

# ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

## Summer 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 am very glad to be able to say that we can now clearly see the light at the end of the Covid Tunnel. I hope that you and your family have come through unscathed and fighting fit.

Although ARCO's activities have been curtailed, for those on the Internet, we have been holding fortnightly Zoom Togethers. For the moment these are continuing. Please contact Martin at [secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk](mailto:secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk) for details.

As we had to cancel the 2020 AGM, your Committee decided to honour our Constitution and hold a virtual AGM by Zoom on 25 March 2021. On this occasion we decided to notify only those members who had provided us with email addresses to comply with the restrictions and to save expense. Nevertheless, we reached 70% of the membership. Some 21 members participated and the reports and audited accounts for 2019 and 2020 were approved. The minutes are included in this Newsletter and the 2020 report and audited accounts can be requested from Martin on 01306 730321.

Turning to our Committee, I am very sorry to have to report the death, unrelated to Covid, of one of our members Maureen Barker. Maureen served from 2009 to 2021 and was well known as a telephonist at the Guildhall until 2006. I represented ARCO at her funeral as well as several other members.

I am very pleased to welcome Jan Chatterton to the Committee. Jan worked in finance for both RBK and Surrey County Council. In addition, I am pleased to say that Shona Hastings has offered to re-join the Committee and we intend to co-opt her at our next formal meeting.

This still leaves one vacancy. If you are interested in joining the Committee, or want 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.

Following the lifting of restrictions, we quickly organised an informal gathering at the Kings Tun on 5 August. 14 members attended and were so keen to meet again we have arranged another one. This will be on Thursday 16 September. No need to book – just turn up around 12.15 pm at the Kings Tun in the upstairs bar. Please contact Martin or me if you would prefer a different day of the week in future.

This year sees the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the decision to form ARCO, which was taken in October 1971, and we are planning to celebrate this remarkable occasion on Thursday 21 October 2021 in the Queen Anne Suite at the Guildhall. You will find a booking form with this Newsletter.

I hope you will be able to join us on 21 October 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 (Kingston upon Thames)  
MINUTES OF THE 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 BY ONLINE CONFERENCE**

Present: Chris Coke, Chairman, 20 members and 2 guests.

No apologies for absence had been received.

- 1 **WELCOME** Chris Coke, Chairman, welcomed members and guests. He pointed out that this meeting would receive reports on 2019 and 2020 as it had not been possible to hold an AGM in 2020, owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2 **MINUTES** The adoption of the Minutes of the 48<sup>th</sup> AGM was agreed.
- 3 **COMMITTEE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2019** – As these had been circulated in two Newsletters, they were taken as read and received.
- 4 **COMMITTEE REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR 2020** – Martin Longhurst summarised the content of the printed report and accounts which were accepted by the meeting.
- 5 **ELECTIONS** – Martin Longhurst announced two changes from the printed agenda. Regrettably Maureen Barker had withdrawn her nomination owing to ill health. Also Jan Chatterton had been nominated by Bob Weedon to be a Committee Member.

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 – Paul Fisher, Chris Nice and Jan Chatterton

Auditor – Bob Hart

Martin Longhurst pointed out there were still two vacant seats on the Committee which could be filled by co-option during the year if a member came forward. He added that Shona Hastings had offered to re-join the Committee and she would be invited to the next meeting.

The Association's good wishes and thanks would be extended to Maureen Barker.

- 6 **ACTIVITIES** – Martin Longhurst stated that no face-to-face meetings could be held until groups larger than six were allowed indoors, currently planned to be June 21<sup>st</sup>. In the meantime the weekly Get Togethers by Zoom would continue on alternate Thursday afternoons. Subsequently a lunch was envisaged for July and our Golden Anniversary event in October. It was not yet known if or when meetings could resume in the Guildhall.
- 7 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – There was none.

# Invitation to Golden Jubilee Get-Together

Thursday, 21 October 2021

12.00 Noon to 2.30 p.m.

Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames

The intended offer is finger buffet, including quiches and sandwiches, cakes, coffee, tea, soft drinks and wine.

RSVP by post to Jenny Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane,  
Dorking, Surrey RH5 6RS **by 13 October 2021**

Telephone for queries only: 01306 730321

Email for queries only: [jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com](mailto: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 21 October 2021  
**and enclose a cheque for £ ..... (payable to ARCO)**

to cover the cost of £3.00 per head for the celebratory meal.

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

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

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

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

Please note any dietary requirements:

\_\_\_\_\_