

INVITATION TO THE CLA SURREY BRANCH SUMMER EVENT AND AGM

11 JUNE 2024
BUCKLAND PARK



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PROGRAMME

- 15:30 Registration at The Reverie, with refreshments
- 16:00 Surrey Branch AGM
- 16:15 Address by CLA President Victoria Vyvyan
- 16:45 Welcome by estate
- 17:00 Tour of lake and overview of estate history
- 18:00 Drinks reception beside the lake
- 18:30 Two course dinner
- 20.00 Finish and depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 11th June 2024 at

The Reverie Restaurant, Buckland Park, Park Lake Drive, Buckland, Betchworth, RH3 7FE.

CLA South East would like to thank Forestry Commission, Knight Frank and Moore Barlow for their continued support.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 7th July 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

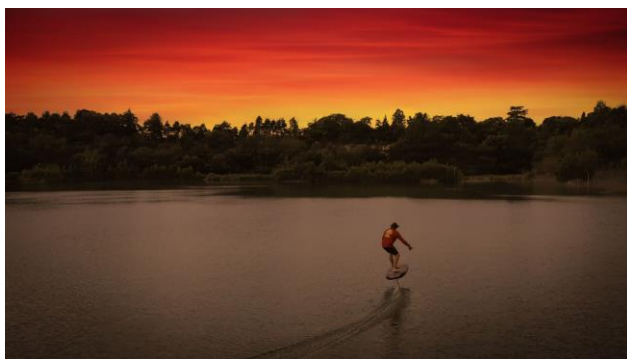
Nominations for office or for membership of the Committee as given in item 4, or any resolution a member may wish to propose, must reach the Director South East, Tim Bamford, in writing by 21 May 2024

BUCKLAND PARK

Buckland Estate is a diversified farm business, with a traditional game shoot, fishing club, residential and commercial property interests. The Estate comprises about 1250 acres, which in addition to arable land and pasture includes over 250 acres of woodland and 80 acres of water. It is owned by the Sanders family.

The Estate had a fine silica sand business from 1925 to the cessation of quarrying in 2014. Planning approval to open the largest quarry to the public was obtained and it opened to the public on 29 May 2021. Buckland Park Lake, home to a 50-acre lake bounded by sand cliffs and almost 50 acres of mature woodland, now welcomes some 80,000 visitors a year.

Buckland Park Lake offers a range of activities that the Estate team hope will provide an enjoyable day out in nature for all ages, including its restaurant (The Reverie), open water swimming and stand-up paddle boarding, fishing, forest schools and children's activities, yoga and a range of wellness and fitness clubs and pop up events.



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 358195 or southeast@cla.org.uk.

Bookings close Thursday 28th May 2024



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - SURREY BRANCH

This is a crucial time for farming and the rural economy and it is of vital importance that all political parties have a good understanding of the issues at hand

In Surrey, Natural England ran a public consultation last year seeking comments on the proposed expansion of the Surrey Hills AONB, or "National Landscape" as it is now known. The CLA surveyed its members collecting views on the extension plan, and submitted a consultation response in summer 2023. Natural England received a total of 1,500 responses to the consultation and has delayed the publication of its final report, with a possible submission to the Secretary of State in the autumn of 2024.

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 CLA's fantastic advice service and attending the many events, and please spread the word of the benefits of being part of the organisation.

I would like to thank the Surrey 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.

Joosje Hamilton DL

Welcome to the CLA Surrey branch AGM 2024.

The last 12 months have been challenging for many farmers and rural businesses, with rising costs, a changing regulatory landscape and a tough economic climate. However, the rural sector is resilient, and this has equally been evident this past year.

The CLA has been actively pressing Government to recognise the importance of the rural economy and its dynamic qualities and has seen a number of successes. The Government's policy paper "Unleashing Rural Opportunity" adopted many of the proposals put forward by the CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign. For example, two major wins are the proposed changes in permitted development rights which introduce much-needed flexibility for rural businesses, and the adoption of definitive deadlines for digital connectivity procurement.

The farming sector continued to face volatility on numerous fronts in 2023, ranging from the persistent unpredictability of grain prices to the ever-changing extreme weather patterns which make 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.

England's agricultural transition is continuing apace, as the industry is moving 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, 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, rural economy and farming sector are governed.



MINUTES OF THE 2023 SURREY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT COVERWOOD FARM, SURREY, GU6 7NT AT 4PM ON WEDNESDAY 7 JUNE 2023

Present:

Branch President, Bridget Biddell
CLA Director General, Sarah Hendry
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford
30 Members and their guests

The Branch President welcomed everyone to the AGM at Coverwood and thanked Sarah Hendry, CLA Director General, for attending. She also welcomed Ellie Vesey-Thompson Deputy Police Crime Commissioner for Surrey. She thanked Strutt and Parker and Moore Barlow for partnering the AGM programme and welcomed their respective representatives.

1. Apologies for Absence

Formal apologies had been received from 4 members.

2. To confirm the Minutes of the last Meeting

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Betchworth House on 13th July 2022 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 2023/24

a) Re-election of Branch President

The Branch Chair Joosje Hamilton took over the meeting for the election of the Branch President. The re-election of the current Branch President, Bridget Biddell, was proposed by Stephen Godwin-Austen, seconded by Charlotte Brackley and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The meeting passed back to the Branch President. Susanna Morgan Williams proposed Joosje Hamilton for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Gordon Lee Steere and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

The President announced that Luke West, Tim Frith, Malcolm Glaister and Houston Morris was leaving the Committee and thanked them for their support over the years and welcomed Felicia Morris.

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

Lisa Creaye-Griffin	Joosje Hamilton
Hugo Black	Melissa Boyes
Charlotte Brackley	Stephen Godwin-Austen
James Lee-Steere	Alex MacKinnon
Tim Metson	Susanna Morgan-Williams
Rachel Patch	Felicia Morris
Tamara Twynham	Laurie Wates
Benjamin Whitaker	

The election of the Committee for 2023/24 was proposed by Matthew Bennison, seconded by Geoff Duck and carried unanimously.

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

The president acknowledged that this was an important year for Farming and thanked the Metson family for hosting the AGM. Adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Lisa Creaye-Griffin, seconded by Hugo Black and carried unanimously.

6. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the Surrey AGM and introduced CLA Director General Sarah Hendry.

SURREY BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
Bridget Biddell

CHAIRMAN
Joosje Hamilton

COMMITTEE
Hugo Black
Melissa Boyes
Charlotte Brackley
Lisa Creaye-Griffin
Felicia Morris
Laurie Wates
Alex MacKinnon
Benjamin Whitaker

Tim Metson
Susanna Morgan-Williams
Domonic Sanders
Rachel Patch
Tamara Twynam
Stephen Godwin-Austen
James Lee-Steere

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