

# INVITATION TO THE CLA BUCKINGHAMSHIRE AND OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT WITH AGMS

25 JUNE 2026  
Hillesden Estate



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



## PROGRAMME

- 09:30 Arrive at Hillesden for registration & refreshments
- 10.00 Bucks Branch AGM
- 10.05 Oxon Branch AGM
- 10.15 Address by CLA's Deputy President Joe Evans
- 10.35 Introduction to Hillesden Estate by Mike Wheeler
- 11.00 Estate tour
- 12.30 Drinks reception & lunch
- 14.30 Depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 25 June 2026 at Hillesden Estate, Hillesden, MK18 4DB

CLA South East would like to thank Savills and Gasson Associates and Whitley Stimpson for their support in sponsoring the event.



## VENUE...

The estate extends to approximately 1,050 hectares, forming a substantial and well-managed agricultural holding. The business is predominantly arable, with cropping focused on a balanced rotation of wheat, barley, oilseed rape, winter beans, and spring oats. The land is largely productive, with fields of varying scale laid out to support efficient modern farming while maintaining the character of the landscape.

Alongside the core arable operation, the estate incorporates extensive environmental areas managed under both Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) and Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) agreements. These areas include field margins, conservation headlands, wetlands and habitat corridors, contributing to biodiversity, soil health, and long-term sustainability.

Further diversification is provided through amenity deer, which enhance the estate's visual appeal, as well as a portfolio of let residential and rural properties that generate additional income streams, along with a small private vineyard. Together, these elements create a mixed and resilient estate business, combining commercial agriculture with environmental stewardship and rural enterprise.

## BOOKING FOR THE EVENT

To book your place please login to your 'My CLA' account on [www.cla.org.uk](http://www.cla.org.uk) and click on Events. Tickets cost £44 Ex VAT for members and £65 Ex VAT for non members. You can pay by card online.

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 19 June 2026**





## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH

Welcome to the CLA Buckinghamshire branch AGM 2026.

The government's inheritance tax changes have remained one of the biggest issues facing the industry over the past 12 months. After months of intense lobbying and campaigning by the CLA, the partial U-turn announced at Christmas was a welcome step in the right direction but the fight goes on.

Many farms and family businesses still face deeply damaging consequences of the reforms, and the CLA is working relentlessly to ensure that all those parties who have promised to reverse the policy in full honour that commitment. These promises must appear in manifestos with crystal-clear pledges to reverse it within the first year of any future government.

The CLA has also been working closely with the Defra Secretary of State and top civil servants on the redesign of the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI), arguing it should be accessible to farms of all types and sizes to deliver the best outcomes for the environment.

But there are reasons to be positive. The CLA's Rural Powerhouse campaign demonstrates what's possible. By closing the rural productivity gap, we could add £43 billion to national GDP through expanded permitted development rights, cutting planning red tape and improving rural connectivity.

Here in Buckinghamshire, the team has been busy getting MPs and politicians out on visits to meet members and hear about issues first hand. In recent months we have held several meetings and roundtables with Emma Reynolds, the Defra Secretary of State and MP for Wycombe, as well as other MPs including Aylesbury's Laura Kyrke-Smith and Buckingham and Bletchley's Callum Anderson. If you can host a visit please do come forward.

Advisers Lucy Charman and Rosie Salt-Crockford have helped Buckinghamshire members with a range of queries this year, and have attended a number of stakeholder meetings. The CLA is closely monitoring developments in the Oxford-Cambridge arc, and recently wrote to Chancellor Rachel Reeves after she said compulsory purchase will be used if land is not offered to develop the corridor. The CLA has raised concerns about the rhetoric, arguing government should work with landowners to accelerate the bringing forward of homes.

The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has also been published. The CLA has engaged throughout the two-year process and we urge members to familiarise themselves with the final strategy and data.

The CLA will once again be at the Bucks County Show in August, and I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

This is my final AGM as your chairman, and I would like to thank the Buckinghamshire 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.

