

# INVITATION TO THE CLA SUSSEX BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

8 MAY 2024  
MONTAGUE FARM



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# PROGRAMME

- 09:30 Registration and refreshments
- 10:00 Sussex Branch AGM
- 10:15 Update from CLA Officer
- 10:40 Introduction to Montague Farm
- 11:40 Walking tour of Montague Farm
- 13:00 Drinks Reception
- 13.30 Lunch
- 14.30 Depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at

Montague Farm, Hankham Hall Road, Hankham, Pevensey, BN24 5BB

CLA South East would like to thank Batcheller Monkhouse, Thomson Snell & Passmore & Forestry Commission for their continued support.

**Thomson Snell & Passmore**

**Batcheller  
Monkhouse**



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2024/25
  - a. President
  - b. One representative to Council
  - c. Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2023/24
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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

# MONTAGUE FARM

Montague Farm is located on the edge of the Pevensey Levels, with sea views across the habitat rich grassland to the sea. Over 70 years, the farm has been transformed from a derelict site into a thriving 700 acre organic mixed farm buzzing with wildlife. Our kind hosts, Martin and Gundrada Hole, continue the work started by Gundrada's father John Glessing in 1942 and are now supported by their three daughters.

Livestock at Montague Farm includes a flock of Romney Ewes and a herd of cross bred cows alongside the start of a pedigree Sussex herd, all benefiting from grazing on the rich grassland and flat wetlands of the Pevensey Levels.

Nature conservation lies at the heart of the Montague farm business. Montague Farm forms part of the Pevensey farmers group, a cluster of over 50 members spanning 5000 hectares. The cluster priorities continue to support over 216 bird species that have been recorded across the farm, including Snipe, Lapwing, Teal, Turtledove, Redshank and Shoveler. Insect species abound with the rare Fen Raft spider and diverse plant species are found both in the wetlands and in the grassland including green winged orchids.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century complex of homes, courtyards and barns remains the heart of the farm, still used predominantly for livestock, the business has also diversified into corporate events and weddings, hosts for the East Sussex Pony club and glamping.



## 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 £42 Ex 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 358195 or [southeast@cla.org.uk](mailto:southeast@cla.org.uk).

**Bookings close Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - SUSSEX BRANCH

The CLA is busy engaging with politicians and candidates of all parties, in order to influence their manifestos and help shape the narrative about how the countryside is governed.

This is my first AGM as your Chairman. For those who don't know me, my name is Annie Brown and I succeeded Francis Hampden in the autumn. I am a third generation family farmer, running a 1,500-acre mixed farm on the South Downs just north of Brighton. I took over the running of the business with my sister in 2007, farming a traditional mix of rotational arable, extensively grazed suckler cows, keep sheep and a small herd of Bagot goats for conservation grazing, all underpinned by a comprehensive environmental stewardship scheme. We also have a small bespoke glamping site, Foot of the Downs, and are planning to open workshop spaces and a learning facility to boost engagement with the public.

There will undoubtedly be more challenges to overcome this year, but you can rest assured that the CLA will continue to be on your side. Please do make the most of your membership by using the fantastic 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.

Annie Brown

Welcome to the CLA Sussex branch AGM 2024.

The last 12 months have been challenging for many farmers and rural businesses, with rising costs and a tough economic climate, but the year has also shown the continuing resilience of our sector.

The CLA has been active in pressing Government to recognise the importance of the rural economy and its dynamic qualities. The success of our approach was underlined by its "Unleashing Rural Opportunity" policy paper, which adopted many of the proposals put forward by the CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign. For example, changes in permitted development rights that introduce much needed flexibility for rural businesses, and definitive deadlines for digital connectivity procurement constitute two major wins for the CLA.

The farming sector faced volatility on numerous fronts in 2023, from the continued unpredictability of grain prices to the ever-changing extreme weather patterns making harvest a challenge. Following the heatwave of 2022 it was the wet weather that dominated farmers' thoughts during the 2023 summer, with further heavy rain and flooding in the autumn.

It has been another busy year for England's agricultural transition as the industry moved into the implementation phase of the new farming policy. While it is positive that such a wide range of initiatives are being funded, getting to grips with the multiple schemes on offer and determining which options could be of interest to each business is not straightforward. Please do get in touch with the CLA South East office if you need advice or support.

With a general election on the horizon, this is a crucial time for farming and the rural economy.





# MINUTES OF THE 2023 SUSSEX ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT WISTON ESTATE WINERY, WEST SUSSEX, RH20 4BB AT 10 AM ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

## Present:

Branch President, Col Sir Brian Barttelot  
Branch Vice Chair, Annie Brown  
CLA President, Mark Tufnell  
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford

46 Members and their guests

The Branch President welcomed Mark Tufnell, CLA President and thanked him for attending the AGM. He thanked the Goring family and Wiston team for hosting the meeting and co-ordinating of the day. He thanked Knight Frank for partnering the AGM and welcomed their representatives Rachel Patch, Isabel Swift and Jamie Evans-Freke.

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received in advance from Sebastian Anstruther.

## 2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Bignor Park 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 2024/25

The Branch President handed over to the Branch Chairman Francis Hampden to undertake Officer elections

### a) Branch President

One nomination for Branch President, Hamish Munro, was proposed by Sir Brian Barttelot, and seconded by Richard Goring and carried unanimously.

### b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The Branch President took over the meeting. Claire Davidson proposed Annie Brown for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Nick Jones and carried unanimously.

### c) Branch Committee

The Branch President thanked David Taylor, Alastair Deighton and Graham Peters for their support whilst serving on the committee.

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

Sir Sebastian Anstruther	Viscount Hampden
Mr George Back	Mr John Hall
Mrs Annie Brown	Mr Leo Hickish

Ms Henri Brocklebank  
Mr Charles Burgoyne  
Mr Tom Compton  
Ms Susanna Fitzgerald

Mr Martin Hole  
Mr Jeremy Kerswell  
Mr Keith Langmead  
Mr Alan Staples  
Mr Richard Stogden  
Ms Charlotte West-Withers  
Mr Harry Wills

The election of the Committee for 2023/24 was proposed by Edward Stenhouse, seconded by Julian Hanbury-Aggs and carried unanimously. The President then asked for approval to adopt the Chairmans annual report and for the Chairman to offer any comments

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

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Annie Brown, seconded by Pauline Agg and carried unanimously.

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

The Branch President concluded the Sussex AGM and introduced Mark Tufnell, CLA President.

## SUSSEX BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  
Hamish Monro

CHAIRMAN  
Annie Brown

VICE CHAIR George Back

### COMMITTEE

Sir Sebastian Anstruther Bt  
Tom Compton  
Henri Brocklebank  
Charles Burgoyne  
Leo Hickish  
Fred Lucas  
Susanna Fitzgerald

Martin Hole  
Jeremy Kerswell  
Keith Langmead  
Ben Robins  
Alan Staples  
Richard Stogden  
Harry Wills

## CLA REGIONAL CONTACTS

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