

BADMINTON ESTATE

Home to the Duke and Duchess of Beaufort, the Badminton Estate lies in the heart of the Gloucestershire countryside. The Somerset Family, descendants of John of Gaunt, have lived at Badminton since 1612. Over the centuries, the House and Estate have evolved in the stewardship of successive generations and the current Duke and Duchess continue to invest in and improve the estate.

Badminton is recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Madmintune' and earlier evidence of settlement survives with the recent discovery of a Late Roman villa to the north of the park. The origin of Badminton House was a medieval manor house owned by the Boteler family. The house and park were then extended and remodelled through the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries by many of the leading architects of the day including Francis Smith of Warwick, James Gibbs, William Kent, and Jeffry Wyatville. George London and Henry Wise designed the formal gardens, which were later de-formalised by Charles Bridgeman and then further simplified by Kent in the mid-18th century.



Thomas Wright followed Kent in the mid-18th Century and designed various buildings to enhance the parkland including Castle Barn, the Hermit's Cell and Ragged Castle. By 1768, the Deer Park extended to some 2,000 acres bounded by the Seven Mile Plantation, a belt of beech, which remains an important feature of the landscape today. Worcester Avenue, the central avenue of the park, extends up to Kent's Worcester Lodge, some three miles north. The Deer Park



now extends to 400 acres around the house. Many of the original avenues radiating from the house survive today, together with the many parkland trees and woodlands.

The sport of Badminton evolved from a family game played in the North Hall, which is the same size as a modern court, and takes its name from Badminton House.

The current gardens were laid out by the 11th Duke and Duchess in the 1980s, and were designed by Russell Page and François Goffinet. The current Duke and Duchess took on the stewardship of the gardens from Miranda, Duchess of Beaufort, and continue to develop them, building upon the work of their predecessors in maintaining the balance of design and creative gardening.

Badminton House has welcomed kings, queens, and notable historical figures over the centuries. Queen Mary, the wife of George V, stayed at Badminton for much of the Second World War, and Queen Elizabeth II was a regular attendee at the annual horse trials, which began in 1949 and are held each year in the park. The horse trials have become a prestigious international CCI5* event, the pinnacle of the eventing calendar, and one of only six held worldwide each year.

While Badminton House remains primarily a private family home, it now also offers a wonderful venue for filming and events. The House has served as a filming location for various productions, including Netflix's hit series Bridgerton, the Pursuit of Love and feature productions such as Pearl Harbor and The Remains of the Day. Aside from filming and the Horse Trials, the 12th Duke of Beaufort is developing new enterprises and events on the estate.

The estate at Badminton includes significant farm and land holdings, woodland, and residential and commercial property. The family continue to hold their former seat at Raglan Castle in Wales, now under the stewardship of Cadw, and land in Monmouthshire, Breconshire, and Glamorgan.

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INVITATION TO THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH AGM 2023

TUESDAY 12 SEPTEMBER AT 2.45PM
Registration, Tea and Coffee from 2.15pm

BADMINTON HOUSE, BADMINTON ESTATE GL9 1DB

By kind permission of The Duke & Duchess of Beaufort.
Followed by tour, drinks and canapés



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We are extremely fortunate to be able to hold the 2023 Gloucestershire AGM at Badminton Estate by kind permission of the Duke & Duchess of Beaufort. The AGM is generously supported by our partners Perdix Partnership and Saffery Champness.

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 £40.00pp inc 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. Deadline for booking is Tuesday 6 September 2023 Please ensure that appropriate clothing and footwear is worn for the tour.

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PROGRAMME

- 14.15 Registration, tea, and coffee
- 14.45 AGM
- 15.00 Ann Maidment - Director Southwest
- 15.05 CLA Deputy President Victoria Vyvyan
- 15:30 Introduction to Badminton from Christopher Hawkins & Simon Dring followed by tour of the Estate
- 17.40 Drinks & Canapes
- 18.45 Depart

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Use postcode GL9 1DB to reach Badminton House.

Leave the M4 Motorway at Junction 18 and head North towards Stroud on the A46. After approximately two miles turn right at the traffic lights at the Cross Hands Hotel onto the B4040 signposted to Malmesbury and Badminton. After approximately 1.5 miles turn left, signed to Badminton, on a sharp right hand bend, by a clump pf trees. Follow the road into Badminton Village, arriving at a "T" junction, turn left. Follow the road through the village for approximately ¼ mile, then turn right into Badminton High Street in front of a set of gates. Proceed up the High Street and carry on up the front drive to Badminton House, through the gates at the top of the High Street. Drive through the garage courtyard and under the Clock Tower, where you will arrive on the West Front of Badminton House where you should park. (See map below)

From the A46 (Approaching Badminton from the North) Travelling South on the A46, turn left (signed to Great Badminton). This is at the Dunkirk crossroads approximately 250 yards south of the junction of the A433 (Tetbury Road) with the A46. (The turn to Badminton is approximately 8-9 miles south from Calcot Cross Roads (i.e. the Calcot Manor Hotel). Follow the road through Little Badminton and on to Great Badminton. Entering Great Badminton after driving underneath a small red brick bridge, drive straight ahead up the High Street. At the top of the High Street drive straight ahead through the gates and follow the directions as above.



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH



The feedback on my last Chairman's report was that it was far too depressing and I should find something positive to say. It was a fair point but unfortunately circumstances have not improved, so I regret to say that it's more of the same from me!

