



**Your invitation  
from the  
Leicestershire YFA Reunion  
Committee to...**



## Welcome

Dear fellow YFA member,

On behalf of the 2022 YFA reunion committee we are excited to invite you to Leicestershire for the 65<sup>th</sup> YFA reunion.

Leicestershire is famous for pork pies, stilton cheese and Walkers crisps and also two streaks of tigers in the form of a Premiership rugby club and the orange and black striped big cats at Twycross Zoo!

The four-star hotel we have chosen to host the weekend is in the vicinity of East Midlands airport and the M1 so it will be really easy to get to.

We have got some great trips lined up for you and of course plenty of time to catch up with old friends and new and thanks to Covid we've had an extra year to plan the parties! We might even have some surprises up our sleeves too so make sure you don't miss out on the best weekend of the year.

We can't wait to welcome you to the reunion and if this will be your first YFA reunion since you travelled with YFC then we are also offering a first timers discount so don't forget to let us know if you are eligible on your booking form. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Our contact details can be found below.

Kind regards,

Your Joint Chairs

*Laura and Aimee*

## The Committee

### Joint Chairs:

Laura Flower: Mobile: 07527719080 or Email: lauraflower87@hotmail.com

Aimee Mahony: Mobile: 07817202316 or Email: lastminuteme@hotmail.co.uk

### Joint secretaries:

Gemma Hiatt: Mobile: 07540811838 or Email: yfaengland@gmail.com

Andrew Cartwright: Mobile: 07817896232 or Email: andybosyyfc@hotmail.com

### Treasurer:

Isobelle Robinson: Mobile: 07852945672 or Email: richard.robins@btconnect.com

### General Committee members:

Greig Farmer and Alistair Hughes

## The Hotel

The Hilton Hotel is just off the M1, four miles from East Midlands Airport. The hotel has a beautiful pool, sauna and steam room and beauty salon. WiFi is also available and free of charge.

Parking for guests will also be arranged free of charge for the duration of your stay at the hotel.

The centre of Leicester is only a 28 minute drive away and if you are a thrill seeker the world-famous Alton Towers Theme Park is within 35 miles of the hotel.

Other notable local attractions include Twycross Zoo, The National Arboretum, Calke Abbey National Trust property, The National Space Centre and the indoor ski slope and tobogganing run at Tamworth Snowdome.

## The Weekend Programme

*Please note timings are approximate and the programme is subject to change*

### **Friday 21st October: 'Around the world' fancy dress theme**

From 3.00 pm - Registration

7.30 pm – Chair's welcome and street food served from 'around the world' with a fancy-dress party and interactive entertainment of a tribal theme – be prepared to take part!

### **Saturday 22nd October: Black tie with a touch of gold**

7:30 – 8:30 am - Breakfast

9.30 am - Coaches depart for all trips

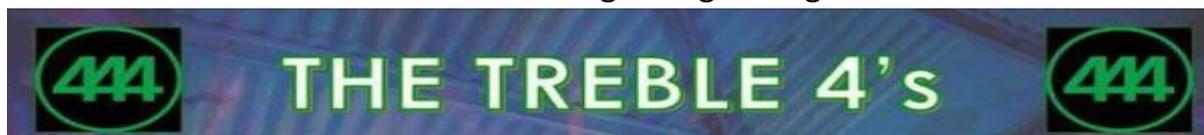
4.30 pm - Trips return

6.30 pm - Group photograph

6.45 pm- Drinks reception

7.15 pm - Formal dinner and table entertainment

After dinner entertainment and dancing all night long to the live band:



### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Casual and comfy attire**

7:30 – 8:30 am - Breakfast

10.00 am - Religious service

10.30 am - Regional meetings

11.30 am - Coffee

11.45 am - National Annual General Meeting

12.00 midday - Hotel check out for Sunday departures

12.45 pm - Lunch

2.00 pm – Afternoon activities

7.00 pm - Dinner

8.30 pm – Games night

### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October: Departure**

7:30 – 9.00 am - Breakfast

12.00 midday - Hotel check out, goodbyes and a fond farewell (until next year!)

