Embridge has a dynamic arts scene sustained by local arts organisations including drama, dance, music, galleries and much more. Elmbridge Borough Council is keen to get residents involved in the many arts forms available in the Borough for them to their full benefits. A public consultation ran from 23 November to 16 December 2016 to seek residents’ views on possible improvements to give them better access to local arts. Overall 136 respondents completed this questionnaire.

66% of respondents were female and 34% male. The age groups were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75+</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-34</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 25</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Responses were as follows:

**In which arts and cultural activities have you or any members of your household participated in Elmbridge in the past 12 months?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visiting galleries or exhibitions</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading/book clubs</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending talks and lectures</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singing</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painting or drawing</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other art or craft activities</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing a musical instrument</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative writing</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Specify where you take part in those activities:

- Riverhouse Barn – 22 mentions
- Everyman Cinema in Walton-on-Thames or Esher – 20 mentions
- Libraries – 9
- Other local cinemas (Epsom, Kingston) – 8 mentions
- Adult education – 8
- Walton Playhouse - 6
- Royston Pike Lecture Series – 5 mentions
- Various halls for talks – 4
- Book Clubs – 4
- Central London theatre ballet and exhibitions 4
- U3A Elmbridge – 3
- Reading at home – 3
- Hersham Village Hall 2
- Choir– 2
- Weybridge Firm Society – 2
- Elmbridge Ladies Probus Club at the British Legion in Molesey – 2
- Local health clubs 2
- Schools, after school clubs – 2
- Pavilion Club dance – 2
- WIDFAS talks – 2
- Cercle Francais – 2
- Reading groups in Surrey - 1
- King George’s Hall for dancing - 1
- Esher Gallery – 1
- Molesey District Antiques Society 1
- Imber Court – 1
- Ember players - 1
- Walton on Thames area galleries 1
- Play an instrument at home – 1
- Shout! Arts and Crafts – 1
- Molesey Boat club – 1
- Elmbridge Museum – 1
- Stagecoach – 1
- Tap dancing – 1
- Wood carving at Princess Alice Hospice – 1
- Creative writing in Esher - 1
- Photography and walking – 1
- Local church – 1
- Riverside parks – 1
- Surbiton High School – 1
- Leatherhead Leisure Centre – 1
- St Nicholas Church, Thames Ditton for ballet – 1
- Spelthorne galleries – 1
- St Andrews Church Scottish dancing – 1
- St Mary’s Church, Walton – 1
- St Mary’s Oatlands – concerts – 1
- Rocksteady and street dance at school – 1
Have you engaged in any of the following cultural activities as a spectator in the past months?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts exhibitions including painting, sculpture and other media</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre plays, musicals or comedy</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Musical – classical, jazz, rock, pop or choral</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum Visits</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Talks or lectures</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance, contemporary, jazz or ballet</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What venues have you visited as a spectator?

- Art galleries, theatres and ballet in London
- Banqueting Hall
- Barbican
- Buscot Park
- Brooklands Museum
- Walton Artists
- Chichester Theatre
- Courtauld Institute
- ENO London
- Everyman cinema, Esher
- Exhibitions - St Albans School, King Georges Hall
- G Live Guildford
- Hampton Court
- Molesey art group, 39 steps (amateur production)
- Molesey Art Society
- Music in Esher church, and dancing on the TV
- National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery
- National Theatre
- Orange Tree Theatre Richmond
- Playhouse Walton
- RHS Wisley
- Riverhouse Barn, Walton
- Rose Theatre Kingston
- Royal Academy of Arts
- Royal Albert Hall
- Royal Festival Hall
- Royal Opera House
- RSC Stratford
- Sadlers Wells
- Tate Gallery
- Tate Modern
- The Lightbox -Woking
- The Rose Theatre, Kingston-upon-Thames
Theatre Royal
· V&A Museum
· Vera Fletcher Hall
· Waddesdon Manor
· Wallace Collection
· Watts Gallery
· Wickham Festival

Are there any other arts and cultural activities you would like to be involved in, either as a participant or as a spectator?

