

SMEDMORE HOUSE

Smedmore House, one of Dorset's finest Georgian stone manor houses, is spectacularly situated, surrounded by rolling countryside and extensive sea views. The original Grade II* listed house was constructed in about 1610 and is recorded in a Survey of Dorsetshire in about 1620 as "a little newe house and beautified with pleasant gardens". Around 1700 the Queen Anne garden façade was built and in 1760 two elegant Georgian bays were added to the North West front.

The house is full of interesting contents collected over the years by the Mansel family which include Dutch furniture and paintings inherited from the last English descendant of Godart van Ginkel, Earl of Athlone. In the Front Hall, there is a chair used by Napoleon whilst on St Helena, that was given to Colonel John Mansel who was in the island garrison.

Two acres of walled flower gardens, orchards, and a Mediterranean garden surround the house and at the bottom of the main garden is a path through woods and fields, past sphinxes, urns and obelisks, down to Kimmeridge Bay.

The house is now both the home of the owner, author and historian, Dr. Philip Mansel, and a property that can be rented for holidays, weekends and celebrations. It is also a very popular wedding venue.

One of the main leisure enterprises on the Smedmore Estate is Kimmeridge Bay. It offers opportunities for safe swimming,



rock pooling, canoeing, wind surfing and other water sports. The water visibility is excellent for snorkellers and divers. For surfers, it offers Dorset's premier reef break, Broadbench, which can hold waves of up to 15 feet along with other waves in the "K-Bay" area. There is also a seasonal restaurant, 'The Boat', which is operated in conjunction with Clavell's Restaurant in the village.

The beach consists mainly of rocky shale, with large limestone ledges. It is of great geological interest and the rocks on the beach contain a variety of interesting fossils.

Kimmeridge Bay lies within a Special Area of Marine Conservation with a summer snorkel trail to guide swimmers among the marine life in the shallow waters.

Overlooking the beach is Clavell Tower, a Georgian folly, built on the cliff edge. In 1975, this was the inspiration for PD James's murder story, the Black Tower. It is now available for holiday lets via The Landmark Trust, who moved the tower inland.

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INVITATION TO THE CLA DORSET BRANCH AGM 2023

MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023 AT 2.30PM

Registration, Tea and Coffee from 2.15pm

SMEDMORE HOUSE, KIMMERIDGE, WAREHAM, BH20 5PG

AGM BEING HELD AT THE ETCHES COLLECTION MUSEUM, BH20 5PE

By kind permission of Dr. Philip Mansel

Followed by tour, drinks and canapés



WWW.CLA.ORG.UK

CLA

We are extremely fortunate to be able to hold the Dorset Branch 2023 AGM at Smedmore House by kind permission of Philip Mansel. The AGM is generously supported by our partners Fowler Fortescue and Preston Redman.



PROGRAMME

2.15pm	Registration, tea and coffee
2.30pm	AGM
2.50pm	CLA President- Mark Tufnell
3.25pm	Dr. Philip Mansel
	Introduction to Smedmore Estate
3.45pm	Tour of Kimmeridge Bay with land agent Owen Davies & Smedmore House with Dr. Philip Mansel
5.45pm	Canapes & Drinks at Smedmore House
6.30pm	Depart



BOOKING YOUR PLACE AT THE AGM

To book and pay online for the AGM please register or log in to MyCLA at <https://www.cla.org.uk/>

Tickets cost £30.00pp incl. VAT (AGM only free)

Payment can also be made by cheque and sent to:

CLA South West, Manor Farm Stables, Biddestone, Chippenham, SN14 7DH.

Please include names of all attendees, and state if you wish to attend AGM only or the AGM and Tour.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT CASH ON THE DAY.

The deadline for bookings is Monday 5th June 2023, bookings made after this date are not guaranteed

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

IMPORTANT!

We will be meeting at The Etches Collection Museum for the AGM where there is plenty of parking (BH20 5PE). After the AGM we will ask for all cars to be moved to Smedmore House, where we will continue with the tours.

DIRECTIONS:

Kimmeridge is sign posted from the A351 at Wareham. As you turn into the village, the museum building is on the right hand side, opposite Clavell's cafe and restaurant.

It's useful to know that Kimmeridge is close to Lulworth Army firing ranges and sometimes there can be road closures in the area. Visitors may need to take a detour via Corfe Castle or past Blue Pool.

What3words: tarred.awoke.risen

Please ensure that appropriate clothing and footwear is worn.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - DORSET BRANCH



As competing demands for the use of land multiply, it is not surprising there are renewed calls for a land-use framework. From food production to carbon sequestration, our small island is required to accommodate competing – and not always compatible – claims for space.

Amongst these challenges is mounting pressure for more public access. Some argue that people cannot be expected to value biodiversity or understand methods of food production unless they are allowed to enjoy unrestricted access to rivers and the wider countryside.

The CLA successfully lobbied to reinstate a cut-off date for ancient rights of way which is now set for January 2031. Meanwhile, Keir Starmer has pledged to introduce the right to roam. In the interests of neuro-linguistic programming, some prefer to use the term 'responsible access'. Providing more space for people to enjoy the countryside is a voluntary option in ELM and FIPYL. The debate is open, and we must ensure that the option to offer more access remains a choice and not a requirement.

Chalk streams are one of Dorset's greatest attributes. The government's provision for chalk streams in the Plan for Water is welcome. Even though Feargal Sharkey, the UK's river champion, is not reassured by what he sees as merely rehashed water plans and promises. It is the third time that removing the plastic content in wet wipes has been pledged.