Charlie van Exter



# CLA BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 25 June 2026 at Hillesden Estate, Hillesden, MK18 4DB

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2026/27
  - a. President
  - b. One representative to Council
  - c. Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2025/26
6. Any other business

## MINUTES OF THE 2025 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH AGM

### CLA BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE ASCOTT ESTATE, LU7 0PT AT 10am ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2025

Present: Branch President, Henry Shaw  
Branch Chair, Charlie van Exter  
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford  
45 CLA members and guests

The Branch President welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Ascott Estate for hosting the AGM and Robert Honan and his team for assisting with the arrangements the day. He also welcomed CLA Deputy President, Gavin Lane, and thanked Freeths and Bidwells for their kind partnership of the event and welcomed their respective 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 Cudlen Faw on 15 October 2024 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 2025/26

##### a) Election of Branch President

The Branch Chair took over the meeting for the election of the Branch President. There was one nomination, Henry Shaw, who was proposed by Alexander Boswell, seconded by Robert Ruck-Keene and carried unanimously.

##### b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The meeting passed back to the Branch President. Ted Howard-Jones proposed Charlie van Exeter for representative to Council, which was seconded Lucie Stone and carried unanimously.

##### c) Committee

The Branch President noted there are no retirees from the committee this year but was delighted to welcome Victoria Miles and Antony Pearce as new committee members.

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

|                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Lord Carrington   | Sir Edmund Verney     |
| Charlie van Exter | Ted Howard-Jones      |
| Alexander Boswell | David Briggs          |
| Robert Carrington | Charlie Edgley        |
| Robert Honan      | Victoria Miles        |
| Tom Morrison      | Debbie Obied          |
| Robert Ruck-Keene | Lucie Stone           |
| Nicholas Verney   | Greg Smith (co-opted) |

The election of the Committee for 2025/26 was proposed by Justin Farrington-Smith, seconded by Tom Hawkins and carried unanimously.

#### 5. To Adopt the Chair's Annual Report for 2024/25

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Debbie Obied, seconded by David Briggs and carried unanimously.

#### 6. Any Other Business.

There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the CLA Buckinghamshire Branch AGM, thanking the South East team and the wider CLA staff for their support and dedication and once again thanked the event partners Freeths and Bidwells. He then introduced CLA Deputy President Gavin Lane.

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 South East Regional Director Tim Bamford, in writing by 11 June 2026



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

Welcome to the CLA Oxfordshire branch AGM 2026, which is being held jointly with our Buckinghamshire branch this year.

It's been another busy year for rural matters, both locally and nationally and as I write this report, we are looking at a further period of uncertainty due to geo-political events outside of our control; particularly in respect of increasing fertiliser and diesel prices.

Closer to home, the CLA team have been busy getting MPs and politicians out on farms to meet members to hear about issues first hand, to ensure that our voice is heard at a national level. Common issues raised mostly recently with Henley and Thame's MP; Freddie van Mierlo and Bicester and Woodstock's MP; Calum Miller, have included problems with water and the Environment Agency, waste crime and the planning system. I would like to highlight the particular efforts of Calum in helping to bring the illegal dumping of thousands of tonnes of waste within the floodplain adjacent to the A34 in Kidlington, to the attention of the government. The issue received a lot of local and national press attention and this was instrumental in ensuring that the Environment Agency committed to removing the waste. This is a good example of the importance of strong relationships between the CLA and local MP's, as both teams worked hard to keep the issue within the media cycle. However, the work on waste crime is a national issue and much more needs to be done to ensure that there is meaningful legislative change to ensure that rural businesses and the environment are not paying the price.

The CLA team has also been meeting with councils and police to ensure members' voices are heard, and they have been working particularly closely with Thames Valley Police's rural crime team following an increase in the prevalence of catapulting/poaching incidents and motorised bikes on public rights of way in recent months.

The team has worked tirelessly to ensure our local issues are picked up by the local media and they have regularly appeared in the county's press such as BBC Radio Oxfordshire, ITV Meridian and BBC South Today, covering a range of topics from flooding to fly-tipping. Several events have also been held around Oxfordshire, including a succession roadshow session.

Advisers Lucy Charman and Rosie Salt-Crockford have also been helping Oxfordshire members with a range of queries this year, and attended a number of stakeholder meetings. The Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) has been launched and is now entering its implementation phase, while local designated landscapes including the Chilterns, Cotswolds and North Wessex Downs have secured more Farming in Protected Landscapes (FIPL) funding. The CLA encourages members to consider funds such as FIPL, and the team is on hand to offer advice if needed.

I encourage you to make the most of your membership by using the fantastic advice service, and attending events – the advisers can visit you or are available on the phone or by email.

This is my final AGM as your chairman and I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure. My thanks go to the Oxfordshire branch committee for their unwavering support and the contributions that they have made on your behalf at the Branch Committee meetings over the last three years. I would also like to thank our Regional Director, Tim Bamford and his South East team who have been incredibly supportive to the Committee and together with the national team, have ensured that the county membership are represented on both regional and national platforms.

