Travel back in time to the Tudor kitchen and make your own Tudor sweets.

Remember with a Poppy Saturday 10 November – Cobham Library KT11 2AE
Commemorate the centenary of the end of World War 1. Make your own poppy craft to mark Remembrance Sunday.

Wonderful Wreaths Saturday 15 December – Thames Ditton Library KT7 0BS
Make your own Christmas wreath and find out how this festive tradition began with the Romans.
Learning Services for Schools

Elmbridge Museum offers an exciting range of learning services, from discovery boxes for loan to curriculum-linked outreach sessions. The Museum’s handling collection brings the history of Elmbridge to life to inspire schools to learn, create and engage with their local heritage.

**Outreach sessions**

A member of the Learning team can visit your school to deliver a curriculum-supported session. Participants are given the opportunity to explore and investigate life in the past using the museum’s collection. The mixture of object handling, role play and crafts offers an immersive and memorable learning experience.

**Discovery Boxes**

Our discovery boxes are a fantastic resource to enhance learning in the classroom. They include real and replica objects and teachers’ notes which support the new curriculum with local history content. Using object based learning in the classroom is a unique way to bring history to life and provide your class with hands-on experience.

**Membership**

Our school membership scheme is designed to support schools in the delivery of the new curriculum. Schools that subscribe to this great value scheme will have access to the museum’s selection of interactive workshops and discovery boxes on a variety of topics.
What’s on
Temporary Exhibitions

100 Years of the Great War
Civic Centre, Esher KT10 9SD,
August – December 2018
Commemorate the centenary of the
end of the First World War through a
selection of objects and photographs.

The Wrens of Oxshott Brooklands
College, August – December 2018
Experience the work of Denise and
Rosemary Wren who were potters
from Oxshott.

Women of WW1 Cobham Library,
September 2018 – February 2019
Learn how women played an
influential role in the first world war by
working in factories and on the land.

The Gills of Apps Court
Civic Centre, Esher,
September – December 2018
Find out about the Gill family who
lived at Apps Court, Walton-on-
Thames, during Victorian Times.

Walton on Film Walton Library,
KT12 1GH, May – September 2018
Explore Walton’s Hollywood past
and find out about early cinema’s
leading stars.

Changing Domestic Walton Library,
October 2018 – March 2019
Discover how we came to cook
in today’s kitchens.

Highlighting Hockey Thames Ditton Library, KT7 0BS
May – November 2018
Celebrate the hockey clubs in
our area through our display of
photographs and hockey-related
memorabilia.
What’s on
Online Exhibitions

A selection of our online exhibitions

Cecil Hepworth: Cinemas’s forgotten pioneer
Cecil Hepworth, who lived in Walton-on-Thames, was a key player in the early development of cinema. His work helped to develop filmmaking techniques that are still used today.

The Wrens of Oxshott
Throughout the twentieth century, one local family tirelessly explored how clay could be used. Mother and daughter potters Denise and Rosemary Wren are compared through their use of tools and mark making in this online exhibition.

Everyday Heroines
This online exhibition brings together the stories of 8 female figures from a cross section of society, from the regal to the modest, who have had a diverse, long-lasting, and impactful influence on Elmbridge and the world.

Votes for Women
2018 marks 100 years since women got the vote. This online exhibition features ladies clothing, photographs and objects from the era. The exhibition features stories about the suffragettes and their activities.

More exhibitions can be found online at elmbridgemuseum.org.uk