Water is an emotive and pivotal subject in Dorset. Many CLA members are impacted by a combination of NVZ, catchment sensitive areas, water quality challenges and abstraction implications. In Poole Harbour and the Shapwick and Sturminster Marsh catchments, the deadline for completing the 'clunky' nutrient calculation tool has just passed. Meanwhile the quantities of raw sewage pumped into our rivers by water companies, compounded by the recent oil spill in Poole Harbour, undermine the trust needed to co-operate in tackling the undoubted disaster areas.

Smedmore is one of the jewels of the Dorset coastline looking out towards Kimmeridge Bay. Kimmeridge has always been a beacon of excellent water quality, ranking third in the English clean bathing league. But even here, at the time of writing, industrial plastic

'nurdles' have been swept into the hitherto pristine bay.

We are very fortunate to be holding our AGM at Smedmore and are indebted to Dr Philip Mansel for his kind invitation. Through generations, Smedmore has navigated inevitable highs and lows. Learning how different land-based businesses evolve and adapt to remain alive and relevant, as Smedmore has, is inspirational as well as an education.

In response to the CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign devised to close the productivity gap between town and country - £110m has been made available through the Rural Prosperity Fund. £2 million has been allocated to Dorset and members are encouraged to apply.

There is a paradox: policies that are on the one hand designed to incentivise financial resilience in the rural economy, on the other hand manage to obstruct people's best endeavours. A CLA survey of some 600 members found that three quarters had experienced planning objections to business expansion and diversification.

Planning versus rural enterprise is just one example of the lack of consistent policy. The absence of co-operation between Defra and the Departments of Health and Education is also risible. Henry Dimbleby - erstwhile food czar and author of the much-respected National Food Strategy, and now his new book Ravenous - resigned his government post so that he could speak out about the damage being wrought by global food giants. Who continue unchallenged profiting, from concocting a bewildering array of ultra-processed products while causing our NHS, and wider economy, to buckle under the cost of diet-related diseases. According to government figures the wider (excuse the pun) costs of obesity to society are estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year by 2050.

In the immortal words of Wendell Berry: "People are fed by the food industry, which pays no attention to health, and are treated by the health industry which pays no attention to food".

It has been a privilege to serve as Chairman of the Dorset Branch for the last three years. I applaud the work done by CLA staff nationally and by the Southwest office so ably led by Ann Maidment. Thank you to every committee member for the breadth of knowledge and expertise that you bring to the debate as well as your good company. I am indebted to our President James Weld and Vice Chair Paul Tory for their good humour and support.

Sophie Alexander

The Annual General Meeting of the Dorset Branch will be held at The Etches Collection Museum, Kimmeridge, Wareham, BH20 5PE on Monday 12 June 2023 at 2.30pm.

AGENDA

1. Opening by Branch President
2. To receive apologies for absence
3. To confirm and sign the Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting, held on Tuesday 21 June 2022
4. Matters Arising from Minutes
5. To receive and adopt the Annual Report

6. To elect Branch Officers and Council Representative
7. To elect new committee members
8. Any other business

Nominations for the offices of President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Council Representatives and for membership of the Committee, or any motion that a member may wish to propose, must reach the Director South West in writing no less than seven days prior to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2022 DORSET BRANCH AGM

HELD AT CHEDINGTON, WEST AXNOLLER FARM, BEAMINSTER, DT8 3SH AT 2.45PM ON 21 JUNE 2022

PRESENT: Jonathan Roberts, CLA Director of External Affairs, and approximately 40 members and guests

1. The President (James Weld) chaired AGM
2. **APOLOGIES**
Apologies received from Lara Manningham-Buller, Jeremy Russell and four members of the association.
3. **MINUTES**
The minutes from the previous meeting were signed as a true and correct record and were proposed by James Weld and seconded by Paul Tory.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
There were no matters arising.
5. **TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE ANNUAL REPORT**
The Chairman thanked fellow Officers, members of the Committee, those that sat on national committees and Regional Staff for their work and support. Chairman (Sophie Alexander) proposed the adoption of the Annual Report which was seconded by James Weld.
6. **ELECTIONS**
The following Officers were elected:
 - a) President - Mr James Weld
Proposed by Sophie Alexander
Seconded by Chris Jowett
 - b) Chairman - Mrs Sophie Alexander
Proposed by James Weld
Seconded by Will Bond
 - c) Vice Chairman - Mr Paul Tory
Proposed by James Weld
Seconded by Richard Bond
 - d) Council Representatives -
Alice Favre & Paul Tory
Proposed by James Weld
Seconded by Chris Jowett

As Sophie Alexander holds the post of Chairman on a national committee, it was proposed that the following are elected to represent the county at Council.

Resignation was received from Andrew Dyke. The President thanked him for his contribution to committee

There were two nominations for election to the Branch Committee:

Adair Williams
Gavin Fauvel
Proposed en-bloc by James Weld
Seconded by Richard Bond.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.
Meeting closed the meeting at 3.00pm

DORSET BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT

James Weld

Chair

Sophie Alexander

Vice Chair

Paul Tory

Elected Members

Nat Bond

Richard Bond

Will Bond

David Chismon

Philip Colfox

Lord Henry Digby

Paul Dunlop

Gavin Fauvel

Alice Favre

Chris Jowett

Alice Kennard

Sir Christopher Lees

Lara Manningham-Buller

Luke Rake

David Solly

Nick Stone

Adair Williams

Co-opted Members

Henry Bond

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