

INVITATION TO THE CLA KENT BRANCH SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT WITH AGM

18 JUNE 2026
GODINTON HOUSE & GARDENS



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PROGRAMME

- 09.30 Registration & refreshments
- 10.00 Kent Branch AGM
- 10.20 Address by CLA President, Gavin Lane
- 10.45 Introduction to the Estate by Estate Manager, Robert Duggan
- 11.00 Estate tour
- 12.30 Drinks reception
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 Depart

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 18th June 2026 at Godinton House and Gardens, Godinton Lane, Ashford, TN23 3BP

CLA South East would like to thank Birketts, Kreston Reeves and BTF Partnership for their support as event partners.



GODINTON HOUSE & GARDENS

Godinton House, a charming 14th-century estate nestled in Kent, England, offers a unique and immersive experience. Unlike many grand houses, Godinton prioritizes a comfortable and informal atmosphere, allowing visitors to truly imagine what life would have been like in its historic walls. With 600-years of history, the house is home to an impressive collection of furniture, art, and unique curiosities.

Beyond the house lies a haven of beautifully restored gardens, featuring a renowned yew hedge, wild and Italian gardens brimming with seasonal colour, and all meticulously maintained following the original designs.

During the day you will have the opportunity to hear about the projects that are taking place on the estate's 900 acres which is a mixture of farmland, forestry, houses and cottages, small business units, craft workshops and the new education programme with their seed to soup project, where the children come to Godinton to plant, harvest and make their own soup.

BOOKING YOUR PLACE

To book your place please login to your 'My CLA' account on 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 email us at southeast@cla.org.uk.

Bookings close Wed 10th June 2026.





CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - KENT BRANCH

Welcome to the CLA Kent 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 honor 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.

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 Kent, the team has been meeting with councils and police to ensure members' voices are heard and has been working particularly closely with Kent Police's rural crime team. We are seeing increasing numbers of cases of illegal meat coming into the Port of Dover, and stolen machinery going out, and a rise in issues such as catapulting.

The CLA has also been busy getting MPs and politicians out onto farms to meet members and hear about issues firsthand, most recently with Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Kevin McKenna who visited the Elmley reserve in his constituency. The team also arranged a rural roundtable with the Reform leader of Kent County Council. If you can host a visit, please do come forward.

The CLA team has regularly appeared in the county's press such as BBC Radio Kent, ITV Meridian and BBC South East Today, covering a range of topics from flooding to fly-tipping. Several events have also been held around Kent, including a succession roadshow session and the annual Emsden trophy presentation and farm walk.

Advisers Lucy Charman and Rosie Salt-Crockford have helped Kent members with a range of queries this year and attended a number of stakeholder meetings. Topics have included new housing developments, the review of the Kent Downs Management Plan and the Chalk to Coast project.

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.

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.

William Boscawen



CLA KENT BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday 18 June 2026 at Godinton House and Gardens, Godinton Lane, Ashford, TN23 3BP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting held on 1st July 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 KENT BRANCH AGM

CLA KENT BRANCH MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE MONTREAL ESTATE, TN14 6BG AT 10am ON TUESDAY 1ST JULY 2025

Present: Branch President, Edward Barham
Branch Chair, William Boscawen
CLA Deputy President, Gavin Lane
CLA SE Regional Director, Tim Bamford
44 Members and their guests

Branch President, Edward Barham welcomed everyone to the Montreal Estate and thanked Sue Green and her family for very kindly hosting and for assisting with arrangements for the day. He welcomed Gavin Lane, CLA Deputy President and thanked Batcheller Monkhouse, Birketts Law and Kreston Reeves for partnering the AGM 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 Hole Park on 1 July 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 handed over to Branch Chairman, William Boscawen, for re-election of Branch President

a) Election of Branch President

Branch President, Edward Barham, was proposed by Michael-John Knatchbull, seconded by Charles Tassell and carried unanimously.

b) One Representative to the CLA Council

The Branch President took over the meeting. Eliza Ecclestone proposed William Boscawen for Representative to Council, which was seconded by Alan Buckwell and carried unanimously.

c) Branch Committee

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

William Boscawen

David Bradley

Eliza Ecclestone

Lisa Fraser

Sue Green

Amelia McLean

Guy Neville

Edward Plumptre

Charles Tassell

Henry Warde

Evan Bowen-Jones

Allan Buckwell

Christopher Eriksson-Lee

Gareth Fulton

Michael-John Knatchbull

Iain Morris

James Pavey

George Talbot

Gary Walters

Michael Wooldridge

The election of the Committee for 2025/26 was proposed by Kate Teacher seconded by Charlotte Pearson-Wood and carried unanimously.

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

The President thanked William Boscawen for his contribution as Chairman and adoption of the Annual Report was proposed by Michael Wooldridge, seconded by Gail West and carried unanimously.

6. There was no other business.

The Branch President concluded the Kent AGM and introduced Gavin Lane, CLA Deputy 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 4 June 2026.

KENT BRANCH COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Edward Barham
CHAIRMAN: The Hon. William Boscawen
VICE CHAIR: Gareth Fulton

COMMITTEE:

David Bradley
Professor Allan Buckwell
Eliza Ecclestone
Lisa Fraser
Sue Green
Arthur Leigh-Pemberton
Amelia McLean
Iain Morris

Guy Nevill
James Pavey
Edward Plumptre
George Talbot
Charles Tassell
Gary Walters
Henry Warde
Michael Wooldridge



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

Rural Adviser - Lucy Charman

Rural Surveyor - Rosie Salt-Crockford

Member Relationship Manager – Daniel Pownall

Communications Manager – Mike Sims

Regional Sales Manager – James Mulleneux
james.mulleneux@cla.org.uk

CLA South East

Fosse House, East Anton Court,
Icknield Way, Andover,

Hampshire, SP10 5RG

Tel: 01264 358195

southeast@cla.org.uk

CLA SERVICES:

CLA Insurance Services

CLA Energy Services

CLA Finance

CLA Healthcare

CLA Succession Insurance

Plus CLA Member Offers