



Welcome to the IFFR UK Section Annual Fly In Weekend

Rochester, Kent – “The Garden of England”  
22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

We invite you to join us for our 2023 Weekend Meeting in Kent, the county long known as “**The Garden of England**”. A county well known for growing hops for the finest British ales, and now home to a variety of prize-winning vineyards.



Our base for the weekend will be Rochester, located on the Estuary of the River Medway, home to the second oldest cathedral in England (which we will not be visiting) and within easy reach of London. We offer you a “Quintessentially British Weekend”, with sailing ships, castles and country pubs, combined with a comfortable stay at the 4\* Bridgewood Manor Hotel and Spa.



Rochester offers easy access to those who wish to come by plane, car or train. Its only 15 minutes flying from Dover, and Rochester airport and our hotel are both located close by to the M2 motorway. You have no excuse not to join us!

## Programme: All times shown in BST (UTC+1)

Thursday 21 September

The main programme starts on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>, but those wishing to arrive early can do so. You will be able to book accommodation at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel at the preferred IFFR rates and dine informally at the hotel or nearby.

Friday 22 September.

**Arrival: 09.00 – 11.30**

When flying in, plan to arrive between 09.00 and 11.30 at Rochester Airport (EGTO).



Rochester is a delightful GA airfield with a proud history. Opened in 1933, Short Brothers started to build aircraft here in 1934. Since then, it has hosted RAF Elementary Flight Training Schools and Gliding Schools, before it was acquired by Marconi in the 1960s. In the last few years, there has been significant investment in the airfield making it a joy to visit. Its main runway is grass, 02L/20R, 830m.

If coming by car, you can join at the airport to watch the arrivals, or head straight to the Bridgewood Manor Hotel, one mile from the airport.

**12.00 – Lunch** at the Bridgewood Manor Hotel (and drop off your bags).

**14.00 – Depart by coach** for the 15-minute journey to **Leeds Castle**, built on islands in a lake formed by the River Len to the east of the village of Leeds. A castle has existed here since 857AD, the current castle having opened in 1119. Steeped in Mediaeval and Tudor history, in the 1920s Leeds was acquired by the Anglo-American heiress the Hon. Olive Paget, later to become Lady Baillie, who renovated and remodelled it, turning it into one of the great country houses of England and a centre of lavish hospitality for leading statesmen, European royalty and film stars.







**18.30** – After our tour of Leeds Castle, we head for a traditionally British evening in a nearby country pub (think *fish-n-chips* supper and crisp white wines or warm dark beers).



**21.00** – Coach will return to the Bridgewood Manor Hotel.

Saturday 23 September

**09.30** We depart by coach heading west beside the River Thames to the Royal Museums at Greenwich: the home of Greenwich Mean Time and the Prime Meridian.

**Morning** - We will visit the world famous Greenwich Observatory which houses the London Planetarium, and where time, space, history and astronomy all come together. Since the late 19th century, the Prime Meridian at Greenwich has divided the eastern and western hemispheres of the earth - just as the equator divides the northern and southern hemispheres.







In 1884 the Prime Meridian was defined by Transit Circle telescope at the Royal Observatory which was built by Sir George Biddell Airy, the 7th Astronomer Royal, in 1850. The cross-hairs in the eyepiece of the telescope precisely defined Longitude 0° for the world. You will have the opportunity to stand astride the Prime Meridian Line, one foot in the West and one in the East.

**Lunch** – you will have a choice of eateries for a snack lunch in the Royal Greenwich Park.

**Afternoon** - we will walk down the hill to visit the Cutty Sark, the celebrated historic clipper sailing ship and fastest of its time. Built in Scotland in 1869, she plied the seas between the UK and China as part of the tea trade, before turning to the trade in wool from Australia, where she held the record time to Britain for ten years. Now after careful restoration, she is part of the National Historic Fleet.



**16.00** -Coach departs for the return to the Bridgewood Manor Hotel

**19.30** – We will hold our Gala Dinner (dress smart casual – no tuxedos) at the Bridgewood Manor. A chance to enjoy fine dining together and relax after a full day out.

*Sunday 24 September*

After breakfast, those wishing to fly home will be taken back to the airport (1 mile).

Or why not stay another day and make it a long weekend. Take the train into Central London, or explore Rochester and surrounding areas of Kent yourself. Fast trains to London St Pancras take only 36 minutes. Several UK members will be staying on for Sunday and can assist you with travel plans or take you to Rochester station.

Discounted IFFR rates apply at the hotel for the Thursday and Sunday evening.



## General Information and Registration

### Participation:

Registration cost is **£295 per person**.

### This includes

- All transportation, admissions and tours at Leeds Castle, Greenwich and Cutty Sark
- Friday: lunch at Bridgewood Manor Hotel and Pub Dinner
- Saturday: Gala Dinner
- Landing and parking fees at Rochester airport

Some drinks on both evenings – additional at cost.

To register and pay, please go to <https://rotary-event.org/IFFR-UK/rochester-23/new>

### Accommodation

Please make your own reservation direct with the Bridgewood Manor Hotel by email to [reception@bridgewoodmanorhotel.com](mailto:reception@bridgewoodmanorhotel.com) quoting reference "IFFR".

Rooms and special IFFR rates (breakfast included) as follows are held until 18 August.

	<b>Double Room</b>	<b>Single Room</b>
Friday and Saturday nights	£110 per night	£100 per night
Thursday and Sunday nights	£100 per night	£90 per night

### Pilot Information

All pilots: - Rochester Airport - [Rochester Airport Ltd - Welcome to Rochester Airport](#)

### European Pilots:

- You may fly directly from Europe to Rochester subject to filed flight plan and submission of GAR (can be filed via SkyDemon)
- You will be able to reclaim tax paid on fuel bought at Rochester for your return flight to Europe – we will assist you with this process.

### Further information

Please contact Kevin Doyle - [kevin@kd-insurance.co.uk](mailto:kevin@kd-insurance.co.uk)

### Organiser

The organizer of this event is IFFR (UK) Limited (company registration no. 04977519).