

INVITATION TO THE CLA OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH AGM

16 SEPTEMBER 2021
BLENHEIM PALACE



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PROGRAMME

- 10.30 Arrival at Blenheim Palace for registration and refreshments
- 11.00 Oxfordshire Branch AGM
- 11.15 Address by CLA Vice President, Victoria Vyvyan
- 11.45 Welcome by Blenheim Estates Director, Roy Cox
- 12.15 Drinks Reception in Orangery
- 12.45 Two-course Lunch
- 14.00 Tours of the Estate
- 16.00 Finish with Tea/Coffee and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 16 September at Blenheim Palace, Blenheim Palace Grounds, Woodstock, Oxfordshire OX20 1PP.

CLA South East would like to thank Freeths for their valued support.

FREETHS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 6 October 2020
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2021/2022
 - a) President
 - b) One representative to Council
 - c) Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2020/2021
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 Regional Director, in writing by 2 September 2021.

BLENHHEIM PALACE

Blenheim Palace is a World Heritage Site with over 300 years of history and currently home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family.

It is the only non-royal, non-episcopal country house in England to hold the title of palace. The palace, one of England's largest houses, was built between 1705 and 1722, and designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

The palace is named after the 1704 Battle of Blenheim and was originally intended to be a reward to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough for his military triumphs against the French and Bavarians in the War of the Spanish Succession, culminating in the Battle of Blenheim.

The land was given as a gift, and construction began in 1705, with some financial support from Queen Anne. The project soon became the subject of political infighting, with the Crown cancelling further financial support in 1712, Marlborough's three-year voluntary exile to the Continent and the fall from influence of his duchy.

It is unique in its combined use as a family home, mausoleum and national monument. The palace is notable as the birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill.

This year the Palace has many new exhibitions including the Churchill Exhibition and The Stables Exhibition. The tour will encompass the house and the gardens and there is a chance to visit the 2021 Blenheim Horse Trials, taking place on the same date as the AGM.



Roy Cox, Estates Director

BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT THE AGM

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 £45 inc VAT. You can pay by card online, or by bank transfer or cheque following your booking. Please note, if paying by cheque, your booking will not be confirmed until the cheque is processed by Finance, and you may receive payment reminders in the interim between booking and confirmation. If you are having difficulties, please call the South East office on 01264 313434 or southeast@cla.org.uk.

This event will only run if Covid guidelines permit. If the event is cancelled, we will offer you a full refund.

Bookings close 9 September 2021.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – OXON BRANCH

After a very strange 18 months, and far too many Zoom meetings, I am delighted that our AGM is once again face-to-face. The Covid-19 pandemic's impact on work, family life and well-being has been far-reaching, but with the majority of adults now vaccinated it is a pleasure to finally welcome you to a physical CLA event.

The rural sector, not for the first time, has had to adapt and change to the challenges and opportunities posed. Farmers were designated key workers, while those employed in hospitality have spent much of the last year furloughed, though the 2021 summer season has brought high levels of bookings and business for many. Many CLA members will have used this time of enforced lockdown to assess their businesses, and to consider how best to play the cards they have been dealt.

It is perhaps easy to forget that so much has happened since our virtual AGM of 2020. At the turn of the year, and after months of winding negotiations, many farmers and rural businesses breathed a sigh of relief as the UK and European Union finally agreed a deal that will define our future relationship. The EU is a key market for many CLA members, and will remain so, and it is important trade is kept as simple and low-friction as possible. And as we transition away from CAP towards ELM, the CLA has been lobbying Government for as much clarity as possible to help members plan for the future. The CLA can help you understand the changes in agriculture policy, how they will affect your business, and give you advice on how to move forward into the new world.

Other areas the CLA has been working on include connectivity, which varies so wildly across Oxfordshire depending on where you live or work, and managing public access rights, especially in light of the pandemic. Fresh policies are needed to simplify the tax and planning systems for businesses wishing to diversify, while investment in skills and training is required to support job creation in local areas. With the UK due to host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November, the focus for our industry will be on how to grow the economy, mitigate climate change and reverse biodiversity decline at the same time. The eyes of the world will be on us.

Turning to activities in Oxfordshire, while most physical events and shows were cancelled, the CLA has run a busy programme of online seminars and workshops, covering a range of issues from water to succession. It has been pleasing to see so many members embrace technology and get involved. Meanwhile the first physical CLA event in 17 months was held in July, when members enjoyed a sold-out tour and lunch at Blenheim Palace.

The CLA has been working on the OxCam Arc and held an event with DEFRA and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to update members on the project this summer. Key advice topics raised by Oxfordshire members have included planning and diversification, particularly around the 56-day option for pop-up campsites and events. Other areas have ranged from business rates to legal advice on property agreements and succession. The CLA has also been appearing in or on TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and websites across Oxfordshire over the past 12 months raising awareness of rural issues such as fly-tipping, connectivity and promoting the Countryside Code, including BBC South Today, the Oxford Mail and BBC Radio Oxford.

I would like to thank the South East team, as well as the team in London, for their continued hard work on behalf of us all. I encourage you to get in touch with the regional office when in need of support.

Roddie Feilden



MINUTES OF THE 2020 OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA ZOOM AT 10AM ON TUESDAY 6 OCTOBER 2020

Present:

Branch President, Thomas Loyd
Branch Chairman, Richard Binning
CLA Deputy President, Mark Tufnell
Director South East, Michael Valenzia
13 Members

The Branch President welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Mark Tufnell, CLA Deputy President, for attending. He thanked Ellacotts and Freeths for their kind partnership of the AGM and welcomed their representatives, Rachel Rahman and Samantha Leigh respectively.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 5 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Primrose Hill Farm on 8 May 2019 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 2020/21

a) Re-election of Branch President

The Chairman took over the meeting for the election of the Branch President. The re-election of the current Branch President, Thomas Loyd, was proposed by Peter Cox, seconded by Samantha Leigh and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The meeting passed back to the Branch President. Richard Binning proposed Roddie Feilden for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Emma Watson and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The President was delighted to announce that John Hayward and Sarah Taylor had agreed to join the Committee.

The Branch President read out the following names for election:

Charles Barclay	Niel Nicholson
Richard Binning	Will Nixey
Roddie Feilden	Julian Sayers
Sam Fielden	Edmund Smith
John Hayward	Lady Stringer
Andrew Ingram	Sarah Taylor
Samantha Leigh	Emma Watson

The election of the Committee for 2020/21 was proposed by Nick Way, seconded by Frank Lucas and carried unanimously.

5. To Adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2019/20

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Frank Lucas, seconded by Ed Smith and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the Oxfordshire AGM and introduced CLA Deputy President Mark Tufnell.

OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Thomas Loyd

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Edmund Smith

CHAIRMAN

Roddie Feilden

COMMITTEE

Charles Barclay

Richard Binning

Sam Fielden

John Hayward

Andrew Ingram

Samantha Leigh

Niel Nicholson

William Nixey

Julian Sayers

Lady Jennifer Stringer

Sarah Taylor

Emma Watson

Co-opted

Ed Deeley

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