Edmund Smith



# CLA OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 25 June 2026, Hillesden Estate, Hillesden, MK18 4DB

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Election of Officers for 2025/26
  - a. President
  - b. One representative to Council
  - c. Committee
5. To receive and adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2025/26
6. Any other business

## MINUTES OF THE 2025 OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH AGM

### CLA OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK (Joint event with Gloucestershire Branch) AT 10am ON THURSDAY 12 JUNE 2025

**Present:** Branch President Thomas Loyd  
Branch Chair, Edmund Smith  
Branch Vice Chair, Emma Watson  
CLA President, Victoria Vyvyan  
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford  
86 Members and guests

The Branch Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Reggie Heyworth and the Bradwell Grove Estate team for hosting the event. He also welcomed CLA President, Victoria Vyvyan, and thanked Robinson & Hall, The Rural Planning Practice and Saffery Champness for partnering the AGM and welcomed their respective representatives.

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Three formal apologies had been received in advance.

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

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at Tusmore Park Estate on 13 June 2024 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 2025/26

The Branch President then handed over to Branch Chairman Edmund Smith for the election of the Branch President.

#### a) Re-election of Branch President

The re-election of the current Branch President, Thomas Loyd, was proposed by Reggie Heyworth seconded by Henry Astor and carried unanimously. The Branch Chairman then handed back to the Branch President for the remainder of the AGM.

#### b) One Representative to the CLA Council

Emma Watson proposed Edmund Smith for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Julian Sayers and carried unanimously.

#### c) Branch Committee

The Branch President noted that Andrew Ingram has retired from the committee this year after many years of service, with best wishes and thanks extended for the contribution made during his time. He then welcomed new committee member Henry Astor and thanked all the committee members for their continued and ongoing support.

He then read out the following names for election to the branch committee:

|                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Edmund Smith   | Emma Watson     |
| Henry Astor    | Richard Binning |
| Edward Deeley  | Roddie Fielden  |
| Sam Fielden    | John Hayward    |
| Samantha Leigh | Niel Nicholson  |
| William Nixey  | Julian Sayers   |
| Sarah Taylor   |                 |

The election of the Committee for 2025/26 was proposed by Peter Cox, seconded by William Gascoigne and carried unanimously.

#### 5. To Adopt the Chair's Annual Report for 2024/25

The adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Kit Loyd, seconded by Andrew Gardiner and carried unanimously.

#### 6. Any Other Business.

There was no other business raised.

The Branch President extended thanks to:

The event partners, the CLA Oxfordshire Branch Committee who represent the County's members and feed into national CLA policy, and Tim and the South East team for the work they do to support members across Oxfordshire.

The Branch President then concluded the CLA Oxfordshire Branch AGM and introduced Sir Henry Elwes, the CLA Gloucestershire Branch President.

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 South East Regional Director, Tim Bamford, in writing by 11 June 2026.

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE

BRANCH PRESIDENT: Henry Shaw  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Lord Rupert Carrington  
Sir Edmund Verney  
CHAIRMAN: Charlie van Exter  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Ted Howard-Jones  
COMMITTEE:  
Alexander Boswell David Briggs  
Robert Carington Charlie Edgley  
Robert Honan Victoria Miles  
Tom Morrison Debbie Obied  
Antony Pearce Philip Pitcher  
Robert Ruck-Keene Lucie Stone  
Nicholas Verney  
Greg Smith MP (co-opted)

## OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Thomas Loyd  
CHAIR: Edmund Smith  
VICE CHAIR: Emma Watson  
COMMITTEE:  
Henry Astor Richard Binning  
Ed Deeley Roddie Feilden  
Sam Fielden Rachel Furness-Smith  
John Hayward Samantha Leigh  
Niel Nicholson William Nixey  
Julian Sayers Sarah Taylor



## CLA REGIONAL CONTACTS

**Please contact us for all your needs, including advice, events and CLA Services:**

Regional Director – Tim Bamford

Regional Co-ordinator – Evette Curtis

Regional Events Manager – Emma Harding

Regional Advisers:

Lucy Charman – Rural Adviser

Rosie Salt-Crockford – Rural Surveyor

Member Relationship Manager – Daniel Pownall

Communications Manager – Mike Sims

Regional Sales Manager – James Mulleneux

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