

# ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

## AGM Special - Spring 2021

[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,

I hope you are keeping well and coping alright with the present difficulties.

As we had to cancel last year's AGM, and there is little prospect of face-to-face meetings for some time to come, your Committee has decided we should honour our Constitution and hold a virtual AGM this March.

This Newsletter is to give you notice that we shall meet by Zoom conference on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 3 p.m. Owing to the current COVID-19 restrictions the meeting can only be joined online or via telephone. The joining instructions are as follows:

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84725224037?pwd=cHdteVRyeU82aGw1U1E5d3BDREVMZz09>
- Meeting ID: 847 2522 4037
- Passcode: 720437
- If you prefer to join by telephone, from UK dial 0203 901 7895 - It is answered by a recorded voice then, when prompted, you need to dial the meeting ID of 847 2522 4037 then # (hash). You do not have a participant ID so just press # and then enter the passcode 720437 followed by #. You should then be connected to the meeting.

On this occasion we have decided to notify only those members who have provided us with email addresses to save expense. Nevertheless, we will have reached 70% of the membership. However, please feel free to pass on the Joining Instructions to any other members that you know.

The Agenda, the Committee's Reports, the Audited Accounts for both 2019 and 2020, together with the minutes of the previous AGM, follow this page.

As you will see, there are two vacant seats on the Committee. Our Constitution says "A member may nominate any other member for election to the Committee and any such nomination together with the agreement of the member so nominated shall be in the hands of the Hon. Secretary not less than seven clear days before the Annual General Meeting." Therefore please email or post any nominations to Martin Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane, Abinger Hammer, Dorking, RH5 6RS or [secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk](mailto:secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk) to be received by 17 March.

Alternatively, if someone is interested in joining the Committee, or wants more information on what is involved, you can ask to join a meeting as an observer. If you then feel you can contribute, the Committee could co-opt you.

I hope you will be able to join us on 25 March and look forward to seeing you then.

Best Wishes

*Chris*

Chris Coke, Chairman

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

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



**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED COUNCIL OFFICERS (ARCO)**  
**(Kingston upon Thames)**



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**49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, 25 March 2021**

**3.00 p.m.**

**To be held by Zoom conference call**

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**AGENDA**

- 1 Chairman's Welcoming Remarks
- 2 Apologies for Absence
- 3 Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting and matters arising, if any
- 4 Committee Report and Accounts for 2019
- 5 Committee Report and Accounts for 2020
- 6 Election of Officers, Committee Members and Auditor

<b>Post</b>	<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Nominated by</b>
Chairman	Chris Coke	Martin Longhurst
Vice-Chairman	June Collins	Martin Longhurst
Honorary Secretary	Martin Longhurst	June Collins
Honorary Treasurer	Jenny Longhurst	Chris Nice & Chris Coke
Social Secretary	Bob Weedon	Martin Longhurst
Pension Panel Representative	Chris Coke	Martin Longhurst
Deputy to above	<i>No nomination</i>	
Committee Members	Chris Nice	Martin Longhurst
	Paul Fisher	Martin Longhurst
	Maureen Barker	Martin Longhurst
	<i>2 x Vacancies</i>	
Auditor	Robert Hart	Bob Weedon

The Immediate Past Chairman, Mollie Scolding, is also a Committee member.