## **The Trips**

The committee have worked hard to offer a variation of trips to showcase the local area and we do hope you will enjoy them. All offerings are full day trips, and some will be filled on a first come first served basis. Therefore please indicate on your booking form your first and second choice trips.

## Saturday trips

### Trip option 1

#### AM: National Arboretum or Whitemoor Lakes



The National Arboretum was officially opened to the public in May 2001 with the Armed Forces Memorial, a national monument to those who have lost their lives on duty or as an act of terrorism.

The Arboretum is an evolving, maturing woodland landscape featuring 25,000 trees and a large collection of nearly 400 memorials. Although many of the trees are still young, they are rapidly growing into a unique living tribute. Every year sees the dedication of new memorials and special events at the Arboretum.



Whitemoor Lakes offers a high rope course with the session on offer lasting approximately 90 minutes. Once you've tackled the course you will join the group at the National Arboretum for lunch and a chance to briefly visit the centre.

Please note this session will go ahead in all weathers and suitable footwear and clothing including a coat will be required but must allow ease of movement.

### PM: Dreamy Cow ice cream

As a result of falling milk prices the Thorp family realised that a change of direction was needed to keep the dairy farm going for future generations. With their love of all things sweet, ice cream was an obvious option for the family to explore and the diversification business was born in 2007. What better way to spend the afternoon than looking round the farm and seeing how the ice cream is produced and possible even some ice cream samples!



### Trip option 2

#### Bosworth Battlefield and the Leicestershire handmade cheese company



**AM:** Options will be available for walks, browsing of the exhibition centre and shops or a sit and relax in the café at the heritage centre and country park of Market Bosworth.

The Bosworth Battle was the last significant battle in the War of the Roses, the civil war between the houses of Lancaster and York in 1485. In 2005 a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant enabled the updating of the exhibition centre in the light of more recent thinking about the battlefield. This included a gallery dedicated to how the location of the Battlefield had been lost to history and how, with HLF Funding, work was underway to locate the scene of the action which had been hotly debated for 30 years.

**PM:** Following a morning of history and intrigue the group will travel down the road to a neighbouring village to visit the Leicestershire Handmade Cheese Company for a tour and cheese sampling session.

The Leicestershire Handmade Cheese Company is located in Upton, a small hamlet in the Southwest Leicestershire countryside on a working dairy farm called Sparkenhoe Farm. David and Jo Clarke are dairy farmers whose families have farmed in the area for generations. They started making 'Sparkenhoe', a traditional Leicester cheese in November 2005 and use the milk produced from their own cows. They now have many new additions to their product lines including the Bosworth Field and Battlefield Blue. These are both made with unpasteurised milk and are handmade in the dairy.

### Trip option 3

#### Melton Mowbray and March House Farm



**AM:** During a visit to the traditional market town of Melton Mowbray you will experience a tour of the Ye Olde Pork Pie Shoppe and learn about the history of this Leicestershire delicacy along with a pork pie taster session.

The Melton Mowbray Pork Pie now has a PGI status, granted in 2009. This means it has to be made within a certain geographical location. For the remainder of the morning you can explore the local shops and eateries or visit the Melton Mowbray livestock market where on the day of our visit the East Midlands British Limousin Cattle Breeders Club Show and Sale will be taking place.

**PM:** A short coach trip journey will take you to March House Farm to meet the Belcher family who have been farming in Great Dalby since 1780. It has always been a mixed farm, breeding quality, traditional, native livestock and crops. They started their journey into butchery and retail when they took their first selection

of home reared lamb, beef and pork and set up a market stall at Camden Lock in London.

In 2005 they built their own on-site butchery and in 2017 came the development of the farm shop. In 2018 they opened a café where they are proud to offer their home-grown produce which is all butchered on site.

## Sunday Afternoon Activities

### Option 1

#### East Midlands Aeropark



The Aeropark is both an aviation museum and a viewing area where you can study the preserved planes of yesteryear or watch the modern airliners of today taking-off and landing at a growing international passenger and cargo airport. The Aeropark has a collection of 27 complete air frames on external display within the park with another 5 aircraft under complete restoration.

### Option 2

#### Chocolate making



Stay at the hotel for the afternoon and learn the art of chocolate making from local master chocolatiers. Following a demonstration, you get to try your hand at making your own chocolates which you will get to take home with you, if it lasts that long!

