

## An invitation from the Ulster YFA Committee



## Young Farmers' Ambassadors 64<sup>th</sup> Reunion

Canal Court Hotel, Newry,  
County Down, Northern Ireland

29<sup>th</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021



## **Welcome from chairman**

It gives me great pleasure to finally welcome you to the 64th YFA reunion. After so long staying apart I hope you are all ready to meet up in Newry and help us 'Embrace a Giant Spirit'. This year we will have to adhere to some regulations but we still look forward to giving you a fun-filled enjoyable weekend.

Claire Woods, Chairman

### **The Committee**

Chairman- Claire Woods  
07711602934

Secretary – Janette Stirling  
07921384325

Treasurer- Helen Ervin  
07928144053

Email- [yfaulster@outlook.com](mailto:yfaulster@outlook.com)

Sam Hawkes, Avril Herdman, Lottie McCullagh, Ellen McMinn,  
Matthew Patterson, Stuart Rea, Linda Steele, Shirley Walker,  
Tracey Weir, Trevor Woods

**Hotel details** – Canal Court Hotel, Merchants Quay, Newry, County Down, BT35 8HF [www.canalcourthotel.com](http://www.canalcourthotel.com)

The Canal Court Hotel is a 4 star hotel located in the heart of Newry City, sitting on the banks of Ireland's oldest man made waterway on the Newry Canal. The hotel is located 40 minutes south of Belfast, directly opposite the main bus station for Ulster bus and has a car park at the rear. Complimentary wi-fi is available throughout hotel. The CC spa and leisure club is situated on the top floor and can be booked directly through the website.

### **Saturday activities**

Option 1 – Clay time with Trevor and Crafts with Fiona

Option 2 – Farm tour

Option 3 – City walk and treasure hunt

### **Saturday afternoon**

Option 4 – Crafts with Fiona

Option 5- Drinks Masterclass

Option 6 – Free time in Newry

### **Sunday Afternoon Activities**

Option 7 – Hillsborough Castle and Gardens tour

Option 8 - Stay in hotel/ Newry

## **Weekend Programme**

### **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October**

From 3pm – Registration and free time

5.30pm – Children’s high tea

7.30pm – Dinner

8.45pm – “Embrace a Giant Spirit” quiz and activity night (no fancy dress)

### **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October**

7.30-9am – Breakfast

9.30am- Tours

12.30pm – Lunch

1.30 pm – Afternoon activities

5.30pm - Children’s high tea

6.30pm – Drinks reception

7.00pm – Group photograph

7.30pm – Formal dinner

### **Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October**

8-10am – Breakfast

10.30am – Church service

11.15am – Tea/coffee

11.30am – Country meetings

12.00pm – AGM

12.00pm – Checkout for Sunday departures

1pm – Lunch

2pm – Coaches to Hillsborough castle

7pm – Dinner

8.30pm – Evening entertainment

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November**

7.30-10 am- Breakfast

12pm – Hotel check out and farewells

**Weekend Entertainment**

**Friday night-** This year we decided not to have a fancy dress evening, to give you more room in your luggage. The evening will have activities around the tourism theme for Northern Ireland, “Embrace a Giant Spirit” which will be a lot of fun for everyone to get involved with. Music will be supplied by DJ Squincy, and hopefully we will be able to dance the night away (regulations dependent).

**Saturday night-** Following dinner we will be entertained by ‘Mother’s Little Helpers’. Again, keep the dancing shoes on standby in the hope that regulations change.

**NOTE:** With current restrictions on live music, dancing and distancing in place, our plans have been limited and we hope these will change before we gather together.

**Cost of the weekend-** price based on 2 sharing a room.

Friday night to Monday morning

Adults and children in their own room	£295
Single supplement	£60
Children (4-12) sharing parents room	£90
Children 3 and under	free

Friday night to Sunday lunch time

Adults and children in their own room	£220
Single supplement	£40
Children (4-12) sharing parents room	£60
Children 3 and under	free

Saturday night dinner	£35
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### **Additional information- Please Read**

***COVID-19 restrictions – Do not attend the reunion weekend if you exhibit any symptoms. Please consult local travel advice closer to the time on requirements for travelling to Northern Ireland.***

**PLEASE CHECK**

**<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/coronavirus-covid-19-travelling-within-common-travel-area>**

**\*\* We would recommend flying into Belfast/using Belfast ports at present as travel through Dublin and Republic of Ireland has different requirements. \*\***

## **Hotel information**

Due to hotel policy, no alcohol is to be brought on to the premises for consumption during your stay.

