

ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Summer 2022

<http://www.arco-kingston.org.uk> email secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to report that we held a successful AGM in the Queen Anne Suite at the Guildhall on 3 March. The attendance, at 22, was somewhat down on previous years, probably due to the high prevalence of Covid at the time. We now have a full Committee, having been joined by Heather Davies, who was elected at the Meeting.

Your Committee has been concentrating on our future activities. I would like to thank those members who responded to our poll on the subject. You will find a summary of the results in this Newsletter. Unfortunately, given the low number of responses, we felt that there was not enough support for us to try to run a coach outing this year. However, we will return to the subject in 2023.

The strongest support was for gatherings in the Kingston area, so we are going to try some new venues, as well as old favourites. The next one is on **Thursday 26 May** at The Kings Tun, the 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. No need to book – just turn up. Hopefully we can use the upstairs bar (there is a lift).

For June we are trying something new. I am organising a gathering at Woodies, Thetford Road, New Malden, KT3 5DX. Woodies is a pub tucked away in a delightful setting overlooking a sports field and has both inside and outside seating, so we may eat alfresco if the weather permits. I have booked for **Wednesday 15 June** at midday, to order food at 12.30. If you intend to come, please can you either ring me on 0208 942 7388 and leave a message or email me at chairman@arco-kingston.org.uk. The pub has plenty of parking, but it is a little tricky to reach by public transport, so there are full directions elsewhere in the Newsletter.

Wednesday 20 July sees us return to the Guildhall for our Summer Get Together. With rising prices in mind and to simplify the arrangements, your Committee has decided to go Bring Your Own Bottle. We will provide glasses so you can bring your own choice of wine or other drinks. That way we have kept the price to £3 for a buffet lunch and hot drink. There is a booking form included in the Newsletter.

Wednesday 17 August will see us return to the Kings Tun for another informal Get Together at noon.

We are still working on the programme for the rest of the year, starting in September with an informal gathering at another new venue, Boaters Inn in Canbury Gardens by the River Thames. Later in the autumn we are thinking of a Coffee Morning at the Guildhall and a meal somewhere. The year will be rounded off by a Christmas lunch.

Best Wishes

Chris

Chris Coke, Chairman

chairman@arco-kingston.org.uk

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

Diary of Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 26 May 2022	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun 12 noon onwards
Wednesday, 15 June 2022	Gathering at Woodies, Thetford Road, New Malden, KT3 5DX 12 noon
Wednesday 20 July 2022	Summer Get Together, Guildhall <i>See booking form for details</i>
Wednesday 17 August 2022	Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun 12 noon onwards

Outcome of Members' Poll – March 2022

The poll had 10 questions and was included in the last newsletter, in the AGM Agenda and made available online. There were 16 responses, 12% of the membership. Respondents were asked to rank activities 1 to 5, where 1 means "Definitely would not participate" through to 5 for "Very keen to take part." [Q1 was name]

Q2 Coach outing	4.6
Q3 Group visit to an attraction near Kingston, making your own way	3.5
Q4 Group visit to an attraction in central London, making your own way	2.1
Q5 Social event at the Guildhall	4.7
Q6 Social event at a pub in central Kingston	4.3
Q7 Social event at a venue elsewhere in Kingston	4.5
Q8 Social event where you could stay outside, if fine	4.2
Q9 I am prepared to use buses	69%
Q10 I am prepared to use overground trains	56%

Venues suggested were:

Rose Theatre; New Inn, Ham Common; Wych Elm Pub; Riverside Café, John Lewis; River trip/riverside restaurants; Upstairs bar in 'Bishop out of Residence'; Dorich House Museum, Kingston Hill; Boaters Pub, Canbury Gardens; Coach outing to Stately Home; Café in a Royal Park or a picnic or Ravens Ait; RHS Wisley; Kew Gardens; Painshill Park, Cobham; The Victoria, Surbiton; Woodies; Milestones Museum; Marble Hill House; Chiswick House & Gardens.

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

Invitation to Summer Get Together

Wednesday, 20 July 2022

12.00 Noon to 2.30 p.m.

Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames

The intended offer is finger buffet, including sandwiches, cakes, coffee and tea

Bring Your Own Bottle

Glasses will be provided for your own wine or other drinks.

RSVP by post to Jenny Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane,

Dorking, Surrey RH5 6RS **by 11 July 2022**

Telephone for queries only: 01306 730321

Email for queries only: jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com

Retain top half as a reminder (and for directions overleaf) and send off bottom half

I would like One/Two (please circle) places at the Get Together on 20 July 2022

and enclose a cheque for £ (payable to ARCO)

for the cost of £3.00 per head.

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

1. _____ 2. _____

Telephone No. _____

Email: _____

Please note any dietary requirements, e.g. vegetarian:

Click [here](#) to download this form

Directions to Woodies

Woodies is situated to the north of the A3 and to the west of South Lane. Access is from the western end of Thetford Road or via Woodies Lane footpath which runs north from the A3.

By car

Thetford Road crosses South Lane at a roundabout 200 yards north of the A3. Turn left if approaching from the A3 or right, if approaching from Kingston Road. Turn left at the end of Thetford Road and follow the approach road. There is a large car park beyond the pub.

By bus

Coming from Kingston or New Malden, the nearest bus route is the K5. Get off at the junction of Nelson Road and South Lane (either direction). This is on a hail and ride section so you will need to ask the driver to stop there for you. The bus runs every 30 minutes. It is 5 minutes' walk to the pub. Go south along South Lane until the roundabout where you turn right into Thetford Road. Turn left at the end of Thetford Road and follow the approach road.

Coming from Tolworth, the nearest bus stop is Manor Drive North (MS), served by route 265. It is 4 minutes' walk. Continue walking in the same direction and turn left into Woodies Lane which leads to the pub. Returning, use the subway at the end of South Lane to cross the A3 and walk towards Tolworth. Overall, it is 13 minutes' walk to the Manor Drive North (MR) stop which is served by both the 265 and K1.