- 7 Future activities
- 8 Any other business

*The Committee Reports and Accounts are set out below*

## **COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2019**

- 1 **Membership** – In March 2020 total membership stood at 146, made up of 122 life members, 3 honorary members and 21 annual members, of whom 16 were fully paid up.  
During 2019 we welcomed 4 new members: Derek Ebbitt, Denise Malin, Andrew Withers and Jim Childs. We were notified of 3 deaths: Mrs P O Niblett, Peter Josiah and Marion Fitness. Also 2 members resigned, and we removed 35 life members after they had failed to respond to 3 requests.
- 2 **Activities** – In 2019 there were 4 functions at the Guildhall, 4 informal gatherings at the Kings Tun, 2 outings plus the very enjoyable Christmas Lunch at The North Star. Four Newsletters were distributed, with 87 members receiving them by email. Your Committee met four times.
- 3 **Finances** – The audited accounts for 2019 show we made a small surplus of £11.37. Although outings were less successful, the loss was offset by other income.
- 4 **Outings** – Three trips were planned in 2019. The first was to RAF Hendon in north London. This proved very popular with 36 attending. Tea/coffee and biscuits were provided free on arrival and feedback suggested everyone found the day thoroughly enjoyable.  
The second trip was to Fort Nelson, just outside Portsmouth. Unfortunately, this was seriously undersubscribed and had to be cancelled. It appears that two trips with military connections so close together was not a good idea. Please note - "lessons have been learned".  
The final trip was to St. Mary's, Bramber in West Sussex. 22 attended and had a private guided tour of the house and gardens, which were closed to the public for the day. After the tour a full cream tea, including scones, cakes, clotted cream and home-made jam, was provided. Everyone agreed that St. Mary's was a wonderful place to visit and the day had been a huge success. You can see some pictures of the event in the Gallery section of our web site.  
Due to Covid 19 it has been impossible to arrange any outings this year, and in view of the current upsurge in cases, none will now be arranged until 2021 at the earliest. Your safety is our main concern so, when we consider it safe to go on outings again, we will ballot the members to confirm that you will feel safe going out before we start any organising.
- 5 **Your officers for 2019 and 2020** –  
Chairman – Chris Coke  
Vice-Chairman – June Collins  
Honorary Secretary – Martin Longhurst  
Honorary Treasurer – Jenny Longhurst  
Social Secretary – Bob Weedon  
Delegate to RBK Pension Fund Panel – Chris Coke  
Committee Members – Maureen Barker, Paul Fisher, Chris Nice and Shona Hastings (until she stood down on 13 January 2020).  
Immediate Past Chairman – Mollie Scolding  
Auditor – Bob Hart
- 6 **Thanks are due to** –
  - a. Val Weedon for organising the outings (Incidentally Val has a new email address [val.spookymunch@gmail.com](mailto:val.spookymunch@gmail.com))
  - b. Shona Hastings for all her work on the Committee, marked by a presentation of a Wisley Voucher
  - c. The volunteers for preparing the food and drink and for washing up at our Guildhall functions
  - d. The Council's post room and print room for their continued excellent service on the newsletters
  - e. Bob Hart, for another year as our Auditor.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED COUNCIL OFFICERS, KINGSTON UPON THAMES - ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019**

2018	EXPENDITURE	2019	REVENUE ACCOUNT	2018	INCOME	2019
£		£		£		£
103.10	Stationery, Web Site, Postage, Committee Expenses, etc.	66.59		105.00	Members Subscriptions	101.00
82.58	Annual General Meeting	67.63			<u>Social Events:-</u>	
				2.67	Winter Get Together	3.23
				(17.68)	Summer Get Together	1.81
				26.50	Coffee Morning	26.74
				-	Christmas Lunch	-
						31.78
					<u>Outings:-</u>	
					Hendon	73.00
					St Marys House	(150.00)
185.68		134.22		132.50		(77.00)
143.10	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	11.37		79.79	Interest	89.81
<u>328.78</u>		<u>145.59</u>		<u>328.78</u>		<u>145.59</u>


2018		2019	GOODWILL FUND	2018		2019
£		£		£		£
100.00	Donation to Mayor's Charity Fund	100.00		40.00	Winter Get Together Raffle	39.00
35.00	Donation: Poppy Appeal	35.00		34.00	AGM Raffle	35.00
0.99	Cards to members	0.99		33.00	Summer Get Together Raffle	24.00
135.99	Total Expenditure	135.99		15.00	Coffee Morning Raffle	27.00
(13.99)	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(10.99)				
<u>122.00</u>		<u>125.00</u>		<u>122.00</u>	Total income for year	<u>125.00</u>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019**

2018		2019		2018		2019
£		£		£		£
22.00	Income in advance	34.00		802.34	Cash at Bank	721.34
-	Creditors	-		44.52	Cash in Hand	35.09
	<u>Life Membership Fund:-</u>					
	Balance at 1 January	3,264.50		10,879.43	National Savings Account	10,966.49
	Additions for year	50.00		501.44	Santander Deposit Account	504.19
		<u>3,314.50</u>		-	Stock	-
	Less transferred to			<u>12,227.73</u>		<u>12,227.11</u>
	Members Subscriptions	(63.00)				
3,264.50	Balance at 31 December	3,251.50				
	<u>Goodwill Fund</u>					
	Balance at 1 January	319.93				
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(10.99)				
319.93	Balance at 31 December	308.94				
	<u>Accumulated Funds</u>					
	Balance at 1 January	8,621.30				
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	11.37				
8,621.30	Balance at 31 December	8,632.67				
<u>12,227.73</u>		<u>12,227.11</u>				

