

INVITATION TO THE CLA KENT BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

23 MAY 2023
QUEX PARK



WWW.CLA.ORG.UK



PROGRAMME

- 15:30 Arrival at Quex Park for registration and refreshments
- 16:00 Kent Branch AGM
- 16:15 Address by CLA Deputy President, Victoria Vyvyan
- 16:30 Welcome by estate Managing Director, Anthony Curwen
- 17:00 Tour of estate
- 18:00 Drinks reception
- 18:30 Two course dinner
- 20:00 Finish and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at Quex Park, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent, CT7 0BH.

The CLA would like to thank Birketts & 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 24th May 2022
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2023/24
 - a. President
 - b. One representative to Council
 - c. Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2022/23
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 Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

QUEX PARK

Quex Park is an historic family estate in Birchington, Kent operating in the farming, leisure and property sectors. The team at Quex farm over 1,000 acres with a further 1200 acres under contract agreements with other farmers. Main crops include wheat, oilseed rape, oats, beans, potatoes and vining pea seed, and on the marshland a herd of Sussex cattle is grazed.

In recent years, Quex Park widened its income stream by re-purposing disused agricultural buildings, transforming Quex Park into both an educational and visitor destination which include a hugely successful farm shop, restaurant, livery stables, riding schools, to name but a few.

Quex Park champions a method of farming that is sustainable, productive and pro-active in producing nutritious food, while working in sympathy with nature and conservation.



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 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.

Bookings close Tuesday 9th May 2023



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT KENT BRANCH

Our work on tackling rural crime continued this year, with some notable developments. Tougher sentencing and improved powers for the courts to tackle hare coursing were added to the Police Crime Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The CLA also joined 150 local authorities and 10 professional bodies in a joint letter calling on the Sentencing Council to provide tougher guidance on fines and sentences for culprits of fly-tipping.

Welcome to the CLA Kent branch AGM 2023.

With the summer months topping 40C and field fires breaking out with alarming regularity, the heat was certainly on farming in 2022. The year ended with snowfall, which posed another challenge – from rising energy prices, higher input and raw costs, through to labour shortages, rural businesses are being squeezed.

This is a crucial time for the agricultural transition process. At our Rural Business Conference in December, CLA president Mark Tufnell laid bare how rural communities are running out of patience with the government. The audience included Environment Secretary Thérèse Coffey, whose rather terse contribution at the conference and at other events has not helped calm concerns that uncertainty over the future of Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes is eroding confidence within the industry. While some information about payment rates was released earlier this year, 2023 must provide more answers and the CLA will continue to hold the government's feet to the fire.

But the last 12 months has not all been doom and gloom, and the return of many of our wonderful events has been welcome. Highlights have included a farm tour of Laurence J Betts Ltd in Offham and the awarding of the CLA Emsden trophy to Fidelity Weston of Romshed Farm near Sevenoaks; and a visit to the inspirational Elmley National Nature Reserve coinciding with the Festival of National Nature Reserves. The CLA has also organised agricultural transition and renewable energy events in the county, bringing members the latest policy developments and advice from experts.

The CLA works closely with MPs and Ministers to press home the importance of a profitable and sustainable farming industry. We raise issues with the planning system which are holding rural businesses back, have been calling for a simpler tax regime as well as urging investment in skills and innovation.

The government has since committed to reform of the waste industry with increased background checks for firms who move or trade waste, and the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking. Locally I had a meeting with my two local MPs, Helen Grant and Helen Whately, along with 20 neighbouring farmers and a representative from the Kent Police Rural Task Force, to discuss the ongoing problems of rural crime.

There will undoubtedly be more challenges to overcome over the next 12 months, and the CLA's role in championing the rural economy and supporting members has never been so important. Please do make the most of your membership by using the CLA's brilliant advice service and attending events, and spread the word of the benefits of being part of the organisation.

I would like to thank the Kent branch committee for their dedication and support, as well as the CLA teams in the South East and nationally for their continued hard work on behalf of us all.

Charles Tassell



MINUTES OF THE 2022 KENT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT SQUERRYES COURT, WESTERHAM, TN16 1SJ
AT 3.30PM ON TUESDAY 24th May 2022

Present:

Branch President, Edward Barham
Branch Chair, Charles Tassell
CLA Deputy President, Victoria Vyvyan
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford
55 Members and guests

Branch President, Edward Barham welcomed Victoria Vyvyan, CLA Deputy President and thanked her for attending the AGM. He then thanked Henry Warde for hosting the meeting and the team at Squerries for assisting in co-ordinating the day. He thanked Kreston Reeves for partnering the AGM and welcomed their representatives Mike Dyer and Adrian Pearce.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 4 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Highland Court Farm on 14 September 2021 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 2022/23

a) Election of Branch President

The Chair took over the meeting for the re-election of Branch President, Edward Barham, proposed by Gary Walters, seconded by Eliza Ecclestone and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to CLA Council

The Branch President took over the meeting. Michael Wooldridge proposed Charles Tassell for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Sue Green and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The Branch President confirmed Charles Atkins has retired from the committee and thanked him for his contribution during his time on the committee.

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

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| William Boscawen | Evan Bowen-Jones |
| David Bradley | Prof 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 | Charles Tassell |
| Gary Walters | Henry Warde |
| Michael Wooldridge | |

The election of the Committee for 2022/23 was proposed by Mike Dyer seconded by Michael McNally and carried unanimously.

5. To Adopt the Chair's Annual Report for 2021/22

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Allan Buckwell, seconded by James Pavey and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the Kent AGM and introduced Victoria Vyvyan, CLA Deputy President.

KENT BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Edward Barham

CHAIRMAN
Charles Tassell

COMMITTEE

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

CLA REGIONAL CONTACTS

CLA South East, Fosse House, East Anton Court,
Icknield Way, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 5RG
Tel: 01264 313434

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

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

Rural Advisers:

Lucy Charman - lucy.charman@cla.org.uk

Rosie Salt-Crockford - rosie.saltcrockford@cla.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLA Healthcare
Tel: 01274 717361