

INVITATION TO THE CLA OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

13 JUNE 2024
TUSMORE PARK



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PROGRAMME

- 09.30 Arrive at Tusmore Park for registration & refreshments
- 10.00 Oxfordshire Branch AGM
- 10.15 Welcome and update by CLA Vice President Joe Evans
- 10.45 Introduction to Tusmore Park From Will Jones Estate manager
- 11.00 Tour of Tusmore Park
- 12.30 Drinks Reception
- 13.30 Lunch – Hog Roast / BBQ
- 14.30 Depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 13th June 2024 at Tusmore Park, Bicester, Oxfordshire, OX27 7SP

CLA South East would like to thank Forestry Commission, Farol and Bidwells for their continued support.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th July 2023
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2024/25
 - a. President
 - b. One representative to Council
 - c. Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2023/24
6. Any other business

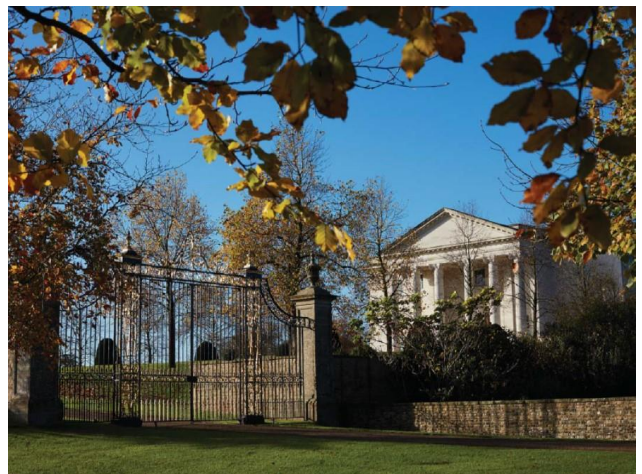
Nominations for office or for membership of the Committee as given in item 4, or any resolution a member may wish to propose, must reach the Director South East, Tim Bamford, in writing by 30 May 2024

TUSMORE PARK

Tusmore Park is a 2,700-acre estate in North Oxfordshire which has been in the current ownership since 1987 and is centred around the main house designed by Sir William Whitfield and Andrew Lockwood, described by Country Life as "the finest Classical country house built in Britain since the Second World War".

Restoration of the landscape was as important as construction of the new residence. Tusmore Park sits within a Colvin and Moggridge designed landscape that saw many thousands of new trees planted within the historic park itself, with a total of one and a half million trees planted across the entire estate since 1987. Further enhancements to the gardens have been made under the direction of Tom Stuart Smith which were completed in 2018.

The farm is operated in-hand by a team of three headed up by farm manager Tim Hall and is an arable enterprise focused on combinable grain crops.



To book your place at the AGM please login to your 'My CLA' account on www.cla.org.uk and click on Events. Tickets cost £42 Ex VAT. You can pay by card online following your booking. If you are having difficulties, please call the South East office on 01264 358195 or southeast@cla.org.uk.

Bookings close Thursday 28th May 2024



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Welcome to the CLA Oxfordshire branch AGM 2024.

This is my first AGM as your Chairman. For those who don't know me, my name is Ed Smith and I succeeded Roddie Feilden in the autumn. I come from a farming family near Kidlington and manage the business in a family partnership. The farm comprises approximately 1,125 acres of owned and rented land and is now entirely arable. Over time the business has broadened to encompass a small commercial portfolio of offices and light industrial units, medium scale solar, and a ground source district heating system to service the residential and commercial properties. I also run a rural consultancy business, providing strategic management advice to private client landed estates.

The last 12 months have been challenging for many farmers and rural businesses, with rising costs and a tough economic climate, but the year has also shown the continuing resilience of our sector.

