

ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Summer 2017

www.arco-kingston.org.uk email secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk



Dear Friends

Our AGM on 3rd March was attended by 34 members and their guests, and presided over by the Mayor of Kingston (and fellow ARCO member!), Councillor Geoff Austin. As usual, an excellent lunch was laid on by Jenny Longhurst and her team of helpers. Our guest speaker, Michael Carrigan, regaled us with interesting anecdotes of the harshness of daily life in post-war Britain, and a vote of thanks was held for Janet Byrne, who has retired from the committee, having been a member since 2006, and vice-chair last year. This leaves a vacancy on the committee – anyone with experience of arranging guest speakers at meetings will be particularly welcome!

You will recall from previous newsletters that the Council no longer holds an Annual Pensions Meeting open to current contributors and pensioners. Instead, full and summarised versions of the Annual Pension Fund Report to the Council for 2016 are available on the Council's website. The summary can be found at https://www.kingston.gov.uk/downloads/download/223/pension_fund_annual_report. If anyone without computer access wants to see this report, please contact me via our secretary Martin at his address below.

There are still seats available for our outing to Portsmouth Dockyard on Wednesday 26th April. As there are many other attractions in Portsmouth, we have decided to offer coach-only places on this trip, priced at £12.50 which is two thirds of the rail fare, even after the Senior Railcard Discount. You will then have about six hours' free time in Portsmouth, allowing you to visit the waterside Gunwharf Quays shopping complex, or the Spinnaker Tower, which offers 23-mile views, or to simply explore the city on foot or by bus (remember to take your Freedom Pass with you!). A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

You will also find a diary of future events enclosed. These include an informal gathering at the Kings' Tun on Wednesday 17th May, our Summer Get Together at the Guildhall on Wednesday 28th June and our second trip of the year, to Denbies Wine Estate on Wednesday 19th July.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at these and future events.

Best Wishes

Mike

Mike Belsham
Chairman

chairman@arco-kingston.org.uk

ARCO Secretary: Martin Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane, Abinger Hammer, DORKING, RH5 6RS

Invitation to Summer Get-Together

Please note we are changing our Guildhall dates to Wednesdays to help the Council meet its income targets.

Wednesday, 28 June 2017

12.00 Noon to 2.30 p.m.

Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames

RSVP by post to Jenny Longhurst by 19 June 2017

Write: Mayfield, Hoe Lane, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6RS

Telephone for queries only: 01306 730321

Email for queries only: jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com

Retain top half as a reminder and send off bottom half

I would like One/Two (please circle) places at the Get Together on 28 June 2017

and enclose a cheque for £ (payable to ARCO)

to cover the cost of £3.00 per head for Sandwich Lunch, Wine and Coffee

Name(s) required on Badge(s) (Capital Letters)

1. _____ 2. _____

Telephone No. _____

Email: _____

THE MARY ROSE AND PORTSMOUTH HISTORIC DOCKYARD

Wednesday 26 April 2017

For those who watched it on television in 1982, the raising of the Mary Rose from the bottom of the Solent was an unforgettable sight, and one of the decade's defining moments. Over thirty years later, Henry VIII's flagship is now housed in the new Mary Rose Museum, just yards from where the ship was constructed, and unlocks the story of a vanished world.

As well as the Mary Rose, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard is home to some of the most famous and historically important naval ships in the world. **For the combined entrance fee**** you can also visit HMS Victory; HMS Warrior 1860; HMS Monitor M33; Action Stations and the National Museum of the Royal Navy. (** Royal Navy Submarine Museum, Royal Marines Museum and Explosion Museum are not included in this combined entry ticket.)

The combined entrance fee does offer a significant saving should you want to visit even one additional site apart from the Mary Rose. However, you are advised to allow between 1.5 and 2 hours to visit the Mary Rose Museum itself. There is also a tour of the harbour included with either ticket, subject to availability. Also, Boathouse 4 houses traditional boatbuilding in action and holds an exhibition detailing the small boats' vital contribution to the sharp end of naval operations. This is a free exhibition.