- No interest – 34 mentions – Don’t know – 4 mentions
- Visual Arts / Art exhibitions – 6 mentions
- Theatre – 6 mentions
- Talks and lectures – 5 mentions (of which - history & heritage talks – 2 mentions)
- Dancing – 4 mentions (1 Morris – 1 country – 1 community – 1 salsa)
- Concerts (incl jazz and classical) – 4 mentions
- Classical music – 4 mentions
- Free concerts in the parks – 3 mentions
- Ballet – 3 mentions
- Photography - guided walks – 3 mentions.
- Opera – 3 mentions
- Drama groups – 3 mentions
- Singing – 3 mentions (1 community – 2 choir)
- Film screening – 3 mentions (i.e, Film showings of London plays and ballet – good quality - not blockbusters)
- Literary events – 2 mentions
- Theatre groups – 2 mentions
- Adult education
  o Fine art courses Print making studios Pottery
  o Beginners drawing, painting, upholstery, adult ballet, art history & art appreciation
  Would like adult learning courses to be based in Weybridge or Walton - especially around literature or writing
  o Would like to see existing venues in Walton and Weybridge used for more arts activities - plays, comedy, exhibitions - there seems to be lots going on in Richmond, lots going on in Guildford, very little going on in Elmbridge!!!

Other comments:

- Library events
- Small pub theatre type
- Comedy/cabaret.
- I would prefer the council spent the rate payers money on improving essential services and allow the cultural activities to be self-funding and provided by the clubs, groups and commercial businesses.
- if there were other activities such as Jazz or historical or cultural
- Local art groups or painting clubs
- More drama and sport and music for children, and adults but at affordable prices
The Shakespeare productions in Guildford are wonderful. Think there are quite a number of local activities available it is just a matter of researching what is on and when. Used to be involved with amateur dramatics but little time available nowadays. Visibility of events needs to be enhanced. Whimsical Dance Flummery (both long and short) Clapping. More films, theatre, music, exhibitions ... child friendly. Metal sculpture. Definitely. During the Summer it would be great to have more live music/concerts in the area (we used to have the Claremont Festival). Also, what about a full Elmbridge Book Festival (much as they have in Guildford) with guest speakers. Most of us work Mon to Fri so weekend/evening events hugely appreciated. Sunday is best day. More outdoor cinema using the facilities @ Sandown Park. Concerts that are priced/timed to be accessible to families would be fabulous. We have great restaurants/bars - more live music please. More lectures (books/cinema/art/jewellery/local history to name but a few themes) in our beautiful buildings. We have fab local houses - like Wayneflete Tower and the RC Sheriff Trust to bring our locality to life. Plus the great outdoors and that wonderful house The Homewood. We are spoilt for choice!

Always delighted to see literary or arts festivals and good performances of dance.

**What would make you participate more in the arts in Elmbridge?**

- Greater awareness of what is available / advertising – 28 (including suggestions for online website/newsletter/programme – 6)
- More time – 13
- Availability at location – 9
- Better transport – 4
- Better range of facilities/more comfortable facilities – 5
- Better access including parking – 3
- More provision of public events – 4
- Live theatre – 2
- Better quality - 2
- Child friendly events – 1
- Nothing 11 – don’t know 6

**If you wanted to find information about what’s on in your local Arts Community, where would you look?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local free magazines and publications</th>
<th>59%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Internet search</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libraries</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmbridge Borough Council website</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ask friends for recommendations</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmbridge noticeboards</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local community facebook pages</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts focus</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other sources:**

- Local newspapers – 3 mentions
- Streetlife community web page – 3 mentions
- Church information – 2 mentions
- Centres for the arts, such as Riverhouse Barn and the Sunbury Millenium Gallery Space
- Day centres
- I’m on the mailing list for Riverhouse
- Notices outside venues
- Diary of events sent to households would be great. Waste / recycling do it as does the shout activity clubs why not the ‘Arts’ too?
- Find the Noticeboard too staid and formulaic. Find the website unfriendly (this is where I pay my Council Tax/look for opening hours of the recycling centre and complain about the street lights being switched off!). I don’t consider the EBC website as a ‘fun’ website. Word of mouth / Social Media (Facebook not Twitter!)
- I just keep my eyes & ears open & read anything that comes my way!
- I’d like to get a regular, free magazine/newsletter for Elmbridge including info on Arts & Culture, but don’t get anything these days. We don’t all want to have to go online to get info!
- Prefer to sign up to e-mailing