

INVITATION TO THE CLA KENT BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

24 MAY 2022
SQUERRYES WINERY



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PROGRAMME

- 15.00 Arrival at Squerryes Court for registration and refreshments
- 15.30 Kent Branch AGM in the Great Hall
- 15.45 Address by CLA Deputy President, Victoria Vyvyan
- 16.15 Welcome by estate owner, Henry Warde
Guests drive to Squerryes Winery
- 17.00 Tour and wine tasting
- 18.30 Drinks reception at Squerryes Winery
- 19.00 Two course dinner in The Bottle Store Restaurant
- 20.30 Finish and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 24 May 2022 at Squerryes Court, Westerham, TN16 1SJ, followed by the event at Squerryes Winery, Beggars Lane, Westerham TN16 1QP.

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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14 September 2021
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2022/2023
 - a) President
 - b) One representative to Council
 - c) Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2021/2022
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 10 May 2022.

SQUERRYES WINERY

Squerryes Estate, in Westerham, Kent, is a traditional family-owned mixed agricultural estate.

In 2006 following a visit from a Champagne House, the estate planted 20 acres of vines, and has spent the last 15 years building up a wine brand.

In 2021 Squerryes had a top-rated UK wine in each of the Decanter, International Wine Challenge and Champagne and Sparkling Wine World Championships.

The family's long-term vision is to create places on the estate for consumers to enjoy alongside the Squerryes wine.

One such place is Westerham Valley, which is fast becoming a well-known tourist destination which houses the Westerham Brewery, Squerryes Winery restaurants, Squerryes Deli and cellar door.



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 £48 inc VAT. You can pay by card online, or by bank transfer or cheque following your booking. Please note, if paying by bank transfer or cheque, your booking will not be confirmed until the payment 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 6 May 2022.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – KENT BRANCH

Our last AGM was only held in the autumn, delayed by Covid, so it's a pleasure to have this year's in spring, with lighter and longer days ahead. And while it's not been a full 12 months since our last meeting, there has still been much going on both locally in Kent and nationally.

The pace of post-Brexit agricultural transition has quickened over the past 12 months. The CLA has been working hard to ensure members are supported and involved as Defra rolls out its environmental land management (ELM) programme, with environment secretary George Eustice revealing more details about the Sustainable Farming Incentive at the CLA's Rural Business Conference in December. Shifting from a system based around direct payments to one that pays for public goods is a good ambition, but must be done carefully. New schemes must successfully sit alongside existing ones as they remain the main sources of funding for now, and offer crucial support in helping farmers and landowners to continue feeding the nation, mitigate climate change and reverse biodiversity decline.

The CLA can help you understand the changes, how they will affect your business, and give you advice on how to move forward into the new world. So I encourage you to contact the team and take advantage of the brilliant advice service which is included as part of your membership – and they can assist with an array of other issues too, from planning to tax and beyond.

As part of our Rural Powerhouse initiative, the CLA estimates that if rural productivity per worker was raised to the national average, an additional £43 billion could be added to national income every year. The creation of the new Ministry for Levelling Up under the leadership of former Defra Secretary Michael Gove, therefore, represents a big opportunity for change in 2022 and one the Government must grasp. The CLA stands ready to work with Ministers to create prosperity across the countryside.

Rural crime continues to blight many rural communities. Defra released its latest fly-tipping statistics in December which sadly revealed that the number of incidents in Kent rose by 23% in 2020/21 compared to the previous 12 months, to more than 31,000 cases. The true figure is likely to be even higher as the data does not include private land. But the CLA and others did achieve a win on hare coursing legislation earlier this year when the Government announced

it is to give greater powers to the police and courts; a good example of successful lobbying and the importance of being a member. In January the CLA and NFU held our annual liaison meeting with Kent Police Chief Constable Alan Pughsley to hear about the force's latest plans tackling rural crime, and I am keen to continue our good working relationship to help communities feel safer and less isolated.

