

ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Spring 2024

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



Our Forthcoming Events

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 21 February 2024 | Informal Gathering at the Kings Tun, Clarence Street, Kingston at 12 noon |
| Wednesday, 6 March 2024 | Annual General Meeting, Guildhall at 12 noon See booking form |
| Thursday, 25 April 2024 | Celebratory Meal, The Berrylands, 12 noon onwards |
| Wednesday, 15 May 2024 | Informal gathering, North Star at 12 noon |

Dear Friends,

Our Christmas Lunch at the North Star was very successful with 21 sitting down to eat on 14 December. The staff looked after us well and we enjoyed a beautiful meal, complete with crackers and bad jokes. Our January gathering at the Druid's Head was quieter, but did attract 14 on a very cold day.

Our future events are set out above with more details overleaf. I hope to see you at one or more of these.

A notable date is 16 April when our member and regular attender, Margaret Silverside, will have her 100th birthday. ARCO will mark this auspicious occasion by inviting Margaret and her daughter, Vanessa, to join us for a celebratory meal at The Berrylands on **Thursday 25 April**. Please see overleaf if you would like to join us.

We are trying a new idea in the summer by offering a free coach trip. Bob and Martin have described the proposal in a separate article and are looking for your views on the date and destination. They look forward to hearing from you.

Best Wishes

Chris

Chris Coke, Chairman

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

secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk

More about our forthcoming events

Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun Wednesday, 21 February 2024

Arrive between 12.00 pm and 1.30 pm

Another of our popular gatherings at the Kings Tun, 153-157 Clarence Street, Kingston, KT1 1QT, between Eden Street and the Railway Station. We meet in the upstairs bar – there is a lift. Wetherspoons have an extensive menu of hot and cold food and free refills of hot drinks! Just come along – no booking required.

Annual General Meeting at The Guildhall Wednesday, 6 March 2024

Arrive around 12.00 pm

The Queen Anne Suite has been booked for this event, which is free. We provide a sandwich lunch, *so please notify us as requested [on the form in this mailing](#).*

Guests are welcome but they cannot vote during the formal business, which begins at 1 pm. His Worship the Mayor has been invited to preside.

Celebratory Meal at The Berrylands Thursday 25 April 2024

Arrive between 12.00 pm and 12.30 pm

This event will mark Margaret Silverside's 100th Birthday which will be on 16 April. Tables have been reserved for members to join us for a meal from the menu. There is no need to book and you will choose and pay for your meal on the day. Please note that not everyone will be able to eat at the same time, but this approach gives you flexibility and avoids a lot of admin for us!

You can find the menu at www.theberrylands.co.uk. There is a wide selection of starters, pub classics, burgers and desserts.

The Berrylands is at 107 Chiltern Drive, Surbiton, KT5 8LS. There is very limited parking on site but there is street parking in the vicinity. Bus K2 stops adjacent to the pub, which is also 150 yards from Berrylands Station. It is much quicker to travel by train from New Malden.

Informal Gathering at The North Star Wednesday, 15 May 2024

Arrive between 12.00 pm and 1.30 pm

Once again, tables have been reserved for members to join up for a meal from the menu. There is no need to book and you will choose and pay for your meal on the day. Please note that not everyone will be able to eat at the same time,

You can find the menu at <https://www.emberinns.co.uk/nationalsearch/london/the-north-star-chessington#/>. This currently shows the winter menu, but it is an extensive one, with starters, pub classics, pasta, steaks, burgers and desserts.

The pub is at 271 Hook Rd, Chessington. KT9 1EQ, half a mile south of the Ace of Spades. There is a car park on site. Buses 71, K4 and 465 stop outside, while the K2 stops nearby, round the corner in Rosemary Gardens.

ARCO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 6 MARCH 2024

The timetable will be:

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

Please notify your attendance by email or by returning this sheet by 26 February to

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

Telephone number 01306 730321 or 07989 021501

email: secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk

AGM REPLY SLIP - Please notify us so we can provide sufficient catering.

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

I will be attending the AGM on 6 March 2024

Print Name in Capital Letters

Print Guest's Name in Capital Letters

There is no charge for attending.

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 are vacancies for the Representative to RBK Pension Fund Panel and Deputy.

[Click here to download this form](#)

Proposed Free Coach Outing

As the Association has sufficient financial reserves, your Committee feels that an amount should be spent on a members' activity. We are now proposing to organise a free coach trip for members and guests (transport only - participants would need to pay for entrance to attractions, food etc at the destination.) The full coach cost would be in excess of £30. There will be a reservation fee of £5 per place, refundable if you take up your place(s).