### Option 3

#### Enjoy the facilities at the hotel



The recently refurbished hotel has beautiful relaxation facilities including a pool, sauna, steam room and beauty salon. Hotel residents can also make use of the bar area which has plenty of seating options if you wish to catch up with fellow YFA members or you can take the opportunity to have a quick power nap before the evening entertainment begins.

## Cost of the Weekend

Prices are stated per person (except family rooms \*). We have a limited number of triple and quad rooms available at a reduced price but please note these will consist of a combination of twin beds, double beds and sofa beds. We have catered for children to be eating with the adults but depending on numbers, a high tea may be arranged once the booking deadline has closed.

*Please note: bookings will not be accepted unless they are accompanied by a full payment*

If you are unsure about the payment due, please contact the secretary (Tel: 07540811838 / email: [yfaengland@gmail.com](mailto:yfaengland@gmail.com)) for assistance.

### Friday night to Monday morning (3 nights):

Double/Twin rooms

Adults and children (over 12) in their own rooms £290

Family Rooms \*

(2 adults and 2 children: Contact committee if any differences) £760

Children (aged 4-12) sharing room with adults £90

Children 3 and under Free

Triple or quad rooms £280

Single, includes single supplement £380

### Friday to Sunday or Saturday to Monday (2 nights):

Double/Twin rooms

Adults and children (over 12) in their own rooms £220

Family Rooms \*

(2 adults and 2 children: Contact committee if any differences)	£590
Children (aged 4-12) sharing room with adults	£75
Children 3 and under	Free
Triple or quad rooms	£210
Single, includes single supplement	£280
<b>Saturday night dinner only</b>	<b>£35</b>

## First Timers Discount



**T&Cs:** The first timers discount is applicable to any person who is a YFA member (or eligible to become a YFA member) who is attending their first YFA reunion. Payment is due in full at time of booking and a refund to the relevant discount amount will be given to those eligible at the reunion weekend. The discount is not applicable to guests of YFA members and is only available on a first come first served basis so book early to avoid any disappointment.

## Additional information

**The online booking form can be found here:**

**[www.yfa-uk.co.uk/home](http://www.yfa-uk.co.uk/home)**

The deadline for bookings to guarantee a place at the reunion weekend is midnight on the 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The hotel will be holding rooms for us until this date and after that they will be released for general sale so we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take any late bookings.

If for any reason you cannot use the online booking form link or you are having difficulties using it then please contact Gemma Hiatt via Mobile: 07540811838 or Email: [yfaengland@gmail.com](mailto:yfaengland@gmail.com)

Children's facilities may be arranged on discussion with the committee secretaries (contact details at the beginning of this brochure).

If you anticipate arriving after 7.30 pm on the Friday evening, please advise the committee secretaries in advance so that a late meal can be arranged (contact details at the beginning of this brochure).

Cancellation - should you need to cancel your booking after payment has been made, this will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the committee cannot guarantee a refund of any money already paid.

### Payment:

Our preferred method of payment is bank transfer – account details are as follows:

Account Name: YFA England Reunion

Sort Code: 30-98-97

Account Number: 57040063

Please state your name as the reference ID on the transaction.

Cheques can be sent to:

