

ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Winter 2023

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



Our Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 14 December 2023	Christmas Lunch, North Star <i>(Please use booking form)</i>
Monday, 8 January 2024	Informal Gathering at the Druids Head, Market Place, Kingston at 12 noon
Wednesday, 21 February 2024	Informal Gathering at the Kings Tun, Clarence Street, Kingston at 12 noon

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to say that we are returning once again to the North Star in Chessington for our Christmas Lunch on **Thursday 14 December**. Although we have eaten there for several years, we felt it was an easily accessible and reasonably priced venue. If you have an alternative for us to consider for 2024, please let us know. You will find the menu and booking form in this Newsletter.

To start the New Year, we have chosen to repeat the popular informal gatherings at two pubs in Kingston. On **Monday 8 January** we will meet at the Druids Head, 3 Market Place, Kingston, KT1 1JT at 12 noon. There is no need to book, just turn up at lunch time. Teas and coffees are served as well as stronger refreshment and hot meals. **Wednesday, 21 February** will see us return to the Kings Tun, 153-157 Clarence Street, Kingston, KT1 1QT, opposite the former Wilko store. We meet in the upstairs bar. Wetherspoons have an extensive menu of hot and cold food and free refills of hot drinks! Again, just come along – no booking required.

Numbers attending our recent events have been disappointing. The Get Together at the Guildhall attracted 24, but the Kings Tun and Canbury Arms events in August and October only 13 each and the trip to Marble Hill House on 6 September only 3 people. As a result, your Committee are beginning to get concerned about ARCO's future. With attendances and membership both falling, we need to try changing our approach. If you have any ideas, please share them with us.

Finally, may I be the first to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year?

Best Wishes

Chris

Chris Coke, Chairman

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

secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk

ARCO CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Thursday 14 December 2023 – 12 noon for 12.30 p.m.

The North Star, 271 Hook Road, Hook, Chessington, KT9 1EQ

Buses 71, 465 & K4 stop outside – 500 yards south of The Ace roundabout

2 COURSES £16.49 or 3 COURSES £19.49

STARTERS

Crispy Chicken Wings

*Salt & pepper chicken wings served with
Roquito hot honey*

Spiced Parsnip & Sweet Potato Soup (V)

*Served with ciabatta
(Vegan option available)*

Chicken Liver, Cranberry, Orange & Port Parfait*

*Smooth chicken liver pate served with perfectly
toasted ciabatta bread & chutney*

King Prawn Cocktail

*Succulent prawns in a rich Marie Rose sauce,
served on lettuce with wholemeal bloomer*

Beer-Battered Mushrooms* (V)

*Crispy coated button mushrooms, served with
blue cheese dressing dip*

Crispy Coated Cheese Fries (V)

Served with Roquito hot honey

MAIN COURSES

Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings

Served with roast potatoes, a stuffing ball, pigs in blankets, roasted carrots & parsnips, Brussels sprouts, red cabbage, steamed greens, cranberry sauce and a jug of gravy.

8oz Rump Steak

Mature 8oz tender rump steak chargrilled to your liking. Served with seasoned chips, grilled tomato, flat mushrooms, garden peas and crispy onion rings. Add another 8oz Rump Steak for £4. Add a sauce for £1.49: Peppercorn, beef dripping gravy or Bearnaise**

Grilled Sea Bass Fillets*

Served with potato gratin, asparagus, steamed greens and Champagne thermidor sauce

Spinach & Mushroom Wellington* (VE)

Served with baby glazed potatoes, a side of vegetables, Brussels sprouts and a jug of gravy

Our Festive Burger

*Chargrilled beef burger topped with blue cheese dressing, bacon & red onion chutney, served with burger sauce and seasoned chips. **Add an extra beef burger for £1.50.***

Turkey Dinner Pie

Served with mashed potato, steamed greens, carrots and a jug of gravy.

DESSERTS

Classic Christmas Pudding (V)

*Served with your choice of homemade brandy
sauce or custard or vanilla ice cream*

Salted Caramel Profiteroles (V)

*Served with cream and toffee sauce, topped
with festive sprinkles.*

Apple & Blackberry Crumble (V)

*Served with custard
(Vegan option available)*

Belgian Chocolate Brownie (V)

*Served warm and topped with vanilla pod ice
cream and Belgian chocolate sauce, festive
sprinkles and a Cadbury Flake.*

(V) = vegetarian ingredients (VE) = Vegan ingredients * Contains alcohol

Please use order form enclosed

All drinks to be paid for on the day direct to the bar staff

ARCO CHRISTMAS LUNCH ORDER FORM

2 COURSES £16.49 or 3 COURSES £19.49 – plus optional upgrades

Please complete the form below and return it with your cheque payable to ARCO to:

Jenny Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane, Dorking, Surrey RH5 6RS

by Friday 24 November 2023 at the latest. *Please tell us about any food allergies*

Enter your name(s) here -----> and tick in the boxes to make your choices.			
Starters	Crispy Chicken Wings		
	King Prawn Cocktail		
	Spiced Parsnip & Sweet Potato Soup		
	Beer-Battered Mushrooms		
	Chicken Liver, Cranberry, Orange & Port Parfait		
	Crispy Coated Cheese Fries		
Mains	Turkey Dinner with all the Trimmings		
	8oz Rump Steak <i>State cooking preference in box</i>	ADD ANOTHER STEAK FOR £4.00?	
	Optional Sauce for £1.49 (<i>state choice</i>)		
	Grilled Sea Bass Fillets		
	Spinach & Mushroom Wellington		
	Our Festive Burger	DOUBLE UP FOR £1.50?	
	Turkey Dinner Pie		
	Desserts	Classic Christmas Pudding with Brandy sauce or custard or ice cream <i>State choice in box</i>	
Apple & Blackberry Crumble			
Salted Caramel Profiteroles			
Belgian Chocolate Brownie			

I enclose a cheque payable to ARCO for £_____.

From _____.

Phone: _____ . Email: _____.

Or email your choices to secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk and pay by bank transfer to
Sort Code 09-01-55 Account 60178603 Name "Association of Retired Council Officers (Kingston)"

Click [here](#) to download this form