

# ARCO (Association of Retired Council Officers) Newsletter

Winter 2025

[www.arco-kingston.org.uk](http://www.arco-kingston.org.uk) email [secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk](mailto:secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk)



## Our Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 4 December 2025	Christmas Lunch, North Star <b>BOOK BY 14 NOVEMBER</b>
Monday, 12 January 2026	Informal Gathering, Kings Tun
Tuesday, 10 February 2026	Lunch at The Berrylands
Wednesday, 11 March 2026	Annual General Meeting, Guildhall

*Dear Friends,*

For the first time, we held our Summer Get Together at the Guildhall in the month of August. We wondered how successful this would be, but 25 people came along, so well worthwhile. Then we had a break until October, when 17 members and friends took lunch at The Berrylands, who always serve excellent meals. We liked it so much we are going again in February!

You will find more information about our confirmed activities, which are listed above, on the next page. The Christmas menu and booking form are included in this Newsletter – please book and pay by 14 November. No bookings are needed for the January or February dates – just turn up – but we would appreciate you booking for the AGM in March, so we can provide catering for the right number.

For some years now, I have represented ARCO on the RBK Pensions Panel. My term of office ends in April 2026 and I do not intend to continue in that role. So, a volunteer is needed to carry on from May. There are 4 meetings a year at the Guildhall, usually starting at 10 am and lasting a couple of hours or so. The investment of the Pension Fund is reviewed, but ARCO's main interest lies in Pensions Administration. The Pensions Officer attends and there is a full report of his Section's performance. If you would like to know more about the role, please contact Martin.

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](mailto:secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk)

## **More about our forthcoming events**

### **Christmas Lunch at The North Star on Thursday, 4 December 2025**

12 noon for 12.30 pm

The North Star is at 271 Hook Road, Hook, Chessington, KT9 1EQ, about 500 yards south of The Ace roundabout. Buses 71, 465 & K4 stop outside and K2 nearby (Rosemary Gardens stop)

The menu and booking form are included in this Newsletter.

### **Informal Gathering at The Kings Tun on Monday, 12 January 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 Tuesday, 10 February 2026**

Arrive between 12.00 pm and 12.30 pm

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](http://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.

### **Annual General Meeting at The Guildhall on Wednesday, 11 March 2026**

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 by returning the form in this mailing or by email with the same details.*

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.

### **Future Activities**

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

# ARCO CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Thursday 4 December 2025 – 12 noon for 12.30 p.m.

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

**2 COURSES £20.99 or 3 COURSES £23.99**

## STARTERS

### Crispy Chicken Tenders

*Crispy coated, succulent chicken tenders with sage & onion ranch dressing and BBQ sauce.*

### Leek & Potato Soup (V) or (VE)

*Served with focaccia bread & butter*

### King Prawn Cocktail

*Succulent prawns in Marie Rose sauce, served on crisp lettuce with seeded farmhouse bread*

### Beer-Battered Mushrooms\* (V)

*Crispy coated button mushrooms, served with sage & onion ranch dressing.*

### Halloumi Fries (V)

*Served with Roquito hot honey*

## MAIN COURSES

### Festive Hand Carved Turkey\*

*Served with braised red cabbage, mixed greens & shredded sprouts, roasted carrots, pig in blanket, pork, leek & apple stuffing, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and a rich gravy.*

### Festive Hunter's Chicken Schnitzel

*Breaded chicken breast topped with cranberry sauce, back bacon, Camembert cheese and BBQ sauce and crispy onion fries. Served with beef-dripping sauce and skin-on fries.*

### Grilled Sea Bass & Prawns\*

*Served in white wine & lemon butter sauce with peas, spring onion and sautéed potatoes.*

### Root Vegetable Wellington\* (V) or (VE)

*Butternut squash, carrot & sweet potato in flaky pastry, with braised red cabbage, mixed greens & shredded sprouts, roasted carrots, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes and gravy.*

### Camembert & Bacon Stack Burger

*Chargrilled beef burger topped with melted Camembert, maple-cured bacon, BBQ & cranberry sauce, onion fries and gherkins in a brioche-style bun, with skin-on-fries. **Extra burger for £2.00.***

### Turkey & Pancetta Pie\*

*With mashed potato, braised red cabbage, mixed greens, shredded sprouts, roasted carrots and gravy.*

### Maple Glazed Pork Belly

*With sage mashed potato, roasted carrots, mixed greens, shredded sprouts, crackling and gravy.*

**SIDES:** Pigs in blankets £3.79 - Pork, Leek & Apple Stuffing £2.79 Yorkshire puddings (V) £2.79

## DESSERTS

### Sticky Toffee Christmas Pudding (V)

*Served with custard*

### Chocolate Fudge Cake (V) or (VE)

*Served with chocolate sauce & whipped cream.*

### Salted Caramel Profiteroles (V)

*Served with whipped cream, toffee and chocolate sauces*

### Cherry Eton Mess Sundae (V)

*Strawberry meringue, vanilla ice cream, whipped cream, saucy cherries and festive sprinkles.*

**Apple & Cinnamon Pie (V) or (VE)** *Served with custard.*

(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 4 DECEMBER 2025 ORDER FORM

**2 COURSES £20.99 or 3 COURSES £23.99 – 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 14 November 2025 at the latest. Please tell us about any food allergies**

Enter your name(s) here -----> and tick in the boxes to make your choices.				
<b>Starters</b>	Crispy Chicken Tenders			
	King Prawn Cocktail			
	Leek & Potato Soup <i>Specify (V) or (VE)</i>			
	Beer-Battered Mushrooms			
	Halloumi Fries			
<b>Mains</b>	Festive Hand Carved Turkey			
	Festive Hunter's Chicken Schnitzel			
	Grilled Sea Bass & Prawns			
	Root Vegetable Wellington <i>Specify (V) or (VE)</i>			
	Camembert & Bacon Stack Burger	DOUBLE UP FOR £2.00?		
	Turkey & Pancetta Pie			
	Maple Glazed Pork Belly			
<b>Sides</b>	Pigs in blankets (£3.79)			
	Stuffing wrapped in bacon (£2.79)			
	Yorkshire puddings (£2.79)			
<b>Desserts</b>	Sticky Toffee Christmas Pudding			
	Chocolate Fudge Cake <i>Specify (V) or (VE)</i>			
	Salted Caramel Profiteroles			
	Cherry Eton Mess Sundae			
	Apple & Cinnamon Pie <i>Specify (V) or (VE)</i>			

I enclose a cheque payable to ARCO for £\_\_\_\_\_.

From \_\_\_\_\_.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ . Email: \_\_\_\_\_.

Or email your choices to [secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk](mailto:secretary@arco-kingston.org.uk) and pay by bank transfer to our new account Sort Code 52-41-12 Account 42190347 Name "ARCO (KINGSTON)"

**ARCO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2026**

The timetable will be:

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

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**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**

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

You are welcome to bring a guest, but they are not eligible to vote.

I will be attending the AGM on 11 March 2026

Print Name in Capital Letters .....

Print Guest's Name in Capital Letters .....

Please indicate if either require mobility assistance .....

There is no charge for attending.

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**Nominations** are invited for the Committee posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Social Secretary, and five ordinary members. In addition, nominations as Auditor are sought.

Any member may nominate any other member to serve, subject to their agreement.

I nominate ..... for the post of .....

Proposer's Name ..... Signature .....,,

I accept nomination (Nominee's Signature)

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