

ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Spring 2020

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



Dear Friends,

Firstly, I have to thank Shona Hastings who has stood down after several years on our Committee, including a term as Vice-Chairman. Shona has contributed in many ways at our functions and outings and her presence will be missed. We wish her well in her new job.

Our Christmas Lunch was again very successful and was attended by 38 members and friends. As it was Election Day, several people withdrew to carry out balloting duties. Prior to that, we had our biggest attendance of 22 at the Kings Tun on 21 November. Turning to the New Year, we held our first informal gathering at The Druid's Head, in Kingston Market Place, on Monday 20 January, attended by 21 members.

The next informal gatherings at the Kings Tun will be on Thursday 20 February and Friday 5 May. We meet in the spacious upstairs bar (there is a lift) 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.

Your Committee recently spent some time considering how best to arrange the Association's calendar of events. The survey carried out by Val Weedon indicated your favourite months for outings to be April, May and October, followed by June. Please read the article about the future arrangements for outings and the proposal the Committee is putting to the AGM.

In the meantime, Val has organised a trip to The Royal Engineers Museum at Gillingham, Kent, on Friday 3 April - see the booking form enclosed.

Having looked at outings, the question of fitting our other activities around them was debated. Given the Christmas meal is now our biggest event, we felt the other functions should be spaced out around that and the outings. We found this was made tricky by the requirement in our Constitution to hold the AGM in March each year. To give more flexibility, the Committee is also proposing that the month should no longer be laid down in this way. We will give more thought to our programme at our March meeting, so we can put an illustrative calendar before the AGM.

I hope you will be able to attend the AGM on 18 March and make your opinions known. If not, please use the reply slip in this Newsletter or contact me or Martin.

Best Wishes

Chris

Chris Coke, Chairman

chairman@arco-kingston.org.uk

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

ARCO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH 2020

QUEEN ANNE SUITE, GUILDHALL

The timetable will be:

- 12.00 Doors open
- 12.15 Sandwich lunch available
- 1.00 Formal business

***Remember to bring your old
mobile phone for recycling***

See back page

Please return your return slips by 8 March to

**Jenny Longhurst, Honorary Treasurer, Mayfield, Hoe Lane,
Abinger Hammer, Dorking, RH5 6RS**

Telephone number 01306 730321 or email: jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com

Retain top half as a reminder and send off bottom half

Nominations are invited for the Committee posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Social Secretary, Representative to RBK Pension Fund Panel (and Deputy) and ordinary members. In addition, nominations as Auditor are sought.

Any member may nominate any other member to serve, subject to his/her agreement.

I nominate for the post of

Proposer's Name Signature

I accept nomination (Nominee's Signature)

Please note: this year there is a vacancy for one Committee member.

Please notify your intention to attend so we can provide sufficient catering

I will be attending the AGM on 18 March 2020

Print Name in Capital Letters

You are welcome to bring a guest, but he/she is not eligible to vote.

Print Guest's Name in Capital Letters

If you are unable to attend, you may express a view on the motions being proposed by the Committee.

Motion 1 Outings **FOR/AGAINST**

Motion 2 Amendment to AGM Date **FOR/AGAINST**

Member's Name Signature

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED COUNCIL OFFICERS (ARCO)

Draft AGM Motions to be proposed by the Committee

Outings

During 2019 only one of the three proposed outings attracted sufficient support to break even. The Committee held a thorough discussion of this topic in January, while reviewing the results of the recent survey. Some of the feedback suggested that outings should be subsidised from our reserves to avoid the disappointment of a cancellation, as happened to the Fort Nelson trip planned for July 2019. We have endeavoured not to lose money on outings or events, but occasionally this has not been possible. In the light of the comments, we felt the subject was worthy of discussion at the AGM and we therefore intend to propose this motion:

That this Meeting:

- 1. Confirms that the Association should continue to organise outings;**
- 2. Recommends the Committee to:**
 - a. Price outings to break even at 40 participants, varying this figure in the light of experience; and**
 - b. Subsidise outings at up to £150 per trip from reserves.**

Recently prices have been set to break even at 25 participants, but the feeling is that this makes prices too high. In the past the break-even figure was 40, but with reduced interest this was reduced to try to avoid losses. If the motion is passed prices would reduce but the likelihood of losses is increased. However, the Association has significant reserves, so this would be tenable for a few years.

Members will be able to propose amendments to change the wording or figures during the AGM. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact a Committee member, email secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk or phone 01306 730321.

Amendment to Constitution

The Committee have been considering the annual calendar of ARCO events. At present our Constitution lays down that the AGM must be held in March and this restricts the options to rearrange dates. Therefore the Committee is proposing the following motion at the AGM:

That Rule 7 of the Constitution be amended to “An Annual General Meeting shall be held in each year and shall appoint a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Social Secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.”

At present Rule 7 is “The Annual General Meeting shall be held in March each year and shall appoint a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer, Social Secretary and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.”

If you cannot attend the Meeting, please make your views on both motions known by completing the reply slip or emailing secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk .

DAY TRIP SURVEY RESULTS

In the Winter Newsletter we asked for your views on future outings. The results from the survey are set out below. The Committee will be taking these into account when devising future activities.

Destinations	
Houses with Gardens	26
Seaside	26
Castles	25
Historic Towns	25
River Trips	22
Palaces	21
National Trust	21
Heritage Railways	20
English Heritage	18
Lunch Trips	18
Museums	17
Theatre Trips	17
Forts	15
RHS	13
Rose Theatre	12
Concerts	11
Royal Albert Hall	10
Plays	9

Best day of the week	
Friday	26
Monday	21
Wednesday	21
Tuesday	20
Thursday	20
Saturday	17
Sunday	12

Not These Days	
Wednesday	3

Area to visit	
London	28
Home Counties	32
Further afield	18

Best Months	
April	30
May	28
October	27
June	25
July	22
March	20
November	20
February	18
September	18
January	17
August	17
December	16

Not These Months	
September	12

Visits Requested	
Bletchley Park	4
Chichester	3
Arundel	3
Broughton Castle	2
Claydon House	2
Upton House	2
Rochester	2
Dickens Festival	2
Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market	2
Milestones Museum Basingstoke	2
Brands Museum	2

Trip Price	
£16 for travel only	2
£20 - £30	1
£25 - £28	2
£25 + Entry	3
£30 without food	2
£30	5
£30 - £50	7
£30 - £60	3
£35 - £45	3
£40 - £50	1
£50	6
£50 with food	2
£50 +	1

Our thanks are due to Val Weedon for carrying out the survey and compiling the results.

Royal Engineers Museum

Friday 3rd April 2020

The Royal Engineers story is one of courage, innovation, skill and endurance told through the many galleries. Follow the evolution of the Sappers from military architects and specialists in siege craft, to everything from diving to surveying, flying to photography and transport to combat engineering. The varied collections range from Victoria Crosses to Wellington's map of Waterloo, Chinese silks and the world's first guided torpedo, weapons from the Zulu War to an enormous V2 Rocket. Other highlights include Indian battle axes, bridge laying tanks, Zulu shields, a chunk of the Berlin Wall and a Harrier Jump Jet. The REM collection is designated as being of historical and international importance. Step-free access for wheelchair users and visitors with limited mobility. Large Print Guides.

Outside there are many tanks and other military vehicles with a picnic area. The Courtyard Cafe is located at the heart of the Museum, it offers hot drinks, snacks and light refreshments. The Museum has a small shop.

On the outgoing trip we shall stop off at Polhill, a family owned and run shopping village for a comfort/coffee break. This is a wheelchair/limited mobility friendly venue with disabled toilet. There is an outside area suitable for those with their own refreshments.

The trip is open to friends and family of ARCO members and Friends of Kingston Museum.

Depart From:

- 1) Claremont Road, Surbiton Clock Tower – 9.15 am
- 2) Kingston Library – 9.30 am

Depart for home : 4.00 pm

Please state on your form which pick-up point you wish to use.

Adult: £29.00 pp coach, entry & driver's gratuity

Senior Citizens: £27.50 pp coach, entry & driver's gratuity

Essential Carers for Disabled : £22.00 pp coach travel only free entry

Closing date: Friday 13th March

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

Val Weedon

51 Morrell Avenue,

Horsham, West Sussex,

RH12 4DD

Telephone: 01403 251390

E-mail: val.palaeo@sky.com

Bob Weedon: 07443638295 (for use on the day)

Paul Fisher: 07963541226 (for use on the day)

Retain top half as a reminder and send off bottom half

Cheques payable to ARCO

(Please enclose an SAE if you require confirmation of receipt)

I/We would like place/s for the trip to REM @ £29.00 Adult

I/We would like place/s for the trip to REM @ £27.50 Senior Citizen

I/We would like place/s for the trip to REM @ £22.00 Essential Carers

Please tick one – 1) Pick up from Surbiton

2) Pick up from Kingston

Please Print:

NAME:

Address:.....

Tel No. Email.....

Download this form

DIARY OF FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, 20 February 2020	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun 12 noon onwards
Wednesday, 18 March 2020	Annual General Meeting, Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall
Friday, 3 April 2020	Outing to Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham
Tuesday, 5 May 2020	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun 12 noon onwards

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

A message from the Mayor's Office ...

Do you have any old mobile phones you don't use anymore?

If so, you can be part of a big, green charity recycling drive from Kingston Council, in collaboration with the Mayor's Charitable Trust, which is launching in February.

The council is teaming up with local e-waste recycling company GSUK for the Mobile Mop-up project. We are inviting people to hand over old, unused mobile phone handsets to be recycled.

Phones will be sent to the GSUK recycling plant to be data-wiped, meaning all your information will be disposed of safely and securely. The team will then breathe new life into your old handset so it can be used again, or it will be stripped for parts if beyond repair. You don't have to drop off a phone charger - just a handset is fine.

Profits from the drive will go towards the Mayor's Charitable Trust, which in 2019/20 is fundraising for Kingston Centre for Independent Living (KCIL) and Oxygen (a local youth work charity), and you can return any unused phones - there are no limits on the age or model.

We will be launching the Mobile Mop-up Project in the week commencing 24th February and for 2 weeks Freepost envelopes will be available at the borough libraries, leisure centres and at the Guildhall so people can Freepost their phones into the scheme.

Please bring any phones for donation with you to the ARCO AGM on 18 March (which will be at the Guildhall) as there will be a collection box on site.

Remember to support this recycling project where proceeds are going to the Mayor's Charitable Trust.

And if you cannot attend the AGM, please use the freepost envelopes or drop to a public site.

The Council has an information page on its website at www.kingston.gov.uk/mobilemopup. This will be continually updated with information, including the locations of public drop off sites and envelope collection sites, etc. Due to Royal Mail rules, you must use one of the special envelopes.

Since the Newsletter was dispatched, we have been informed that Freepost envelopes will not be provided, so please disregard those references.