

INVITATION TO THE CLA KENT BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

1 JULY 2024
HOLE PARK



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PROGRAMME

- 9:30 Arrival at Hole Park for registration and refreshments
- 10:00 Kent Branch AGM
- 10:15 Address by CLA Deputy President, Gavin Lane
- 10:45 Welcome by host Edward Barham
- 11:00 Board trailers for tour of estate
- 12:30 Drinks reception
- 13:30 Two course lunch
- 14:30 Finish and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Monday 1st July 2024 at Hole Park Estate Benenden Road, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent, TN17 4JA. The CLA would like to thank Birketts, Chavereys & the Forestry Commission for their valued support.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd May 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 Monday 10th June 2024.

HOLE PARK

The Kent AGM this year returns to Hole Park, which we last visited in 2003. It has been the home of the Barham family since 1911 and the current owner, Edward, also our branch president.

Hole Park is renowned for the beautiful parkland setting with fine gardens in the 2500 acre estate within the High Weald National Landscape of attractive, undulating and heavily wooded countryside. The Estate business concentrates on environmental, forestry, and Christmas Trees, alongside the public facing garden, wedding and events businesses. Most of the farming, arable beef, sheep, and top fruit is managed by a variety of specialist tenants under various forms of tenure.

The estate has a significant residential and commercial property portfolio the latter proving well over 100 jobs in premises within converted farm buildings.

After the formal meeting, and before lunch, we will board viewing trailers to drive out into the estate to see some of the environmental and woodland management that the estate is renowned for, particularly looking at recent Agro-forestry and Christmas Tree plantations.



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 £42 Ex VAT. You can pay by card online following your booking. If you are having difficulties, please call the South East office on 01264 313434 or southeast@cla.org.uk.

Bookings close Tuesday 17 June 2024



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT KENT BRANCH

With a general election on the horizon, this is a crucial time for farming and the rural economy. 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. If you can host a farm visit or know a candidate, please do get in touch.

Welcome to the CLA Kent 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.

We are working closely with Making Space for Nature as it develops Kent's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), and I encourage members to engage with the process as it will play an important role in landowners' environmental work across the county in the coming years.

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 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 2023 KENT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**HELD AT QUEX PARK , BIRCHINGTON-ON-SEA, CT7 0BH
AT 3.30PM ON TUESDAY 23 MAY 2023**

Present:

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

Branch President, Edward Barham welcomed Victoria Vyvyan, CLA Deputy President and thanked her for attending the AGM. He then thanked Quex Park, Anthony and his team for hosting the meeting for the co-ordination of the day. He thanked Kreston Reeves and Birketts Law for partnering the AGM and welcomed their representatives Sarah Spence and Simon Budden from Kreston Reeves and Adam Burden and Emily O'Donnell from Birketts.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 7 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Election of Officers for 2022/23

The Branch President handed over to Branch Chairman Charles Tassell for re-election of Branch President

a) Election of Branch President

Branch President, Edward Barham, was proposed by Charles Tassell, seconded by Allan Buckwell and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to CLA Council

The Branch President took over the meeting. George Horne proposed Charles Tassell for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Steve Coalville and carried unanimously.

c) Branch 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 2023/24 was proposed by Adam Burden seconded by Simon Budden and carried unanimously.

5. To Adopt the Chair's Annual Report for 2022/23

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Robert Schroeder, seconded by Anthony Curwen 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

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