**Allocation of rooms** – allocation of rooms and trips will be treated on a first come first serve basis.

We have limited trip options and numbers available, due to COVID, and some may be cancelled and altered in line with restrictions. The committee reserves the right to change the itinerary at its discretion.

**Late bookings** – we will make every effort to accommodate late bookings however we cannot guarantee hotel accommodation or room on trips.

**Children's facilities** – depending on the number and ages of children attending, a crèche may be provided on the Friday and Saturday night. Please advise on the booking form if you require crèche facilities.

Children (12 and under) may eat dinner earlier or can join adults. Please advise on the booking form which you prefer.

If you have more than 2 children requiring beds, please contact the secretary. Cots are available on request.

**Late arrival** – if you anticipate you will be arriving later than 7.30pm on Friday, please advise secretary in advance so a late meal can be arranged.

**Cancellation** – should you wish to cancel your booking, please let the secretary know no later than 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Refunds will be at committee discretion.

**Single room supplement** – single room supplement is £20 per night per person. Members travelling on their own will not be allocated to share unless consent is granted by both parties. If consent is not granted, we will expect a single room supplement to be paid.

**Important – Please note**

**No applications will be accepted without full payment.**

**Deadline 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

**Please return completed booking form and payment.**

**Confirmation will be sent via email unless otherwise stated.**





## **Travelling to the 2021 Reunion**

**By road-** from Belfast, follow the M1 west to Sprucefield, then follow signs for A1 to Dublin/Newry.

A25 take exit for Newry and Camlough, at first round about, take 2<sup>nd</sup> exit towards city centre and Daisy Hill hospital.

Turn right onto Patrick Street

Then left onto Frances Street

Left onto Merchant's Quay and hotel is on your left, a car park is located at rear.

Hotel postcode is BT35 8HF

### **By rail**

[www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)

Find a timetable, select train and the first route is Belfast-Lisburn-Portadown- Newry

All details of trains to Newry are listed. There is a shuttle bus which brings you from the train station to the bus station, which is opposite hotel.

### **By bus**

[www.translink.co.uk](http://www.translink.co.uk)

Find a timetable, select bus, search Newry and the time table will appear for "38 Ulsterbus" And the route is Belfast-Banbridge-Newry

**The hotel is located opposite Newry bus station**

**Young Farmers' Ambassadors  
64<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
Canal Court Hotel, Newry, Northern Ireland**

**Annual General Meeting**

**Agenda**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Minutes of the previous meeting**
- 4. Matters arising from the minutes**
- 5. Correspondence**
- 6. Executive committee meeting**
- 7. Election of National Office Bearers**
- 8. Regional reports –**
  - a. England and Wales**
  - b. Scotland**
  - c. Northern Ireland**
- 9. Election of Office Bearers for 2022 Reunion**
- 10. Any other business**

**Young Farmers' Ambassadors, 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>October 2019 at the Holiday Inn, Newport**

National Chairman:Neil Brims  
National Secretary:Heini Daniels

**Welcome**

Neil welcomed everyone to the 63<sup>rd</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 88 recorded in the attendance book.

**Apologies for absence**

Rhiannon Dafydd, William annett, Adam Ervin, Roger King, Chrissie Angus, Janette Smith, Ian & Carol Brunton, Anne Steele, Alison Ross, Elizabeth Miller, William Martin, Neville Stangroom, Ifan Lloyd, Christine Hope, Delme Harries, AimeeMahony, Rita Edwards, Bryan Fell, Molly Buck, Margaret & Noel Hemphill, Nicola Lyne, Joe & Loran Graham, Eunice Finnay, Donna Simmons, Kate & Richard meggison, Richard & Ali Siphthorp, Russ Carrington

**Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes from the annual general meeting held in the Aberdeen Altens Hotel, Aberdeen on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>October 2018 had been circulated with the programme. The minutes were proposed by Peggy Amos and seconded by Karl Hockenhill.

**Matters Arising from the Minutes**

No Matters arising.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence has been received

**Executive committee meeting**

The executive meeting was held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>October 2019.The main topics were upcoming conferences and reunions which were covered later in the agenda and the IFYE Website. Ways of promoting and developing IFYE website were discussed.

