

# INVITATION TO THE CLA SUSSEX BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

14 SEPTEMBER 2023  
WISTON ESTATE



[WWW.CLA.ORG.UK](http://WWW.CLA.ORG.UK)



## PROGRAMME

- 09:30 Registration and refreshments in the Chalk restaurant
- 10:00 Sussex Branch AGM
- 10:15 Update from CLA Director General, Sarah Hendry
- 10:40 Wiston Brunch in the Chalk Restaurant
- 11:40 Welcome Talk by Wiston Estate
- 11.55 Tour groups to depart:  
North Farm Vineyard talk & tasting  
Woodland & Estate tour
- 13:10 Tour groups changeover
- 14.25 Return to Chalk restaurant and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 14 September 2023 at

Wiston Estate Winery, North Farm, Washington, West Sussex, RH20 4BB

CLA South East would like to thank Knight Frank for their continued support.



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 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 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

## WISTON ESTATE

Wiston Estate is a family-run vineyard and winery based in Sussex, with a passion for producing award-winning English wines. Set amidst the 6,000-acre estate of farmland, woodland and pasture, the first of Wiston Estate's vines were planted in 2006. Since then, Wiston has become recognised as one of England's most celebrated sparkling wine producers—and has been named WineGB's Winery of the Year four times. Wiston's aim for their winemaking is simple—purity, ability to age and expression of place—the South Downs.

For centuries the land Wiston Estate now stands on has been a place for people. Today, the Estate comprises 14 farms, 2,000 acres of pasture and over 100 homes, and is criss-crossed with 58km of footpaths and bridleways.

The Goring Family believe that the land is not just a place for people. Some 1,200 acres of woodland cover Wiston Estate, and 75km of hedges are home to a number of British birds, insects and animals. Nature is vital to rural enterprise, and the family strive to reciprocate the gifts of the land. Partnerships with local communities, and with charities like the Steyning Downland Scheme, enable collaboration with a long-term perspective on change.

With the support of the local community and visitors, the family aim to make the most of the natural and made means and generate the widest benefit for all.



### 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](http://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](mailto:southeast@cla.org.uk).

**Bookings close Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023**





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - SUSSEX BRANCH

With a general election likely over the next 12 months, we are also working with candidates and officials from all the major parties to highlight the issues that matter most to members.

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 with local authorities and other professional bodies in a joint letter calling on the Sentencing Council to provide tougher guidance on fines and sentences for culprits of fly-tipping. 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.

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 Sussex 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.

Francis Hampden

Welcome to the CLA Sussex branch AGM 2023.

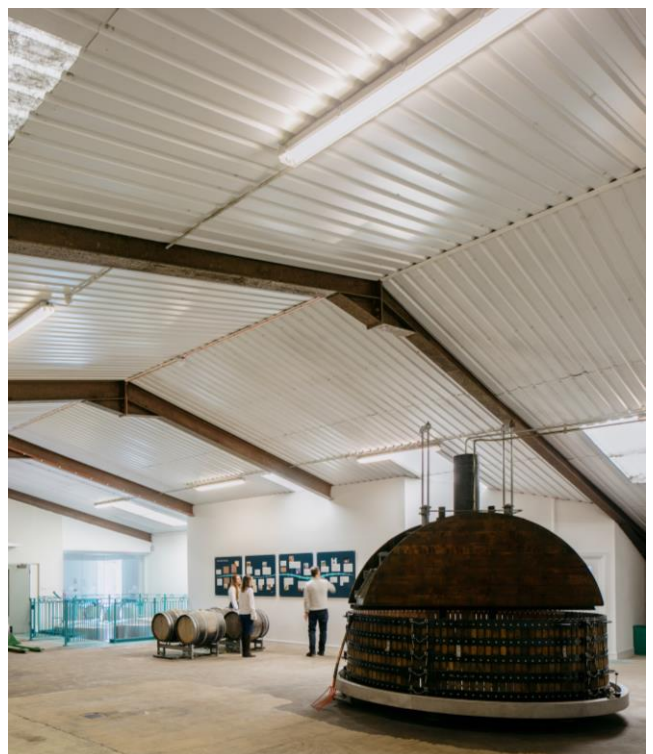
With last summer topping 40C, the heat has certainly been on farming over the past year, while rising energy prices, higher input and raw costs, and labour shortages have meant many rural businesses are being squeezed.

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. While some information about payment rates under Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes was released earlier this year, the CLA will continue to hold the government's feet to the fire to gain further clarity and answers to help members plan for the longer-term.

But the last 12 months has not all been doom and gloom, with a pleasing number of events and in-person gatherings held. One of the highlights was the South of England Show earlier this summer, where the CLA once again had its marquee on the main ring. The flagship breakfast event was standing-room only this year, with the tent full of members and guests keen to hear from keynote speaker Paul Sedgwick of the Crown Estate. The CLA also held its popular rural awards at the show, celebrating conservation and community achievements in Sussex, and the events attracted attendance from MPs and the media.

The CLA has also organised agricultural transition and renewable energy events locally, bringing members the latest policy developments from experts. Please do get in touch with the South East office if you need further advice or missed the sessions and require assistance.

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.



# MINUTES OF THE 2022 SUSSEX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT BIGNOR PARK, BIGNOR, PULBOROUGH, WEST SUSSEX, RH20 1HG AT 11 AM ON WEDNESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022

## Present:

Branch President, Col Sir Brian Barttelot  
Branch Vice Chair, Annie Brown  
CLA Vice President, Gavin Lane  
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford  
25 Members and their guests

The Branch President welcomed Gavin Lane, CLA Vice President. He thanked Ned Mersey for hosting the meeting and the and the Bignor Team for assisting in the co-ordination of the day. He thanked Chavereys and Savills for partnering the AGM and welcomed their 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 at More House Farm on 17 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) Re-election of Branch President

The Branch Chairman Francis Hampden took over the meeting for the election of the Branch President. The re-election of the current Branch President, Brian Barttelot, was proposed by Edward Stenhouse, seconded by George Back and carried unanimously.

### b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The Branch President took over the meeting. Annie Brown proposed Francis Hampden for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Charlotte West-Withers and carried unanimously.

### c) Branch Committee

The President noted that John Hall was retiring from Committee and thanked him for his support over the years.

The Branch President read out the following names for re-election to the committee:

Sir Sebastian Anstruther	Mr Leo Hickish
Mr George Back	Mr Martin Hole
Mrs Annie Brown	Mr Jeremy Kerswell
Ms Henri Brocklebank	Mr Keith Langmead
Mr Charles Burgoyne	MR Graham Peters
Mr Tom Compton	Mr Alan Staples
Mr Alistair Deighton	Mr Richard Stogden
Ms Susanna Fitzgerald	Mr David Taylor
Viscount Hampden	Ms Charlotte West-Withers
	Mr Harry Wills

The election of the Committee was proposed by John Marland, seconded by Richard Goring and carried unanimously.

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

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Susanna Fitzgerald, seconded by Keith Langmead and carried unanimously.

## 6. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the Sussex AGM.

## SUSSEX BRANCH COMMITTEE

### PRESIDENT

Colonel Sir Brian Barttelot

### CHAIRMAN

Viscount Francis Hampden

VICE CHAIR Annie Brown

### COMMITTEE

Sir Sebastian Anstruther Bt

George Back

Henri Brocklebank

Charles Burgoyne

Tom Compton

Alistair Deighton

Susanna Fitzgerald

Leo Hickish

Martin Hole

Jeremy Kerswell

Keith Langmead

Graham Peters

Alan Staples

Richard Stogden

David Taylor

Charlotte West-Withers

Harry Wills

## 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