Isobelle Robinson

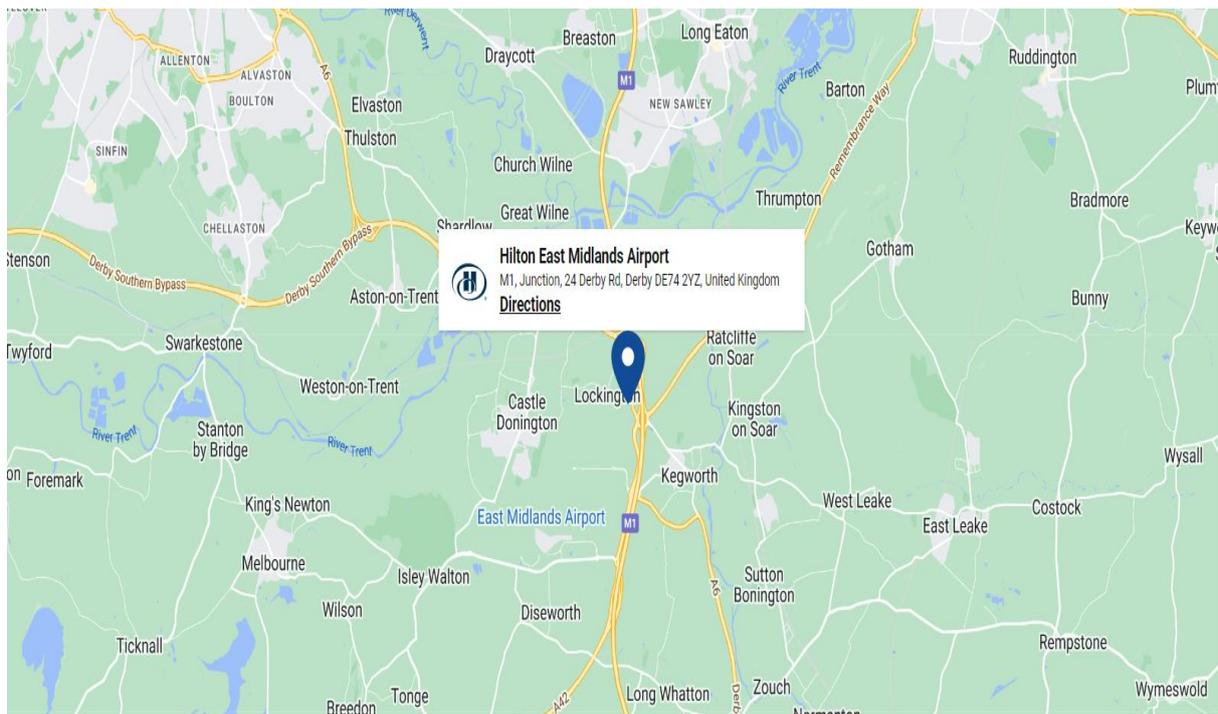
Cotton Farm, Hodnet, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 3JQ

## Travelling to the reunion

**By Road** - The hotel is ideally situated just off the M1 Junction 24 on the Derby Road, Derby and the postcode is DE74 2YZ. Free car parking for hotel guests is available in a large on-site car park.

**By Rail** – The nearest train station is the East Midlands Parkway which is less than a 10 minute drive to the hotel. If you are travelling by train, please let us know your arrival and departure times and where possible we will try and assist with transportation to and from the train station if desired.

**By Air** – The hotel is less than a 10 minute drive from East Midlands Airport and is situated approximately 45 minutes from Birmingham airport. For those arriving by plane please let us know your arrival and departure times and where possible we will try and assist with transportation to and from the airport if desired.



## **Young Farmers Ambassadors 65th Annual Reunion**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

### **Annual General Meeting Agenda**

1. Introduction
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous meeting
4. Matters arising from the minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Executive committee meeting report
7. Election of office bearers
8. Regional reports a. England and Wales b. Scotland c. Northern Ireland
9. Election of officers for the 2023 Reunion
10. Any other business

## **UK Young Farmers Ambassadors Minutes of the 64th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at the Canal court Hotel, Newry**

National Chairman: Aimee Mahony (Standing in for James Cowan)

National Secretary: Heini Daniels

### **Welcome**

Aimee welcomed everyone to the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Young Farmers' Ambassadors and asked that a moment was taken to remember those we have lost in the last year.

### **Attendance**

There were 63 recorded in the attendance book.

### **Apologies for absence**

Alistair Hughes, Christine Cooper, Angharad spencer, Andrew Spencer, Edward perkins , Eireen perkins, Tony Walker, Ifan Lloyd, Aled Jones, Rhiannon Dafydd, Heledd Rees, James Cowan, Gwilym Williams, Alison Roberts, Hefin Lewis, Bridget Wells, Margret Bennett, Adele Wallis, Richard Wallis, John young, Angela Young, Eunice Finney, Neil Brimms, Pauline Armstrong, Violet Brown, Barrie Barr, Jackie Barr, James Burton, William King, Pat King, Davy Neill, Adam Ervin, Mathew Patterson, Isobel Robinson, Elaine Meikle, David Paterson, Harold Greer and Elizabeth Bruges

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes from the annual general meeting held at the Holiday Inn, Newport on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2019 had been circulated with the programme. The minutes were proposed by Sam Hawkes and seconded by Angharad Williams.