On another positive note, this is also my first full year as your Chairman, and I look forward to meeting members, whether that be for the first time or to catch up after what has been a strange couple of years. For those who don't know me, my name is Charles Tassell and I succeeded Gary Walters as your Chairman in the autumn. My family farm is in Ulcombe; going back a generation we were a traditional farm of around 500 acres with top and soft fruit, hops, potatoes, sheep and arable, and over time the focus has shifted to arable and many of the buildings have been converted into office units. I am heavily involved in Kent life, and my other roles include Kent Chair of the charity Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI); Vice Chair of the Kent Wildlife Trust; Chair of East Kent LEADER; and until recently Director of the Kent County Agricultural Society.

I would like to thank Gary for his tremendous work, ideas and enthusiasm over the last three years, and I am delighted to take on the role at such an important time for our sector and county. One of my first tasks as Chairman was to welcome members to the annual Emsden Trophy presentation honouring conservation work in Kent, which this year was awarded to salads and cereals producer Laurence J Betts Ltd. It was presented during a fascinating farm walk and drinks reception hosted by the previous winners, Hugh Lowe Farms, and I look forward to visiting Laurence J Betts later this year as the trophy is passed over once again.

I would also like to thank the CLA South East team, as well as the team in London, for their continued hard work on behalf of us all.

Charles Tassell



MINUTES OF THE 2021 KENT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT THE OLD DAIRY, HIGHLAND COURT FARM,
BRIDGE, CANTERBURY, KENT CT4 5HW
AT 11AM ON TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present:

Branch Chair, Gary Walters
Branch Vice Chair, Charles Tassell
CLA President, Mark Bridgeman
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford
16 Members and their guests

Acting on behalf of Philip Merricks as the Branch President, Allan Buckwell welcomed Mark Bridgeman, CLA President and thanked him for attending the AGM. He then thanked Gary Walters for hosting the meeting and the team at Highland Court Farm for assisting in the co-ordination of the day. He thanked Kreston Reeves for partnering the AGM and welcomed their representatives Mike Dyer and Simon Budden.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 6 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 15 October 2020 were confirmed as a true record and signed on behalf of the Branch President.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Election of Officers for 2021/22

a) Election of Branch President

There had been one nomination for Branch President and Edward Barham was proposed by Charles Tassell, seconded by Mike Dyer and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The newly elected Branch President took over the meeting. Gary Walters proposed Charles Tassell for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Allan Buckwell and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The Branch President confirmed Christopher Eriksson-Lee, William Boscawen, Henry Warde, Lisa Fraser, Amelia McLean, Gareth Fulton and Sue Green had agreed to be nominated for the committee.

The Branch President then read out the following names for election to the branch committee:

Charles Atkins	Michael-John Knatchbull
William Boscawen	Amelia McLean
Evan Bowen-Jones	Iain Morris
David Bradley	James Pavey
Allan Buckwell	Edward Plumtre
Eliza Ecclestone	Charles Tassell
Lisa Fraser	Michael Wooldridge
Gareth Fulton	Christopher Eriksson-Lee
Sue Green	Gary Walters
Bryony Heaven	Henry Warde

The election of the Committee for 2021/22 was proposed by Laura Nesfield seconded by Simon Budden and carried unanimously.

5. To Adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2020/21

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Henry Warde, seconded by Amelia McLean and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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

KENT BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Edward Barham

CHAIRMAN

Charles Tassell

COMMITTEE

Charles Atkins
William Boscawen
Evan Bowen-Jones
David Bradley
Allan Buckwell
Eliza Ecclestone
Christopher Eriksson-Lee
Lisa Fraser
Gareth Fulton
Sue Green

Bryony Heaven
Michael-John Knatchbull
Amelia McLean
Iain Morris
James Pavey
Edward Plumtre
Henry Warde
Michael Wooldridge
Gary Walters

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