

INVITATION TO THE CLA BERKSHIRE BRANCH AGM

28 SEPTEMBER 2021
WEST WOODHAY HOUSE



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PROGRAMME

- 09.30 Arrival at West Woodhay House for registration and refreshments
- 10.00 Berkshire Branch AGM
- 10.10 Address by CLA Deputy President, Mark Tufnell
- 10.35 Welcome by Estate owner, Harry Henderson
- 11.00 Tours of the Estate & Gardens
- 12.15 Drinks Reception in Garden Room
- 13.15 Finger buffet lunch in the Hall
- 15.00 Finish with Tea/Coffee and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at West Woodhay House, West Woodhay, Newbury, RG20 OBS.

CLA South East would like to thank Carter Jonas and James Cowper Kreston for their valued support.

Carter Jonas



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 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 14 September 2021.

WEST WOODHAY HOUSE

West Woodhay, Newbury, RG20 OBS

The one thousand hectare West Woodhay estate lies in the centre of the North Wessex Downs AONB. The house is surrounded by fifteen acres of garden and arboretum, sitting in the centre of the farm it has spectacular views up to the Wessex Downs .

West Woodhay House was built in 1635 by Sir Benjamin Rudyard using the leading architect of his time, Inigo Jones. The West Woodhay Estate was purchased by the Henderson family in 1920 when the house was much larger in size having been added onto in the Victorian era.

After the Second World War John and Sarah Henderson, parents of the current occupier, decided to make West Woodhay their family home by returning the house to its original size and look; with a few differences.

The tour will take in the farm and gardens. The farming operation was an early adopter of a conservation agricultural policy introducing zero till across the entire estate until 2008.

The gardens are magnificent and when Harry and Sarah Henderson took up residence in 1994 they created a new arboretum, themed on bark and berry, and extended the lakes directly to the south of the original lake in front of the house.

The new Jubilee garden was created in 2012 and then in 2018 the delightful Italian Garden. Built sympathetically in the foundations of the old Vanbrugh Church, this garden is a tranquil area with a Mediterranean feel.



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 7 September 2021.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – BERKSHIRE BRANCH

After a very strange 18 months, and far too many Zoom meetings, I am delighted that our AGM is going ahead once again on a face-to-face basis. 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's team of advisers 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 Berkshire depending on where you live or work, and managing public access rights, especially in light of the pandemic and the surge in people using the countryside for recreational purposes. 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 Berkshire, 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 planning. It has been pleasing to see so many members embrace technology and get involved. While the Royal County of Berkshire Show did not go ahead in 2020 or 2021, the CLA still ran its Annual Forestry Conference last autumn. Normally held at Newbury Racecourse, it brilliantly transitioned into a virtual event, attracting more than 200 delegates. I look forward to its return in a few weeks, with the 2021 theme being "The era of opportunity: Understanding possibilities and enhancing prospects". Meanwhile the first physical CLA event in 17 months was held in July, when members enjoyed a natural capital walk at Englefield.

The CLA has been working with the North Wessex Downs AONB Partnership as part of our contribution to the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme, while key advice topics raised by Berkshire 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 matters. The CLA has also been appearing in or on TV, radio, newspapers, magazines and websites across Berkshire over the past 12 months raising awareness of rural issues such as fly-tipping, connectivity and promoting the Countryside Code, including BBC South Today, Newbury Weekly News and BBC Radio Berkshire.

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 the CLA regional team in the last few months, or are to leave us in the coming months. Their contributions have been hugely valued by many within the county, and wider region, and I wish them all well for the future.

Andrew Gardiner



MINUTES OF THE 2020 BERKSHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD VIA ZOOM AT 2PM ON TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2020

Present:

Branch President, Richard Benyon
Branch Chairman, David Slack
CLA Deputy President, Mark Tufnell
Director South East, Michael Valenzia
16 Members

The Branch President welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Mark Tufnell, CLA Deputy President, for attending. He thanked Carter Jonas for their kind partnership of the AGM and welcomed their representatives, Andrew Chandler and Simon Pallet. He also thanked Dixon Wilson for their kind partnership of the AGM and welcomed their representative, Greg Smye-Rumsby.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 2 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Yattendon Estate on 26 September 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) 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, Richard Benyon, was proposed by Ellie Dickins, seconded by Fergus Hodge and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The meeting passed back to the Branch President. Ellie Dickins proposed Andrew Gardiner for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Matthew Hague and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The President was delighted to announce that David Hill and Andrew Parry had agreed to join the Committee.

The President announced that Sarah Scrope and Julian Chadwick had resigned from the Committee and thanked them both for their contribution to the committee over many years of service. The President also announced that the current Chairman David Slack was also leaving the Committee having moved out of the area. The President thanked him for his service, both during his time on the committee and in post as Chair.

The Branch President read out the following names for election:

Rosemary Balsdon	David Hill
Stephen Barratt	Fergus Hodge
David Bertie	Simon Muir
Andrew Chandler	Andrew Parry
Sir Paul Clarke	Charles Parry
Edward Crookes	Paul Sedgwick
Andrew Gardiner	Professor Richard Tranter

The election of the Committee for 2020/21 was proposed by Simon Pallett, seconded by James Dawson and carried unanimously.

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

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by James Astor, seconded by Andrew Gardiner and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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

BERKSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Currently Vacant

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Andrew Chandler

CHAIRMAN

Andrew Gardiner

COMMITTEE

Rosemary Balsdon

Stephen Barratt

David Bertie

Edward Crookes

David Hill

Fergus Hodge

Simon Muir

Andrew Parry

Charles Parry

Paul Sedgwick

Richard Tranter

Co-opted

Josh Dugdale

David Hunt

Ian Wilson

Colin Rayner

Tom Newey

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