**Election of National Officer Bearers**

Chairman – It being England & Wales turn to elect a chairman, James Cowan was proposed by Huw Williams and seconded by Peggy Amos  
Secretary – Heini Daniels will remain as secretary for another year

## **Regional & IFYE Reports**

### **England and Wales YFA Report delivered by Karl Hockenhull**

Firstly I would like to apologise, as due to work commitments I have been unable to have been as active a member as I would have liked to have been this year.

Secondly I would like to thank the Welsh committee members for holding such a fantastic weekend and for putting so much effort into making it a great weekend.

The year started off with myself being approached to be a member on the selection panel for this year's travellers. There was lots of great competition this year with many strong candidates. 43 of these gained a place on this year's trips.

Earlier this year, our committee was approached by Russel Carrington who is on the board of Rural Youth Europe. We were asked if we would be able to provide any sponsorship towards the European Rally which was held in England back in August this year. Following a discussion within our committee we decided that this was something that we could do, sponsoring the rally with £700 and also Allison Roberts went along on the closing dinner to give a presentation on what YFA is.

Following this came the NFYC AGM, here we presented them with a cheque for £3600 for them to use towards the YFC travel programme. At the Royal Welsh Huw Williams presented Wales YFC with a cheque of £450 towards the travel programme.

Finally I would like to thank my top table especially Laura and Amy for all their hard work over the last 12months.

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

The first official YFA event in 2019 was our annual dinner in January, where 43 members joined together in the Corick House Hotel in Clogher for some brain teasing games, which all members were able to attack and break the code to get into the treasure chest for some prizes.

Over the summer months, we were able to send 5 members on short term exchange across the UK, and 3 members further afield to Canada, America, and Australia, along with a rally team to England. As an organisation we hosted 11 exchangees in 2019. Our Summer outing on 21<sup>st</sup> July in Antrim Castle Gardens had all ages enjoying the walks, playgrounds and music, with our typical picnics in the torrential rain. To finish off the great day out, we enjoyed a delicious meal at The Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim where 21 members had dinner.

Our Summer outing was earlier than normal this year in preparation for a lot of our members heading to Norway to the IFYE conference. At the IFYE AGM, Linda Steele stood down as secretary after many years of service and we are delighted that YFA Ulster remains represented with Sam Hawkes taking on the position of Vice President on the European IFYE board, congratulations to both members.

We held our Annual General Meeting in Glarryford Young Farmers Hall at our Autumn meeting on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – with a return of the pud-gin YFA night, 20 members were in attendance. During the AGM we welcomed Claire Woods as our Chairperson and Shirley Walker as our vice-chairperson, all other positions remained the same. We were delighted to give sponsorship to two of our returning long term exchangees, Adam

Alexander and Kathryn Speers. The evening was finished with plenty of desserts, and gin!

In December 2018, YFA Ulster suffered a huge loss with the passing of John Cromie, our Patron. John was one of our first YFA members and truly lived life with the YFA/IFYE spirit running through his veins, we all have fond memories of conversations with John, the twinkle in his eye and his passion for all people.

Thoughts also go to other YFA families who lost loved ones this year.

I would like to thank the committee for all their hard work throughout the year, we were taking things a bit easier in 2019 following a busy 2018 and are now gearing up again for the UK reunion in Newry in 2020.

On behalf of Ulster YFA, thank you to the organising committee of this conference; for a great weekend here in Newport, with the wide variety of tours and excellent hospitality which we've grown to expect. We really appreciate all you have done for us.

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

On 10 March, the Annual General Meeting and Photo Presentation was held at Carnbo Village Hall. Unfortunately, the weather was against us, with snow falling overnight, and also a Young Farmers event prevented several of last years and this year's outgoing exchangees from attending. The following Office Bearers were elected: Chairman & Treasurer: Neil Brims; Vice Chairman:

Katie Pulner; Secretary: Mary Turner; other committee members – Elaine Meikle, Meg Findlay, Alison Ross, David Stevenson, David Paterson, James Law, Caroline Robertson, Elaine Mowat, Kirstie Black, James Gray and David Lawrie (SAYFC).

Also in March, Neil Brims and Katie Pulner attended the Austrian IFYE Ski Weekend in beautiful Saalbach, where they did sledging, skiing and snowboarding, and, of course, enjoyed the après ski activities!

This year, six lucky young farmers went on exchange to USA, Finland, Norway, Switzerland and Ireland. In addition, 4 members attended the European Rally held in England. YFA made a contribution to all of the aforesaid.