Alternatively, there is a coach only option giving you about six hours of free time to visit the nearby Gunwharf Quay shopping complex, the Spinnaker Tower or other parts of the city of Portsmouth.

Wednesday 26 April 2017

Time of departure from Kingston Library – 9.00 am

Departure for home – 4.30 pm

Cost: Mary Rose only: £26

Mary Rose & Historic Dockyard: £33

Includes the coach, entrance and driver's gratuity

Coach only: £12.50

Please make cheques payable to ARCO and return to me with the tear off slip to:

June Collins

23B Tower Road

Twickenham

Middlesex TW1 4PD

Closing date: Friday 7 April 2017

(I can be contacted after this date to check availability.)

Telephone: 020 8891 0448

E-mail: june.collins@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07532 410372 (for use on the day)

(Please enclose an SAE if you require a receipt)

Cut here

I/We would likeplace/s for Mary Rose only for £26

I/We would likeplace/s for Mary Rose & Historic Dockyard for £33

I/We would likeplace/s for coach only for £12.50

Please Print:

Name:

Address:.....

Tel No. Email.....

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 26 April 2017	Outing to The Mary Rose & Portsmouth Historic Dockyard or free time in Portsmouth – booking form enclosed
Wednesday, 17 May 2017	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun, Clarence Street, Kingston (opposite Wilkinsons) – drop in to the upstairs bar between 12 and 1.30 pm
Wednesday, 28 June 2017	Summer Get Together – booking form enclosed
Wednesday, 19 July 2017	Outing to Denbies Wine Estate – booking form enclosed
August 2017	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun (tbc)
September 2017	Outing to Leeds Castle, near Maidstone (tbc)
Wednesday, 25 October 2017	Coffee Morning
November 2017	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun (tbc)
December 2017	Christmas Lunch (tbc)
Wednesday, 24 January 2018	Winter Get Together
February 2018	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun (tbc)
Wednesday, 21 March 2018	Annual General Meeting

Keep in touch at www.arco-kingston.org.uk

A DAY OUT AT DENBIES WINE ESTATE

Wednesday 19th July 2017

The Vineyards of Denbies Estate are situated on the North Downs near the town of Dorking. 265 acres have been planted and produce some of the finest sparkling and table wines in Europe.

INDOOR TOUR

We start our trip with an indoor tour which includes a film "The Vineyard Through The Seasons," in which we learn about the geology and history of the estate and experience the changes in the vineyard through the seasons and appreciate the wine making process from vine to bottle. We pass through the working winery and see the equipment used in today's wine production. The journey ends in the atmospheric Denbies cellars where we will be guided through a tasting of Denbies classic wine. Approximate length of tour 1 hour.

After the tour there is time to have lunch and look at the shop before the:

OUTDOOR VINEYARD TRAIN TOUR

After lunch we commence the outdoor vineyard train tour at a leisurely pace to some of the most beautiful viewing points in the vineyard. A recorded commentary enhances the trip making this an informative and comfortable way to experience the magnificent panoramic views of the Denbies Estate and the North Downs. Approximate duration: 50 minutes

Wednesday 19th July 2017

Time of departure from Kingston Library – 9.00 am

Departure for home – 4.30 pm

COST : £23

Closing date: Friday 30th June

Includes the coach, entrance and driver's gratuity

Please make cheques payable to ARCO and return to me with the tear off slip to:

June Collins

23B Tower Road,

Twickenham

Middlesex TW1 4PD

Telephone: 020 8891 0448

E-mail: june.collins@hotmail.co.uk

Mobile: 07532 410372 (for use on the day)

(Please enclose an SAE if you require a receipt.)

Cut here

I/We would likeplace/s for A Day out at Denbies for £23

Please Print:

NAME:

Address:.....

Tel No.Email.....