To try and run a successful trip, we have come up with five choices of date and five choices of destination. Enclosed is a poll to establish the most popular date and destination.

The choice of dates is

| | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Monday 24 June 2024 | Tuesday 25 June 2024 | Wednesday 26 June 2024 | Thursday 27 June 2024 | Friday 28 June 2024 |
|------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|

Whatever the destination, our intention would be to leave Kingston at 10.00 am and be back around 6.00 pm. The options for destinations are

Chichester

Chichester is a Roman cathedral city and the only city in West Sussex. Evidence of Roman settlement can be found all over the city. It has a multitude of grade II listed buildings. The shopping street is pedestrianised and the Cathedral and museum are right in the heart of the city.

Arundel (Town and Castle or Wetlands Centre)

Arundel is a market town with a thousand years of history, nestling on the edge of the South Downs. Amongst its attractions are the interior and gardens of the Castle (started 1070), the Cathedral (1873) and the town. Alternatively, you could visit the Wetlands & Wildfowl Centre. *NB Castle and many shops are closed on Mondays.*

Worthing

Worthing is a lively, busy seaside town, with plenty of good restaurants and shops and a large market on a Wednesday morning. There is a lovely old pier and the beach is a mixture of sand and shingle.

Canterbury

Canterbury is an historic city with many attractions including the Cathedral, Beaney House of Art & Knowledge, the Roman Museum, Westgate Towers plus many shops and eating places.

Eltham Palace

Once a favoured medieval palace and then a Tudor royal residence, in the 1930s Eltham Palace was transformed by eccentric millionaires Stephen and Virginia Courtauld. You can visit their art deco house, the Medieval palace, the gardens and a beautiful glasshouse café.

Bob has kindly provided fuller descriptions which follow the form

Your Preferences

Date

Please rank the dates by entering 1 to 6 in the box where 1 is your highest preference and 5 is your least favoured choice and 6 means the date is not suitable for you at all.

| | Enter 1 to 6 |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Monday 24 June 2024 | |
| Tuesday 25 June 2024 | |
| Wednesday 26 June 2024 | |
| Thursday 27 June 2024 | |
| Friday 28 June 2024 | |

If none of the dates are suitable for you, please suggest an alternative

Destination

Please rank the destination by entering 1 to 6 in the box where 1 is your highest preference and 5 is your least favoured choice and 6 means you do not wish to visit this place at all.

| | Enter 1 to 6 |
|---------------|--------------|
| Chichester | |
| Arundel | |
| Worthing | |
| Canterbury | |
| Eltham Palace | |

Submitted by (print name): _____

You can respond by:

- Completing and posting this form to Martin Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane, Abinger Hammer, DORKING, RH5 6RS **by 19 February** (to allow for postal delays)
- An email message to secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk giving your date and destination answers by **25 February**

We will consider the responses at our next Committee meeting on 27 February and then aim to circulate the outcome and a booking form in the middle of March.

[Click here to download this form](#)

CHICHESTER

Chichester is a Roman cathedral city and the only city in West Sussex. Evidence of Roman settlement can be found all over the city, including some Roman baths, a city wall (which was replaced by a Georgian wall), an amphitheatre which is now a park and the old Roman road Stane Street linking Chichester with London.

It has a multitude of grade II listed buildings and points of interest include the Chichester City Cross which is a type of butter market and sits in the centre of North, East, South and West streets. The City Cross was built in 1500 by Bishop Edward Storey as a shelter for people who sold their wares on market day.

Shops are mostly centered around the North, East, South and West Streets from Chichester Cross and the actual centre of Chichester has very wide pedestrianised streets so it makes it a very safe and spacious shopping experience! There are lots of spaces to enjoy lunch outside and the Cathedral and museum are right in the heart of the city.

ARUNDEL

Arundel is a market town with a thousand years of history, nestling on the edge of the South Downs.

Amongst its attractions are the following:-

Arundel Castle

The Castle is set high on a hill in Arundel and commands the landscape with magnificent views across the South Downs and the River Arun. It was founded at the end of the 11th Century, it has been the family home of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors for nearly 1000 years. Between the 1870s and 1890s the house was almost completely rebuilt and the magnificent architecture in Gothic style is considered to be one of the great works of Victorian England. There is a finely preserved interior with fascinating furniture, tapestries and rare collection of paintings by renowned artists including Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Canaletto. You can also stroll through the tranquil grounds where you will discover inspiring gardens.