### **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No Matters arising.

### **Correspondence**

No correspondence has been received.

### **Executive committee meeting**

The executive committee meeting was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The main topics were upcoming conferences and reunions which were covered later

in the agenda and the IFYE website. An expression of gratitude was made towards the Northern Irish YFA reunion committee for organising the weekend under such difficult circumstances with Covid restrictions in place.

### **Election of National Officer Bearers**

Chairman – James Cowan will remain as Chairman for another year

Secretary – It being Northern Ireland's turn to elect a secretary, Janette Sterling was proposed by Sam Hawkes and seconded by Helen Ervin.

### **Regional & IFYE Reports**

#### **England and Wales YFA Report delivered by Aimee Mahony**

Good morning fellow YFA members and guests. Whilst the run up to this event has been challenging, I think we would all agree that the weekend has been superb and offered something for everyone and the committee from Northern Ireland have certainly set us a high bar to follow next year for the reunion weekend in England.

Whilst Covid restrictions meant we could not meet in person in 2020, we have been meeting virtually and held the AGM voting by doodle poll. I was pleased for the support I received for my nomination for Chair of England and Wales YFA and am grateful to Laura and the rest of the committee for their support.

With most things being disrupted since March 2020, it was little surprise but still great disappointment that YFC travel ground to a halt for NFYFC and Wales YFC. England have regrettably cancelled the 2022 homestays which will affect both incoming and outgoing exchangees and these trips will be reviewed again at a later date. There is a possibility of a five nations trip, an American trip and a group trip to Peru and Vietnam for August 2022 and selection day is planned for the end of 2021. The priority must be to keep members and host families safe, but I truly hope we have more positive news to report for the year ahead.

With the start of a brighter future in terms of coming out of lockdown restrictions, we have had plenty to celebrate amongst the wider YFA family with congratulations going to all those who have got married or welcomed new additions into the world. Looking forward to the year ahead, I can't wait to see you all next year at the 2022 reunion in England.

## **YFA Ulster Annual Report delivered by Janette Stirling**

Since we have last been together, we have all found out how to use zoom, unmute or more importantly “mute all”.

We were fortunate after the reunion in Newport in 2019 to have our annual dinner in January 2020 in Pretty Mary’s restaurant in Moira. This was over the Chinese New Year, so in true YFA style we had table games and activities ranging from word searches of Chinese cities, tasks using chop sticks and finally a craft to make our own Chinese dragons to parade. This proved to be a real highlight, not only for our members but everyone else who was in the restaurant who couldn’t quite work out what was happening. We have 43 members in attendance and had welcomed lots of returning and out-going exchangees for 2020.

However, as you all know the 2020 exchangee programme was cancelled, along with our outgoing briefing night and various other events and plans for the Ulster 2020 reunion in Newry.

We turned to the online catch ups, with Helen and Sam starting to host regular quizzes. These seen over 50 people tuning in at the start, and the competition was getting fierce. We had the Annetts, McQuistons, Linda Steele, and Avril Herdman prove they were the brainiest YFA members over the initial quizzes. As a committee, we want to thank Sam, Helen and others who joined in with specialist rounds for running these quizzes to break up the monotony of lockdown and something to look forward to on a Saturday night.

Of course, these were opened to UK YFA members, European IFYE members and on occasions International IFYE members turned on the Ulster zoom meetings. We were really delighted others could join in and keep in touch.

As lock downs eased, we planned a picnic on 16th August 2020, at Drum Manor, Cookstown, where again 40 members joined together to share the beautiful scenery, walks and excellent park facilities. This was great to see everyone face to face again.

With no indoor meetings allowed, on 7th November, in lieu of a reunion weekend, a murder mystery night was held on zoom, where the participants dressed up and delivered all their alibis of what happened on RMS Whodunnit Cruise. Mary Roberts was the first to guess who the murderer was and again we welcomed members from across our international IFYE

family. Thanks again for those who took on roles and acted these so well. Donations were collected via online transfer for Macmillan.