I'm pleased to report that the CLA has been active in pressing Government to recognise the importance of the rural economy and its dynamic qualities. The success of our approach was underlined by its "Unleashing Rural Opportunity" policy paper, which adopted many of the proposals put forward by the CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign. For example, changes in permitted development rights that introduce much needed flexibility for rural businesses, such as an increase in the size and number of homes that can be provided under Class Q on an agricultural unit, and definitive deadlines for digital connectivity procurement constitute two major wins for the CLA.

It has also been another busy year for England's agricultural transition as the industry moved into the implementation phase of the new farming policy.

The CLA has been working very closely with Defra to help shape schemes such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive, and while it was pleasing to see more details – including improved payment rates – announced at the Oxford Farming Conference earlier this year, we are concerned that it will be many months until farmers see the support. While it is positive that such a wide range of initiatives are being funded, getting to grips with the multiple schemes on offer and determining which options could be of interest to each business is not straightforward. Please do get in touch with the CLA South East office if you need advice or support.

With a general election on the horizon, this is a crucial time for farming and the rural economy. The CLA is busy engaging with politicians and candidates of all parties, in order to influence their manifestos and help shape the narrative about how the countryside is governed. Meetings, farm visits and briefings have been organised with parliamentary candidates across Oxfordshire, and more are in the pipeline. If you could host a visit or tour please do contact the CLA.

I can report that over the last year the CLA has held a number of events in Oxfordshire to share policy developments, case studies and promote networking. These have included sessions on agricultural transition, residential lettings and planning, attracting more than 100 members. The CLA team has also regularly appeared in the county's press, interviewed multiple times on BBC Radio Oxford, ITV Meridian and BBC South Today on topics such as fly-tipping, connectivity and the impact of weather events on farming. Quotes and articles have also been published in the Oxford Mail and a number of weekly newspapers, magazines and websites.

Ed Smith



MINUTES OF THE 2023 OXFORDSHIRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT The Claydon Estate, Claydon Courtyard,
Buckinghamshire MK18 2EY on 15th June 2023.

Branch President Thomas Loyd
Branch Chair, Roddie Feilden
Branch Vice Chair, Edmund Smith
CLA Director of Policy and Advice, Judicaelle
Hammond
SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford
47 Members and guests

The Branch Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Henry Shaw Buckinghamshire Branch President for his introductions and the sole AGM Partner Knight Frank for their kind partnership of the AGM and welcomed their representatives Harry Howard-Jones, Will Playne, Chris Territt and Jess Waddington.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received in advance from Richard Binning.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Dyson Farming on June 22 2022 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Branch President.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Election of Officers for 2023/24

The Branch President then handed over to Branch Chairman Roddie Feilden for the election of the Branch President

a) Election of Branch President

The re-election of the current Branch President, Thomas Loyd, was proposed by Andrew Ingram seconded by Niel Nicholson and carried unanimously. The Branch Chairman then handed back to the Branch President for the remainder of the AGM.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

Julian Sayers proposed Edmund Smith for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Robert Moat and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The Branch President noted that there were no retirees from the committee this year and then read out:

Roddie Feilden	Edmund Smith
Richard Binning	Edward Deeley
Sam Fielden	John Hayward
Andrew Ingram	Samantha Leigh
Niel Nicholson	William Nixey
Julian Sayers	Lady Jennifer Stringer
Sarah Taylor	Emma Watson

The election of the Committee for 2023/24 was proposed by Jennifer Stringer, seconded by Gemma Chandler and carried unanimously.

5. To Adopt the Chair's Annual Report for 2022/23

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Neil Nicholson, seconded by Peter Cox and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

The Branch President then concluded the Oxfordshire part of the AGM and introduced Nicholas Verney from the Claydon Estate.

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE

President	Thomas Loyd
Chairman	Roddie Feilden
Vice Chairman	Edmund Smith

Committee

Richard Binning	Ed Deeley
Sam Feilden	John Hayward
Andrew Ingram	Samantha Leigh
Niel Nicholson	Will Nixey
Julian Sayers	Sarah Taylor
Emma Watson	

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