Arundel Cathedral

Arundel Cathedral is the finest example of French-Gothic revival in England The façade was modelled on 14th century French churches but was constructed in 1873. It is dedicated to Philip Howard (13th Earl of Arundel) who was imprisoned, and died in prison, for refusing to convert to Anglicanism. The cathedral is light and airy, with beautiful stained-glass windows and statues.

Arundel Wetlands Centre

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust was established in 1946 by Sir Peter Scott, and has been dedicated to protecting wetlands and saving Wetland Species ever since. As well as the large expanse of wetlands to explore there are boat safaris, a WWT shop and a café.

Also

There is also a state-of-the-art museum, several antiques shops and the Brewhouse Project (a tap room for Arundel Brewery).

PLEASE NOTE – THE CASTLE AND MANY SHOPS ARE CLOSED ON A MONDAY

WORTHING

Worthing is the largest town in West Sussex, and lies nestled between the English Channel and the South Downs National Park. Since the 19th century it has been nicknamed 'Sunny Worthing' thanks to its reputedly sunny and mild microclimate.

Settled since the Bronze Age, Worthing remained a small fishing hamlet until the 1750s, when various wealthy citizens visited for the hunting and fishing opportunities afforded by the area. Princess Amelia, daughter of King George III, stayed in Montague Place in 1798, which put the town firmly on the map of England's fashionable society. In the 19th century, Worthing was an elegant and fashionable resort attracting the rich and famous of the day.

It is famous for being used as the location for the movie *Wish You Were Here* as well as its literary connections. Oscar Wilde named the central character of *The Importance of Being Earnest* after the town, and wrote the play while stayed here at the height of the town's fashionability in the 1890s. Jane Austen's unfinished novel *Sanditon* is thought to have been significantly based on experiences from her stay in Worthing in 1805. A blue plaque marks the former home of Nobel prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter in Ambrose Place.

Today, Worthing is a lively, busy seaside town, with plenty of good restaurants and shops and a large market on a Wednesday morning. There is a lovely old pier and the beach is a mixture of sand and shingle.

CANTERBURY

Canterbury is an historic city and home to a key UNESCO World Heritage Site that incorporates three fascinating areas across the city - Canterbury Cathedral, with its stunning mixture of Romanesque and Perpendicular Gothic architecture, the modest Church of St Martin (the oldest church in the English-speaking world) and the ruins of St Augustine's Abbey, once a burial place for the Anglo-Saxon kings of Kent.

Amongst its many attractions are the following –

Canterbury Cathedral

Standing In the heart of the city it is one of the most important historic sites in the world. With sections dating back to the 11th Century, the Anglo-Gothic and Romanesque structure has been the site of numerous historical events, from planning the Magna Carta to the murder of Archbishop Thomas Becket. It remains one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Europe.

Beaney House of Art & Knowledge

This is a free Art Gallery, Library and Visitor Information Centre situated in the heart of historic Canterbury. The award winning facility provides state-of-the-art exhibition galleries, excellent educational facilities and a varied programme of events for all ages.

Canterbury Roman Museum

As you wonder through this museum you will uncover a hoard of once buried treasures including the remains of a Roman town house with preserved mosaics. The museum holds one of the UK's only remaining Roman pavement mosaics which has not been moved from its original place. This beautifully preserved Roman floor provides a fascinating insight into life in Roman Britain.

Westgate Towers

The largest and arguably the finest of the country's surviving medieval gateways, the Westgate was built during the One Hundred Years' War. The 60-foot (18m) high stronghold now stands alone, but it was the City Gaol and was eventually turned into a museum in the 20th century before being lovingly restored for the 21st century as a museum, bar and entertainments venue.

ELTHAM PALACE

Once a favoured medieval palace and then a Tudor royal residence, in the 1930s Eltham Palace was transformed by eccentric millionaires Stephen and Virginia Courtauld. Get a taste of the Courtaulds' extravagant lifestyle as you explore their unusual home, try on a range of period costumes, follow the family trail and admire the magnificent medieval great hall.

Items of Interest

In the art deco house - the purpose-built heated home of the Courtaulds' lemur, the panelled dining room, the luxurious golden bathroom and the underground basement (used as a games room and a bomb shelter during the Blitz).

In the Medieval Palace – the great hall, the minstrels' gallery and the glorious hammer-beam roof.

In the gardens - stunning herbaceous borders, formal rose gardens, the Rock Garden (with its pools and cascades running down to the moat) and London's oldest working bridge.

There is also a beautiful glasshouse café overlooking the playground and a multimedia tour with options for adults and families.