



"Welcome Back to the Forties"

IFFR UK 2026 Informal Weekend Meeting

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 June 2026

In a change of pace, this year, IFFR UK invites you to join us for a casual Back to the Forties weekend in Leicester. We've taken on board the feedback from some members that they would like to see a more flexible and informal programme that they can join for as much or as little as they are able to. So, we are giving that a go, and making it "pay as you go", on an a la carte basis. We hope, though, that whether you want to come by car or by air, you will want to join us for the full weekend, from Friday to Sunday.

Back to the Forties



The "focal point" of the weekend will be the Leicestershire Aero Club's 1940's Fly In at Leicester Airport on Saturday 6 June.

Leicester is a great airfield to visit – voted the third highest rated GA airfield for 2025 by SkyDemon users. Whether you come by air or by road, it's a fun place to spend time.

Admission and landing fees will be free for this amazing event which will see a period 1940's band playing throughout the day. WWII re-enactors and vehicles will also be on display along with a selection of visiting warbirds.

The café will be open all day, together with a well-stocked bar, and at lunchtime we can enjoy their home cooked barbecue.



Even if you can't make it for any more of the weekend, we hope you will be able to join us on the Saturday for some fun and fellowship with fellow IFFR members.

For those wanting to join us for some or all of the weekend, here's the plan.

IFFR (UK) Limited operates the UK Section of the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians

Accommodation

Our base will be the Novotel hotel in Leicester (as used during the 2024 weekend meeting). You can make bookings direct with the hotel online (via <https://all.accor.com/booking/en/novotel/hotel/A9P4>), or by calling them on contact direct on 0116 482 0445.

We have negotiated with them a special rate of £145 for the Friday night, subject to availability, by quoting “Rotary” when you call them and with free cancellation up to 24 hours before arrival (do make sure you confirm all details when booking).



But you don't have to stay there if you don't want to. For the more adventurous, there is even the option of bringing your tent and camping on the field at Leicester airport - 24 hour toilet and washroom facilities will be available.



Or other hotels near to the Novotel which you might like to check are:

- Holiday Inn, 129 St Nicholas Cir, Leicester, LE1 5LX
- Travelodge Leicester Central, Vaughan Way, Leicester LE1 4NN
- St Martins Lodge, 2 Peacock Ln, Leicester LE1 5PX

Programme

Friday 5 June

For those flying in to Leicester Airport (EGBG), we will have folks present at the airport in the afternoon to offer you a welcome drink and help you get into the city.

For our friends from the other sections, its possible to fly direct into Leicester airport (subject to completing the online SGAR and the other usual UK entry formalities). See <https://www.leicesterairport.com/> for more information.

The focal point of Friday will be dinner on Friday evening. Subject to numbers, this will be at a local restaurant in the heart of Leicester, or in the private dining room at the Novotel Hotel. We've already had a good number book in for the Friday evening, so we are sure this is going to be a great night of fellowship and conviviality.



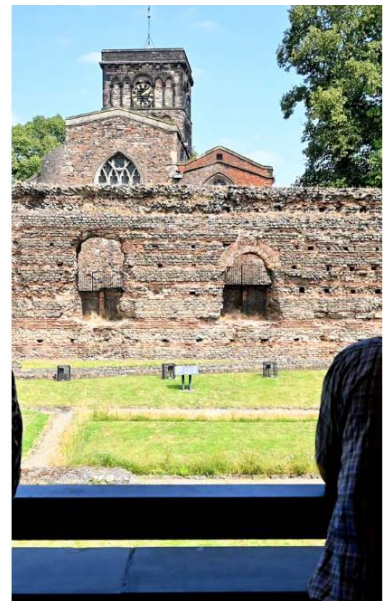
Saturday 6 June

After a leisurely breakfast, we will make our way out to Leicester airport to head back to the 1940s, to enjoy the fun experiences and to meet up with those joining us for the day. We are aiming to have a designated area where those coming for the day can find us.

We plan to enjoy fellowship together over an informal lunch on the airfield before we head back into the city mid-afternoon, allowing folks time for a little bit of exploring. There's a mass of opportunities in Leicester, including:

Jewry Wall museum (www.jewrywall.com)

Your chance to explore Roman Leicester: *"A real Roman experience"* at which you can see the finest collection of Roman discoveries in the Midlands.



King Richard III Visitor Centre (<https://kriii.com/>)

The most incredible archaeological detective story ever told – on the site where the incredible story of Richard III, the English King under the car park, the last to die in battle, first to be DNA tested, unfolded



Leicester Cathedral (<https://leicestercathedral.org/>)

Built on a Roman site and dedicated to St Martin of Tours, Leicester Cathedral has been embedded in the public, economic, cultural and religious life of the community for over 1,000 years. The Tomb of Richard III can be visited at Leicester Cathedral



New Walk Museum and Art Gallery (<https://www.leicestermuseums.org/>)

Leicester Museum & Art Gallery is a world of discovery with collections and displays spanning the natural and cultural world. The galleries include Ancient Egypt, Dinosaurs and the Leicester Stories Gallery. The museum also hosts a vast array of temporary exhibitions, featuring works from the collections and touring exhibitions from national museums.



National Space Centre (<https://www.spacecentre.co.uk/>.)

The National Space Centre is the UK's flagship attraction for space science and astronomy, and it delivers that "wow" factor from the moment you see its iconic Rocket Tower rising above the skyline. Inside, visitors can explore six interactive galleries packed with real spacecraft, meteorites, space suits, and hands-on exhibits that bring the story of space exploration to life. The centre's Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium adds an immersive, cinematic experience. It's inspiring, educational, and genuinely fun.



Saturday evening – and we will end the day with another informal dinner in a local restaurant – venue dependent on numbers staying over to Sunday.

Sunday 7 June

After a leisurely breakfast, depart home at your leisure.

Cost

We want you to feel you can join for as much or as little as you would like.

- There is NO REGISTRATION FEE.
- There are no landing fees at Leicester for the 1940s day.
- If staying overnight, make your own booking at the Novotel or other hotel of your choice
- Meals – we will have relaxed casual meals that will bring us together in fellowship and you can dine as you would like.

Next Steps

If you would like to join us, please complete our [ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE](#) to let us know your intentions. Or email us at membership@IFFR.uk .

If you are keen to visit any of the attractions on Saturday afternoon, or if you come early and want to visit on Friday afternoon, let us know and if there is sufficient interest, we will arrange a group visit.

We look forward to seeing friends once again from the UK and from Europe. We hope this casual programme, which will provide plenty of time for fellowship and relaxation will encourage you to join us.

See you in Leicester – and join us in the 1940s!