

ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Spring 2026

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



Our Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 23 April 2026	Informal gathering, Kings Tun
Thursday, 21 May 2026	Lunch at The Berrylands to mark Pat Morello's 80 th Birthday
Thursday, 25 June 2026	Minibus trip to Brighton
Thursday, 9 July 2026	Summer Get Together, Guildhall

Dear Friends,

I hope you are all keeping well this wet winter.

Someone at our Coffee Morning in November asked if GH1 and GH2 had been sold, and Paul Fisher, one of our Committee members, has found out the answer. GH1 has been on the market since January 2025, open to all offers including redevelopment to add a further 2-3 storeys, but has not yet sold. The Council decided during 2024 to retain the main Guildhall building instead of selling it off, and somehow extend it to provide a new space for all of the public-facing offices. GH2 is now being used as the main office space, while a planning application to extend The Guildhall (presumably at the back end, into the seating and parking area) is prepared. If that is agreed, GH2 will be sold once the extension is built and all staff transferred back to the Guildhall.

I am pleased to report that 25 came to our Christmas lunch in the North Star and our activities this year have also been well attended. 15 met up at the Kings Tun in January and 13 ate lunch at The Berrylands in February.

You will find more information about our confirmed activities, which are listed above, on the next page. No bookings are needed for the April and May activities, but please use the booking form for Summer Get Together and/or ring or email Martin to book on the Brighton trip.

I look forward to welcoming you at one of our forthcoming activities.

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 on Thursday, 23 April 2026

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.

Meal at The Berrylands on Thursday, 21 May 2026

Arrive between 12.00 pm and 12.30 pm

Join us to celebrate the 80th Birthday of regular attender Pat Morello!

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 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. *Please note that Berrylands station is due to be closed for rebuilding from 11 May to 23 August.*

Minibus trip to Brighton on Thursday, 25 June 2026

We will give full details of the itinerary nearer the time, but the departure is likely to be from Kingston Library in Fairfield Road at 10.15. We are aiming to return by 19.00. The charge will be £10 per person, payable in cash on the day. The trip is subject to being able to book a minibus and a driver. Final confirmation will be sent by 11 June.

To book one or two places, please email Martin at secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk or ring him on 07989 021501. *There is no need to re-apply.*

Summer Get Together at The Guildhall on Thursday, 9 July 2026

Arrive around 12.00 pm

The Queen Anne Suite has been booked for this event, for which there is a £3 charge. The intended offer is a finger buffet, including sandwiches, cakes, coffee and tea. Please Bring Your Own Bottle if you wish stronger refreshment. Glasses will be provided for your own wine or other drinks.

Please notify us as requested by returning the form in this mailing or by email with the same details.

Future Activities

Please contact Martin if you have any suggestions for new venues or destinations.

Invitation to Summer Get Together

Thursday, 9 July 2026

12.00 Noon to 2.00 p.m.

Queen Anne Suite, Guildhall, Kingston upon Thames

The intended offer is a 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, phone or email to Jenny Longhurst, Mayfield, Hoe Lane,

Dorking, Surrey RH5 6RS **by 24 June 2026**

Telephone: 01306 730321 or 07989 021501

Email: jenny.longhurst@btinternet.com

Payment may be made by cheque with this form OR by Bank Transfer to our new NatWest Bank account, which is

Sort code 52-41-12 Account 42190347 Name "ARCO (KINGSTON)"

and send an email with the details requested below to confirm.

Retain top half as a reminder and send off bottom half

I would like One/Two (please circle) places at the Get Together on 9 July 2026

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: