

INVITATION TO THE CLA SUSSEX BRANCH AGM

17 SEPTEMBER 2021
MORE HOUSE FARM



PROGRAMME

- 10.30 Arrival at More House Farm for registration and refreshments
- 11.00 Sussex Branch AGM
- 11.15 Address by CLA Vice President, Victoria Vyvyan
- 11.45 Welcome by owner of More House Farm, Charles Burgoyne
- 12.15 Drinks Reception
- 12.45 Two course BBQ Lunch
- 14.00 Tours of the Farm & Estate
Two groups in turn to take in both the farm and a tour of the diversified buildings within the grounds.
- 16.00 Finish with Tea/Coffee and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Friday 17 September 2021 at More House Farm, Wivelsfield, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 7RE.

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

**Batcheller
Monkhouse**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 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 3 September 2021.

MORE HOUSE FARM

More House Farm was bought by Oliver Burgoyne, in 1956. It was originally a 400 acre farm with 8 cottages and two farmhouses.

It was traditionally a mixed farm and in the 1980s, there were 350 dairy cattle on the farm. However, in 1989, they started converting semi redundant farm buildings in to offices, whilst continuing to run the dairy business.

In 2007 they made the decision to stop milking cows at More House; they had proved the success of diversification by then and with so much more space available it seemed the obvious route to follow. The slurry lagoons were filled and created an enormous area for open storage.

Today they have 40 office type units, container storage and the open storage. They also have a livery yard, course-fishing lakes and more. They also have an Aberdeen Angus suckling herd and grow maize and winter corn.

The tours will take in both the farm and a tour of the diversified buildings on the farm.



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 10 September 2021.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – SUSSEX 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 protracted 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 the Common Agricultural Policy towards Environmental Land Management, 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 Sussex 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 Sussex, 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. While the South of England Show did not go ahead in 2020, it made its return this summer, and the CLA was proud to continue its long-standing support by sponsoring the Ardingly Ring and hosting a lunch in the sponsors' lounge. Meanwhile the first physical CLA event in 17 months was held in July, when members enjoyed a tour, tasting and lunch at Ridgeview.

The CLA has been working with landowners and businesses on the Rampion 2 extension, while key advice topics raised by Sussex 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 Sussex over the past 12 months raising awareness of rural issues such as fly-tipping, connectivity and promoting the Countryside Code, including BBC South East Today, the Brighton Argus and BBC Radio Sussex.

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. Inevitably, staff changes occur but I am particularly sorry that Michael Valenzia, Megan Lock and Pip Watkins have left, or are leaving, the CLA regional team. Their contributions have been hugely valued by many within the county, and wider region, and I wish them all well for the future.

Francis Hampden



MINUTES OF THE 2020 SUSSEX BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA ZOOM AT 2PM ON THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2020

Present:

Branch President, Col Sir Brian Barttelot
Branch Chairman, Sir Sebastian Anstruther
CLA President, Mark Bridgeman
Director South East, Michael Valenzia
15 Members

The Branch President welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Mark Bridgeman, CLA President, for attending. He thanked Adams & Remers for their kind partnership of the AGM and welcomed their representatives, Katherine Haslam and James Turner.

1. Apologies for Absence

6 formal apologies had been received.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Rathfinny Wine Estate on 10 July 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, Col Sir Brian Barttelot, was proposed by Kathryn Donkin, seconded by James Turner and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The meeting passed back to the Branch President. Timothy Hutchings proposed Viscount Francis Hampden for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Clare Davison and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The President was delighted to announce that Henri Brocklebank and Charlotte West had agreed to join the Committee. He also announced that Richard Venables Kyrke had retired from the Committee and thanked him for his support.

The Branch President read out the following names for election:

Sir Sebastian Anstruther	Leo Hickish
George Back	Martin Hole
Henri Brocklebank	Keith Langmead
Annie Brown	Graham Peters
Charles Burgoyne	Alan Staples
Tom Compton	Richard Stogdon
Alastair Deighton	David Taylor
John Hall	Charlotte West
Viscount Hampden	

The election of the Committee for 2020/21 was proposed by Katherine Haslam, seconded by John Marland and carried unanimously.

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

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Tony Grubb, seconded by Chris Tipping and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the Sussex AGM and introduced CLA President Mark Bridgeman.

SUSSEX BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Col Sir Brian Barttelot

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Annie Brown

CHAIRMAN

Francis Hampden

COMMITTEE

Sir Sebastian Anstruther

George Back

Henri Brocklebank

Charles Burgoyne

Tom Compton

Alastair Deighton

John Hall

Leo Hickish

Martin Hole

Keith Langmead

Graham Peters

Alan Staples

Richard Stogdon

David Taylor

Charlotte West

Co-opted

Harry Wills

Jeremy Kerswell

CLA REGIONAL CONTACTS

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