Signed:  J.J. Longhurst  
Hon. Treasurer

I have examined the books, vouchers and accounts of the Association and have received satisfactory explanations from its Officers. I am satisfied that the accounts show a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association.

Signed:  R. Hart  
Hon. Auditor

## COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2020

- 1 **Membership** – Currently total membership stands at 144, made up of 121 life members, 2 honorary members and 21 annual members. The Committee waived membership fees for 2020.  
Given the lack of activities during 2020, there were no new members in the year, although 1 was reinstated. We were notified of 3 deaths: Susan Shekerdeman, Anthea Lisle and Maurice (Mick) Turner.
- 2 **Activities** – We did achieve two activities in 2020 before Covid-19 swept in. We held informal gatherings at the Druids Head in January and at the Kings Tun in February. The AGM was set for 18 March but had to be cancelled the previous day. Subsequently our activities have been confined to Zoom calls on alternate Thursday afternoons.  
Only two Newsletters were distributed, reflecting the shortage of news.  
Your Committee met twice on a face-to-face basis and then three times by Zoom call.
- 3 **Finances** – The audited accounts for 2020 show we made a small surplus on Revenue Account of £10.47. The absence of Guildhall functions and outings reduced our income to just interest and donations. Fortunately, this was just sufficient to pay our running expenses.  
However, the Goodwill Fund lost all its income. Nevertheless, the Committee agreed to continue our customary donations of £100 to the Mayor’s Charity and £35 to the Royal British Legion. This resulted in a reduction of £135 in the Fund’s balance.
- 4 **Outings** –Due to Covid 19 it was impossible to arrange any outings in 2020. Your safety is our main concern so, when we consider it safe to go on outings again, we will ballot the members to confirm that you will feel safe going out before we start any organising.
- 5 **Your officers in 2020 –**
  - Chairman – Chris Coke
  - Vice-Chairman – June Collins
  - Honorary Secretary – Martin Longhurst
  - Honorary Treasurer – Jenny Longhurst
  - Social Secretary – Bob Weedon
  - Delegate to RBK Pension Fund Panel – Chris Coke
  - Committee Members – Maureen Barker, Paul Fisher, Chris Nice and Shona Hastings (until she stood down on 13 January 2020).
  - Immediate Past Chairman – Mollie Scolding
  - Auditor – Bob Hart
- 6 **Thanks are due to –**
  - a. The Council's post room and print room for their continued excellent service on the newsletters.
  - b. Bob Hart, for another year as our Auditor.

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED COUNCIL OFFICERS, KINGSTON UPON THAMES - ACCOUNTS - YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

2019	EXPENDITURE	2020	REVENUE ACCOUNT	2019	INCOME	2020
£		£		£		£
66.59	Stationery, Web Site, Postage, Committee Expenses, etc.	79.27		101.00	Members Subscriptions	-
67.63	Annual General Meeting	-			Member Donation	2.00
					<u>Social Events:-</u>	
				3.23	Winter Get Together	-
				1.81	Summer Get Together	-
				26.74	Coffee Morning	-
				-	Christmas Lunch	-
					<u>Outings:-</u>	
					Hendon	-
					St Marys House	-
134.22		79.27		(77.00)		-
11.37	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	10.47		89.81	Interest	87.74
145.59		89.74		145.59		89.74

2019		2020	GOODWILL FUND	2019		2020
£		£		£		£
100.00	Donation to Mayor's Charity Fund	100.00		39.00	Winter Get Together Raffle	-
35.00	Donation: Poppy Appeal	35.00		35.00	AGM Raffle	-
0.99	Cards to members	-		24.00	Summer Get Together Raffle	-
				27.00	Coffee Morning Raffle	-
				10.99	Deficit for year	135.00
135.99		135.00		135.99		135.00

