

INVITATION TO THE CLA SURREY BRANCH AGM

13 JULY 2022
BETCHWORTH ESTATE



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PROGRAMME

- 17.00 Arrival at Betchworth House for registration and refreshments
- 17.30 Welcome by Robert and Joosje Hamilton, Betchworth Estate
- 18.15 Summer evening drinks reception in the Betchworth gardens
- 18.50 Surrey Branch AGM
- 19.00 Address by CLA President, Mark Tufnell
- 19.30 Alfresco hog roast dinner
- 21.00 Finish and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 13 July 2022 at Betchworth House, The Street, Betchworth, Surrey, RH3 7AE.

CLA South East would like to thank Moore Barlow and Strutt & Parker for their valued support.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27 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 29 June 2022.

BETCHWORTH HOUSE

Betchworth, or Becesworde, is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, where its assets were listed to include: 11 villagers, 16 smallholders, 15 slaves, 1 church, 2 mills and a fair number of pigs. Today, slightly more than 1,000 people - but rather fewer pigs - live in Betchworth.

The Betchworth Estate is a working agricultural estate situated on the banks of the River Mole. The Estate has changed hands only twice by purchase since Domesday and is today still in the ownership of descendants of the family who purchased it in 1816. The current three generations of the Hamilton family, who live on the Estate, are committed to ensuring its preservation and contribution to the continuing development of the Betchworth village community.

The Estate consists of some 1,100 acres of farmland, about 150 acres of woodland, as well as a number of residential and commercial properties. The Estate has a suckler beef herd, which grazes in the fields for the majority of the year. The Estate's arable production includes wheat, barley, oats, beans and oilseed rape. The Betchworth Estate takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously. Its farmland has been run under the Higher Level Stewardship scheme for the past 10 years. The woodland on the Estate encompasses more than 100,000 trees varying from over 200-year-old oaks to newer plantations, such as the cricket bat willows by Betchworth Bridge. The woodlands are managed for amenity, shooting and commercial forestry under the guiding principle of sustainability.

During the visit guests will be given a charming overview of the Betchworth Estate and an exclusive look at the last great English landscape designer of the eighteenth century, Humphry Repton's vision, followed by a casual walking tour of the gardens.



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.

Bookings close 6 July 2022.



CHAIR'S REPORT – SURREY BRANCH

Our last AGM was only held in the autumn, delayed by Covid, but while it's not been a full 12 months there has still been much going on both locally in Surrey 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 and one the Government must grasp. The CLA stands ready to work with Ministers to create prosperity across the countryside.

One key area of this is housing. The CLA recently published a report, entitled 'Sustainable Communities: The role of housing in strengthening the rural economy', which highlights the transformative economic and social benefits small-scale developments could bring to rural communities. The average house sale price stood at more than £600,000 in Surrey last year, and Government needs to develop an approach that allows for a small number of homes to be built in a large number of villages. This will support local employment and strengthen the social fabric of these areas by ensuring pubs,

shops and schools can stay open. However, this style of organic, incremental growth will only be possible if supported by a more accommodating planning framework.

Rural crime continues to blight many rural communities across Surrey, especially fly-tipping. 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 the autumn the CLA and NFU held our annual liaison meeting with Surrey Police 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.

Since our last AGM a formal boundary review has been launched consulting on whether the Surrey Hills AONB should be extended. It aims to decide whether additional areas adjacent to the existing AONB boundary should also be designated. It's not a straightforward issue, with many perspectives to consider, and we would ask you to share your views with the CLA so we can best represent members.

This is also an exciting time for future funding in the rural sector. I am keen to ensure that landowners and managers in Surrey benefit from the funding for multiple land uses, including improved production, diversified businesses and nature recovery, and the benefits that will bring to land and people.

I would 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. I appeal to members to get in touch with the regional office when in need of support, and I would also ask you all to talk about the CLA and the great work we carry out to your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join. You are indeed our best advocates.

And lastly I would like to thank the Surrey Committee, and particularly our very active President, for their support over the last three years and I look forward to supporting our new Chair.

Lisa Creaye-Griffin



MINUTES OF THE 2021 SURREY BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CLA SURREY BRANCH
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT HAMPTON ESTATE, SEALE, FARNHAM, GU10 1JE
AT 6.45PM ON MONDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2021

Present:

Branch President, Bridget Biddell
Branch Chair, Lisa Creaye-Griffin
CLA Deputy President, Mark Tufnell
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford
35 Members and their guests

The Branch President welcomed everyone to the AGM at Hampton and thanked Mark Tufnell, CLA Deputy President for attending. She also welcomed Michael More-Molyneux, HM Lord Lieutenant of Surrey and Angela Richardson, MP for Guildford plus the newly appointed CLA Regional Director for the South East, Tim Bamford. She thanked Strutt & Parker and Moore Barlow for partnering the AGM programme and welcomed their respective representatives.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 3 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 12 October 2020 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 2021/22

a) Re-election of Branch President

The Chair took over the meeting for the election of the Branch President. The re-election of the current Branch President, Bridget Biddell, was proposed by Hugo Black, seconded by Tim Parker and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The meeting passed back to the Branch President. Rachel Patch proposed Lisa Creaye-Griffin for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Steven Godwin-Austin and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The President was delighted to announce that Melissa Boyes, Tim Metson and Laurie Wates had agreed to join the Committee.

The President also announced that Alexander More-Molyneux had retired from the committee and acknowledged his support over the years.

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

Hugo Black	Tim Metson
Melissa Boyes	Susanna Morgan-Williams
Charlotte Brackley	Houston Morris
Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Tim Parker
Tim Frith	Rachel Patch
Malcolm Glaister	Tamara Twynam
Stephen Godwin-Austen	Laurie Wates
Joosje Hamilton	Luke West
James Lee-Steere	Benjamin Whitaker
Alex MacKinnon	

The election of the Committee for 2021/22 was proposed by Christopher Brockhurst, seconded by Neill Ghosh and carried unanimously.

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

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Alexander Mackinnon, seconded by Timothy Metson and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

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

SURREY BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

Bridget Biddell

CHAIR

Lisa Creaye-Griffin

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Joosje Hamilton

COMMITTEE

Hugo Black	Susanna Morgan-Williams
Melissa Boyes	Houston Morris
Charlotte Brackley	Tim Parker
Tim Frith	Rachel Patch
Malcolm Glaister	Tamara Twynam
Stephen Godwin-Austen	Laurie Wates
James Lee-Steere	Luke West
Alex MacKinnon	Benjamin Whitaker
Tim Metson	

CLA REGIONAL CONTACTS

CLA South East, Fosse House, East Anton Court, Icknield Way, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 5RG Tel: 01264 313 434

Regional Director – Tim Bamford
tim.bamford@cla.org.uk

Rural Advisor – Lucy Charman
lucy.charman@cla.org.uk

Communications Manager – Mike Sims
michael.sims@cla.org.uk

Membership Relations Manager – Tom Wedd
thomas.wedd@cla.org.uk

Events Manager – Emma Harding
emma.harding@cla.org.uk

Regional Co-ordinator – Evette Curtis
evette.curtis@cla.org.uk

Territory Manager – James Mulleneux
james.mulleneux@cla.org.uk

CLA Insurance Services
T: 01234 230 295
Email: insurance@cla.org.uk

CLA Energy Services
T: 0800 046 9074
Email: energyservices@cla.org.uk

CLA Healthcare
T: 01274 717 361
Email: healthcare@cla.org.uk