In January 2021, we had our annual dinner on the Big Bird Count weekend, so this meant our dinner would take on the theme of birds. We have everything from bird clothing, bird twitchers, and every course being bird themed. All taking place on zoom we had to see how the theme was interpreted. On the menu there was an array of options – duck spring rolls, chicken main courses, meringue nests, penguin biscuits with tea, unfortunately the service could be desired and maybe even some of the chefs wouldn't quite be mitchelin standard. No online zoom meeting would be complete without a quiz! A round of bird related questions, the hardest being how many birds are in the song "12 days of Christmas".

As 2021 has progressed, we have had a few zoom committee meetings, but were delighted for our annual picnic to have over 60 members and families in attendance at Tannaghmore Gardens in Lurgan on 1st August . This was one of the largest we have had in many years, with all age groups joining together on a sunny Sunday afternoon to enjoy all the park had to offer. An excellent afternoon with very few rushing away.

With regulations constantly changing, it has been hard for us to plan physical meetings, but by being able to join together on zoom and our YFA whatsapp group we have been able to stay in touch. It has been tinged with a lot of sadness as many of us have been touched with the loss of loved ones, and we have lost a few members since we met together at a reunion. We think of their families who have been dealing with their loss and have let them know we feel the loss as well as a YFA family.

In the last 2 years, we have had occasions to celebrate as well, with weddings and babies and glad to see our gooseberry bushes have been fruitful.

To conclude, I want to thank all the members who have stuck together and supported each other through a difficult 2 years, who have turned up to events when we have been able to hold physically, and for always providing something to smile about!

Finally, as a committee, we hope you have enjoyed the chance to come to Newry, although it is not a typical YFA reunion as we used to know, we hope you have enjoyed being back with others.

Thank you.

## **Scottish YFA Report delivered by Katie Pulner**

In line with every organisation in the country, we have not been able to have our usual programme of events during the year and no incoming or outgoing exchangees.

The committee members were rolled over from 2020, and during the year we held several Zoom chat nights.

On 22 May, we hosted a virtual Zoom drinks night – all current YFA members were invited to join as well as those who would have celebrated certain anniversary years since their exchange trip either last year or this year. This proved to be a very enjoyable evening with 40 different households joining. We had two break out sessions which gave people a chance to chat in smaller groups. We also asked those in the anniversary years to say a few words and that gave us a real insight into their exchange trips going back to 1970 – there were 21 in all and most were so passionate about their exchange and how it had shaped their lives. It exceeded our expectations and we plan to have another one next May.

On 13 August, 11 members headed to Caithness to Neil Brims house, where he hosted us for the weekend. It was the first in person meeting since our AGM 15 March, 2020 and it was just what we all needed; Friday night, a farm walk, a great dinner and a few drinks. Saturday morning, we headed to the Wick Heritage Museum, which was well worth a visit; then to John o' Groats to take the compulsory photo at the finger post. A walk along the beach, visit to Duncansby Head and Dunnet Head, the actual most northly point on the British mainland and back to Neil's to end the evening. We headed home after breakfast the next day, all very pleased we had taken the decision to go and we agreed that it was the best tonic we could have!

We are planning on having an in-person AGM on Sunday 20 March, 2021, venue details to be confirmed.

On behalf of Scottish YFA, I'd like to thank the Reunion Committee in Northern Ireland, in challenging circumstances, for a fantastic weekend here in Newry.

## **European IFYE Conference 2020-21**

Due to Covid the conference(s) in 2020-21 were cancelled.

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### **Upcoming Conferences**

2022 European Conference – Sam Hawkes confirmed that this would be held from 16<sup>th</sup> until the 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021 in Finland. Registration will open on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 2021.

2023 World conference – Sam Hawkes confirmed this will be held in Austria on the 26/08/2023- 02/09/2023

### **2022 UK Reunion**

The reunion committee of joint chairs Aimee Mahony and Laura Flower, joint secretaries Gemma Hiatt and Andrew Cartwright and Treasurer Isobelle Robinson extended an invitation for the UK reunion being held in Leicestershire from 28/10/2022-31/10/2022 with further details to follow.

### **Any other competent business**

YFA website- Meg Finley was going to look into next payment and contact the YFA regions accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.09pm.