At the time of my last report the cost of living crisis was hitting the headlines and since then it has spiraled into a nightmare of inflation and increased costs of borrowing. We are reaping what successive governments have sown starting with the banking bailout of 2008, worsened by years of 'quantitative easing' and topped off by the ruinous Coronavirus bailout. Speaking of the Government, it seems to me that we have been without credible political leadership for some time and the country is consequently adrift in the doldrums, lacking any clear direction. Clearly any opportunities presented by Brexit have not been capitalized on.

The very great majority of those in Westminster have no interest in the countryside and its inhabitants, with little expertise or experience in agriculture and have the rural economy nowhere near the top of their agenda. This is perhaps no surprise given the nature of our constituency boundaries and the 'first past the post' system. It is no wonder that so many people in rural areas now feel politically homeless.

The Conservatives have lost swathes of support in rural constituencies, almost 20% in some areas and it is no surprise given their recent track record. The countryside was totally ignored in the Levelling Up white paper which is disgraceful when we know the countryside lags behind the rest of the country in terms of connectivity, productivity, access to services, affordable housing and so on. A report 'Rural as a Region: the hidden challenges for Levelling Up' published in 2022 found that were England's rural communities treated as a distinct region,

they would be in greater need of Levelling Up than any other part of the country. The report shows how the continued focus on urban disadvantage has sidelined the 12 million people living in rural areas simply because they live in small, scattered communities across a large area.

The farming sector has every right to be angry with a government that has sold out British farming with some poor trade deals. On the other hand, the Labour party, who must be anticipating getting their hands on some rural seats at the next election, lack any vision or policies for the rural economy and many of their members and MPs seem to have a visceral dislike of farmers and landowners. The last Labour government showed us what its activist wing wants; 700 hours of parliamentary debate on fox hunting!

With an election due to be held in the next 18 months it is incumbent on all of us to question our candidates on their vision for the rural sector. Certainly, with a large swing expected towards Labour and the Lib Dems we need to know what their respective proposals might be so we can plan for the future of our own businesses. Traditionally many candidates pay lip service to our interests when it suits them but do not back this up with their actions once elected; by engaging with them early on we can hopefully hold them to account. I know the CLA will be very active on the political front supporting its members' interests in the run up to the election.

Although the current situation is dire, I am not downcast. Several recommendations from the CLA's excellent Rural Powerhouse Campaign have been successfully included in the Government's 'unleashing rural opportunity' package, and there is plenty more we can do. Politicians of all stripes will need intelligent, well-constructed new ideas to deliver the stability and growth that they all promise. The rural economy, with its long history of marrying tradition and innovation, is well positioned to make a strong contribution if we are included and supported. The CLA continues to campaign tirelessly on behalf of the whole rural economy and we must all continue to beat the drum for our own rural businesses and livelihoods. The more of us who choose to be actively involved - with local and national politicians, with our regional business communities and with CLA events and initiatives - the more successful we will be. Please also remember that the CLA is not only lobbying the government on our behalf but is also an advisory organization, so please do get in touch with the team if you need advice on anything from planning to access.

The Annual General Meeting of the Gloucestershire Branch will be held at Badminton House, Badminton Estate GL9 1DB on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 2:45pm

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 Wednesday 7 September 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 not less than seven days prior to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2022 GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH AGM

The Branch President, Sir Henry Elwes welcomed members and their guests to the AGM.

1. Apologies were received from Fred Gwyther, Christopher Hawkins, Richard Knight, Freddie Wills, Henry Robinson, Richard White, Jason Evans and three members of the association.
2. The minutes of the AGM held on Zoom on 12 October 2021, were signed as being a true and correct record.
 - Proposed by Sir Henry Elwes
 - Seconded by Jonny Cullimore
3. Matters Arising
 - There were none
4. Annual Report

The Chairman thanked the President, Vice Chairman, the Committee and the CLA South West team. The Chairman proposed the adoption of his report, which was seconded by Ed Gunnery agreed unanimously.

5. Election of Branch Officers
 - The following were elected unanimously for the coming year.

President: Sir Henry Elwes
Proposed by Mr Thomas Jenner-Fust
Seconded by Jeremy Chamberlayne
Chairman: Mr Thomas Jenner-Fust
Proposed by Sir Henry Elwes
Seconded by Mr Ed Gunnery
Vice Chairman: Mrs Anabel Mackinnon
Proposed by Sir Henry Elwes
Seconded by Mr Dan Powell

Council Representatives: Mr Thomas Jenner-Fust & Mrs Anabel Mackinnon

Proposed by Sir Henry Elwes
Seconded by Mr Jeremy Chamberlayne

According to branch rules, there were no retirements from committee.

There was two nominations to the Committee at the AGM.

Christopher Hawkins
Alex Robinson

Sir Henry Elwes proposed that they were elected enbloc, seconded by Mr Thomas Jenner- Fust.

6. Any Other Business
 - There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 3.00pm

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Sir Henry Elwes KCVO JP

CHAIRMAN
T Jenner-Fust

VICE CHAIRMAN
A Mackinnon

AST/CURRENT NATIONAL OFFICER
H C W Robinson Esq DL
M H Tufnell Esq MA (Cantab) ACA CTA

COMMITTEE
L Aggett
G Brockbank Dip TP, MRTPI)
A George MVO MRICS
E Gunnery MRICS MRTPI
The Earl of Harrowby
C Hawkins
C Kershaw
R Killen
H Lloyd-Baker
N McLoughlin
D Mackellar
C Mann Esq
D Powell Esq
A Robinson
N Small
R White
Co opted members
M Jepson

