

Doddington North Moor, Northumberland

In November 2017, The Forestry Commission approved tree planting at Doddington North Moor in Northumberland, England's largest woodland planting scheme for 30 years.

Through their business, Pennine Forestry, Andy Howard and Sir Edward Milbank, who owns the Barningham Estate near Barnard Castle, embarked on a major project to transform the bulk of a 354 ha hill farm in Northumberland called Doddington North into a forest. Prior to planting, half the land was improved pasture for grazing, the other half upland heath, which was over run with bracken and rhododendron.

Planting started in March last year, and by the summer of 2018, the team had already planted 25ha, with further plans to plant 125ha in each of the next two seasons, with a total of close to 700,000 trees set to be planted. In April this year, 283,000 trees had already been planted, with another 394,000 trees to be planted next season. The project will require around 16,000 worker days to complete the planting of trees at Doddington North.

The forest, which will span the equivalent of over 650 football fields, will help to enhance populations of the iconic red squirrel, while storing over 93,000 tonnes of carbon and helping to manage flood risk in the area. With the forestry and timber processing industry a major employer in the region, the project is also set to bring a boost to local businesses and will generate a number of new jobs.

A total of 268 hectares will be planted, with 42 per cent of the site given over to productive conifer trees such as Sitka spruce, with 20% devoted to native broadleaves and 13% to a mix of Scots pine and native broadleaf.

Of the remaining 25%, 10% will be left as open ground and 15% as managed priority habitats. This will include protecting and restoring the best areas of heath, peat mires and wet woodland. The area is within the Kyloe buffer zone for red squirrels and the forest will provide new habitat for this rare species.

A 5km access track, which links to existing rights of way, is being built this spring and should be ready for the AGM. This will create 10km of paths and tracks to create access for walkers, mountain bikers, horse riders, forest education and climbers at a bouldering area on the site.

Andy Howard headed the negotiations with the Forestry Commission, Natural England and the Environment Agency to help shape this important project as a national exemplar of excellence. This will no doubt stimulate more large scale woodland creation projects that will deliver the government's and the forestry sector's ambitions to plant more trees across the country.



BOOKING FORM AND TICKET APPLICATION



Members are encouraged to book and pay online by visiting 'My CLA' on the cla.org.uk website and click on 'Events'. Alternatively, use the booking form over page – not forgetting to enclose your cheque.

Unfortunately we are unable to make a refund if you have to cancel for any reason after close of registration.

The North East branch of the CLA would like to thank Womble Bond Dickinson for their valued support.



CLA

North East Branch Committee 2018-19

| | | |
|---------------|---|--|
| President | Lord Barnard Ms F Barrigan The Hon C Beaumont C A E Braithwaite Esq M Bridgeman Esq | Raby Castle, Staindrop, Darlington, DL2 3AH GSC Grays, Lambton Park, Chester-le-Street, DH3 4AN Dilston Haugh Farm, Northumberland, NE45 5QY Haughton Castle, Haughton, Hexham, NE46 4AY Fallodon Hall, Alnwick, NE66 3HF |
| Chairman | W Browne-Swinburne Esq A J Cochrane Esq Mrs L De Wesselow Mrs A Morshead Martell Esq DL | Capheaton Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE19 2AB Strutt & Parker, 1-3 Oldgate, Northumberland, NE61 1PY Belsay Estate Office, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE20 0DX The Lees Farm, Haydon Bridge, Hexham, NE46 6DA A Shotley Hall, Consett, County Durham, DH8 9TE |
| Vice-Chairman | Sir Edward Milbank M Nicholson Esq T J Oliver Esq D Peake Esq Mrs J Robson Mr N Robson Esq A Thompson Esq | Barningham Park, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL11 7DW Harbour House, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH8 9TE East Farm, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE19 2HP Raby Estate Office, Staindrop, Darlington, DL2 3NF Alnwick Castle, Alnwick, NE66 1NQ Ward Hadaway, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 3DX The Weighbridge Office, Hurworth Burn, Wingate, TS28 5NU |

REGIONAL TEAM

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---|
| Regional Director: | Dorothy Fairburn | Aske Stables, Aske, |
| PR & Comms Manager: | Henk Geertsema | Richmond, DL10 5HG |
| Rural Practice Surveyor: | Robert Frewen | Tel: 01748 907070 |
| Rural Adviser: | Libby Bateman | Fax: 01748 907075 |
| Rural Adviser: | Jane Harrison | Email: north@cla.org.uk |
| Regional Administrator: | Naomi Hogan | |
| Regional Administrator: | Sarah Lister | |
| Territory Manager | Mark Scandle | |

Minutes of last AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 October 2018 at Bywell Hall, Stocksfield, Northumberland.

