

# ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

**Autumn 2017**

[www.arco-kingston.org.uk](http://www.arco-kingston.org.uk) email [secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk](mailto:secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk)



Dear Friends

Our summer get-together on 28 June was attended by 29 members and friends. A minute's silence was held in memory of Derek Weedon, who passed away at the grand old age of 91, and of Michael Barker, husband of our committee member Maureen, who was a regular attender of our outings.

Our trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard on 26 April proved to be fascinating for the 36 participants. At the time of writing we are preparing for our visit to Denbies Wine Estate on 19 July. Unfortunately, the response regarding this trip has proved to be somewhat disappointing, and your committee will be reviewing the viability of mid-summer outings when it next meets in October. If you have any views, please let me or other members of the committee know.

The next informal gathering at the Kings Tun will be on 17 August. We meet in the spacious upstairs bar at this Wetherspoons pub in Clarence Street between 12 noon and 1.30 p.m. Large and small meals, soft drinks and coffees are available, as well as alcohol, all at very reasonable prices. A booking form is attached for our final outing of the year to Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, on 27 September. The guest speaker at our coffee morning at the Guildhall on 25 October will be Martin Boiling, who will tell us about the work of the Woodland Trust.

Although it seems to be incongruous to be thinking about Christmas in the middle of July, we do have to book early these days! After our enjoyable and successful lunch there, we are returning to the North Star in Hook Road on 14 December, so please note this date in your diaries. There will be a menu and booking form in the next Newsletter.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at these events.

Best Wishes

*Mike*

Mike Belsham  
Chairman

[chairman@arco-kingston.org.uk](mailto:chairman@arco-kingston.org.uk)

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

## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 17 August 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, 27 September 2017	Outing to Leeds Castle, near Maidstone
Wednesday, 25 October 2017	Coffee Morning
November 2017	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun (tbc)
Thursday, 14 December 2017	Christmas Lunch at The North Star, Chessington
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](http://www.arco-kingston.org.uk)***

### **Invitation to a Coffee Morning**

Martin Boiling will speak on The Woodland Trust

Wednesday, 25 October 2017 10.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames

Charge for coffee and biscuits £2

RSVP by post, phone or email to Jenny Longhurst by **14 OCTOBER 2017**

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

Telephone: 01306 730321

Email: [jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com](mailto:jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com)

*Retain top half as a reminder and send off bottom half*

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**I would like One/Two (delete as appropriate) places for the Coffee Morning on 25 October 2017 and enclose a cheque for £ ..... (payable to ARCO) for £2.00 per head**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# LEEDS CASTLE

## 'The Loveliest Castle in the World'

### Wednesday 27 September 2017

Visitors never forget their first breath-taking vision of Leeds Castle, rising majestically from the moat as it has done for almost 900 years. With 500 acres of beautiful parkland and formal gardens, daily activities, free flying falconry displays and year-round attractions, Leeds Castle is one of the best days out in Kent.

The Castle has been a Norman stronghold, the private property of six of England's medieval queens, a palace used by Henry VIII; a Jacobean country house; a Georgian Mansion; an elegant early 20<sup>th</sup> century retreat for the influential and famous, and now one of the most visited historic buildings in Britain.

Attractions include: the Gatehouse Exhibition; Dog Collar Museum; the Culpeper Garden; the Wood Garden; The Lady Baillie Mediterranean Garden Terrace; the Maze and the Grotto.

Our visit will coincide with the "Festival of Flowers". Be inspired by the creativity of international award-winning florists and floral designers - this year themed to an "Enchanted Castle".

#### Wednesday 27 September 2017

Time of departure from Kingston Library – 9.00 a.m.

Departure for home – 4.30 p.m.

**COST: £29.50**

**Closing date: Friday 8 September**

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](mailto:june.collins@hotmail.co.uk)

Mobile: 07532 410372 (for use on the day)  
(Please enclose an SAE if you require a receipt.)

.....  
I/We would like .....place/s for the trip to Leeds Castle @ £29.50

Please Print:

NAME: .....

Address:.....

Tel No. .... .Email.....