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2020**

2019		2020		2019		2020
£		£	£	£		£
34.00	Income in advance		34.00	721.34	Cash at Bank	509.07
-	Creditors		-	35.09	Cash in Hand	35.09
	<u>Life Membership Fund:-</u>			-	Redwood Bank 1 Year Bond	10,006.00
	Balance at 1 January	3,251.50		10,966.49	National Savings Account	1,045.21
	Additions for year	-		504.19	Santander Deposit Account	507.21
		3,251.50		-	Stock	-
	Less transferred to			12,227.11		12,102.58
	Members Subscriptions					
3,251.50	Balance at 31 December		3,251.50			
	<u>Goodwill Fund</u>					
	Balance at 1 January	308.94				
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	(135.00)				
308.94	Balance at 31 December		173.94			
	<u>Accumulated Funds</u>					
	Balance at 1 January	8,632.67				
	Surplus/(Deficit) for year	10.47				
8,632.67	Balance at 31 December		8,643.14			
12,227.11			12,102.58			

Signed:- 

J.J. Longhurst  
Hon. Treasurer

I have examined the books, vouchers and accounts of the Association and have received satisfactory explanations from its Officers. I am satisfied that the accounts show a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association.

Signed:- 

R. Hart  
Hon. Auditor

**ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED COUNCIL OFFICERS (Kingston upon Thames)  
MINUTES OF THE 48<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

Present: The Mayor, Cllr Thay Thayalan, Chris Coke, Acting Chairman, and 22 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Pat Schoon and Jim Childs.

- 1 **WELCOME** Chris Coke, Acting Chairman, welcomed The Mayor, members and guests.
- 2 **MINUTES** The adoption of the Minutes of the 47<sup>th</sup> AGM was agreed.
- 3 **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Chris Coke reported that membership numbers had reduced because, as part of the exercise to move to email and save postage, we had asked life members to confirm their interest and addresses. Several have dropped out and there are still 43 we had not heard from. Currently the membership list stood at 191 of which 163 were life members, 3 honorary and 25 were annual members, of which 18 were current.  
  
During 2018 we had welcomed 3 new members: Wendy Windmill, Jan Chatterton and Angela Rogerson. So far in 2019 we had 2 new members Andrew Withers and Jim Childs. Since the last AGM we had been notified of 7 deaths: Richard Airey, Anne Gray, Mike Belsham who was in office as our Chairman on his death, Sue Todd, our long serving Social Secretary Janet Byrne and Fred Bradley. Three newsletters had been returned marked 'gone away' – those for Mr G Rowbotham, Alan Tolley and Ruth Phillips.  
  
He thanked Val Weedon for organising the outings, and Jenny and Chris Nice for organising the Christmas Lunch.
- 4 **HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT** – Martin Longhurst reported that in 2018 there had been 4 functions at the Guildhall, 5 informal gatherings at the Kings Tun, 2 outings – to the Amberley Museum and Petworth House – plus the very popular Christmas Lunch at The North Star. Four Newsletters had been distributed, with 85 members now receiving them by email. The Committee had met four times.
- 5 **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT** – Jenny Longhurst reported that the 2018 Accounts showed a surplus of £143.10. This mainly the result of the success of the Petworth Coach Outing.  
  
She thanked Val Weedon and Shona Hastings for running the outings and the volunteers for preparing the food and drink and for washing up. Our appreciation was also due to the Council's post room and print room for their continued excellent service on the newsletters. She also thanked the members who had donated raffle prizes and Bob Hart for another year as our Auditor.
- 6 **ELECTIONS** – The following were elected:  
Chairman – Chris Coke  
Vice-Chairman – June Collins  
Honorary Secretary – Martin Longhurst  
Honorary Treasurer – Jenny Longhurst  
Social Secretary – Bob Weedon  
Delegate to RBK Pension Fund Panel – Chris Coke  
Committee Members – Maureen Barker, Shona Hastings, Paul Fisher and Chris Nice  
Auditor – Bob Hart
- 7 The Association's cheque for £100 for the Mayor's Charity was presented to The Mayor who offered thanks and spoke about the charities he was supporting – *Creative Youth, Kingston Samaritans* and *Kingston Race & Equalities Council*.
- 8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – There was none.