On Wednesday 12 June, YFA hosted the 2019 Incoming Delegates for the day. There were 12 of them from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland, USA and much nearer to home, England, Ireland and Wales. Mary Turner was the Minibus driver with Meg Findlay as chief navigator. Having picked them up in Edinburgh, Caroline Robertson was on hand to take the excess luggage by car. It was off to Summerlee Museum of Country Life at Coatbridge to see the very good exhibits there, and although it wasn't brilliant sunshine, everyone enjoyed their picnic there. Next was a visit to the Riverside Museum in Glasgow, and finally dropping them in Ayrshire to meet their first hosts. We were very appreciative of Fullwoodhead Dairy Supplies for their contribution to the hire of the minibus.

Around 120 people attended the Annual Drinks Reception held on 21 June at the Royal Highland Show, and that included all of this year's incoming exchangees. Also, amongst the group were 18 Anniversary Guests celebrating between 5 and 60 years since their exchange. We were also pleased to welcome other guests from New Zealand, Isle of Man and Northern Ireland. There was a great atmosphere as always, with people catching up and rekindling old friendships and meeting new friends. The generous sponsorship from Aldi, Mackie's of Scotland and Walker's Shortbread, really helped to

keep costs down. This is the biggest event in the Scottish YFA calendar; so, if you're planning to be at the Royal Highland on Friday 19 June 2020, please get in touch.

The 61st European IFYE Conference was held from 12 – 18 August at ToneheimFolk High School, Hamar, Norway. There were 23 Scots amongst the 200 group from 18 different countries and participants enjoyed a varied programme in beautiful surroundings. We were pleased to welcome Kirstie Black, James Gray and Elaine & Simon Mowat – all first-time attendees to the conference. From team games, scenic walks, farm visits, museums, micro-brewery and the evening sail on the lake, all very enjoyable. Then the fun at the “Farmers Market” themed fancy-dress party showed the creativity of many of the participants. It was a great week and our thanks must go to the organisers for all their hard work.

Our only fund raiser during the year is the Grand Raffle, and the winners will be announced shortly.

During the year, we issued a Feedback Survey to our members to gauge the level of satisfaction on the events we hold as well as the UK & European IFYE Events and feedback on the Newsletters. Almost 90 people responded to the survey and it was an opportunity to get constructive opinions. In general terms it showed we were on the right track, but of course, we will take on board comments for improvements and at the same time, we recognise that members are at different stages, and that other commitments can often take over. We are very aware that we need more younger members to come forward and take on roles on the committee.

We are currently in the process of setting up an Instagram account for Scottish YFA, so please keep an eye out for that.

The next event will be the AGM and Photo Presentation and this will be held at Carnbo Village Hall on Sunday 15 March, 2020 at 1.00 pm.

On behalf of Scottish YFA, I'd like to thank the 2019 UK Reunion Committee for a fantastic weekend here in Newport.

### **European IFYE Conference 2019**

Nicole Doidge gave an overview with a power point presentation of the 2019 European IFYE Conference which had been held in Hamar in Norway in August. A busy and very enjoyable week with a variety of workshops, games, visits and craft sessions.

### **Upcoming Conferences**

2020 European Conference – Christine Cooper and Helen Ramsay confirmed that this would be held from 8th to 15th August 2020 at Myerscough College, Preston, Lancashire. The theme for the week is farming, food and fun. Bookings will be taken from [www.ifye2020.com](http://www.ifye2020.com) and would open this Friday.

### **2020 UK Reunion**

The reunion committee of Chairman Claire Woods, secretary Janette Stirling. Claire Woods extended an invitation for the UK Reunion being held at the Canal court hotel, Newry from 30/10/2020-2/11/2020 with the theme “Myths and legends”.

**Any other competent business**

Elaine Mowat stood to report the following:

Scottish region of YFA collected an award from Aberdeen ambassadors network earlier in the month. The presentation took place at the exhibition & conference centre in Aberdeen. The award was presented to Elaine by Barney Crockett the Lord provost of Aberdeen. The award was for YFA hosting a conference in Aberdeen. Out of 19 awards, 17 were for academic conference so we were in good company. Thank you to all who attended the conference in 2018 and are part of this award.

Chairman, Angharad Williams , advised that £367.10 had been raised from the Sunday Service collection which would be donated to Farming network.

Neil thanked everyone for the last two years.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 12.34pm.