There were 7 apologies for absence.

- Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting:
The Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting held on 22 June 2017 at Matfen Hall, Matfen Village, Northumberland which had been previously circulated were approved and signed.
- Branch Chairman's Report:
Mr Browne-Swinburne presented his report for the year 2017/2018 which was received by the meeting.
- Election of Officers and Committee:
 - President: Lord Barnard
 - Branch Committee:
 - Resignations
There were no resignations
 - Retirements
The following retired:
Mr David Park Sir Walter Riddell
Mr William Salvin
The Chairman thanked them for their support and hoped that they would return to the Committee following their "sabbatical".
 - New Members
The Hon Charles Beaumont
Mr Duncan Peake Mrs A Morshead
Mr T Oliver Mrs J Robson
- Branch Representatives to Council:
The following were duly elected as Branch Representatives to Council:
Mr W Browne-Swinburne and Sir Edward Milbank
- Any Other Business: None

TIME TO RENEW YOUR INSURANCE?



Contact **Tim Slinger**
at CLA Insurance
on: **01748 900 703** or
email: tim.slinger@rkharrison.com

INVITATION TO THE CLA NORTH EAST AGM

WEDNESDAY 12 JUNE 2019
DODDINGTON NORTH MOOR, WOOLER



WWW.CLA.ORG.UK



This year's Annual General Meeting, generously supported by Womble Bond Dickinson UK (LLP), will be held on Wednesday 12 June at Chatton Village Hall, Alnwick, NE66 5PX and Doddington North Moor, Wooler.

Doddington North Moor, situated near Wooler in Northumberland, was given consent to plant more than 600,000 trees on a 350-hectare site, making it the largest forest of its kind to be planted in England for over 30 years.

Programme for the day

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|---------|--|
| 10.30am | Registration and refreshments on arrival at Chatton Village Hall |
| 11am | Formal AGM in the Main Hall Mark Bridgeman - CLA Deputy President Womble Bond Dickinson UK LLP |
| 12.30pm | Introduction and welcome to Doddington North Forest – Sir Edward Milbank |
| 1pm | Pre lunch drinks |
| 2.15pm | A locally sourced two course lunch, with wine or soft drinks and water |
| 4pm | Guided tour around Doddington North Forest |
| | Tea, coffee and cake at Chatton Village Hall prior to departure |

Notice of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the North East Branch of the CLA to be held at Chatton Village Hall at 11am on Wednesday 12 June.

Agenda

Apologies for absence.

- Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting held at Bywell Hall, Bywell
- Report of the Branch Chairman, William Browne-Swinburne
- Election of Officers and Committee Members
- Election of Branch Representatives to the Council
- Any Other Business of which due notice shall have been given

D U Fairburn
Director North



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

What an extraordinary year. Extraordinary often means interesting but sadly in the case of this year it has been anything but interesting. The incompetence and selfishness displayed by our representatives in Parliament, and particularly the ones many of us voted for, is exasperating.

Luckily we, in the rural world, are made of stern stuff, and I genuinely believe that we will cope with whatever Westminster throws at us.

Our President speaks wise words as far as the extension to the Brexit process is concerned:

“While the continued uncertainty is unsettling, this should be balanced against having enough time to nurture a post-Brexit relationship with the EU which delivers as free and frictionless trade as possible. This has to be the ultimate goal.”

For the farmers among us, this seems the ultimate Brexit goal but The Agriculture Bill (if it ever happens) presents ‘extraordinarily interesting’ proposals that, I sense, will mean that many of us will not be so concerned with how we trade. Lamb, beef, wheat or sugar beet may no longer be the products we sell or are encouraged to sell. Public Goods and Natural Capital, which chimes with the CLA's lobbying drive, are what we will have to consider producing and this is where I sense positive changes may emerge.

We will all have to think differently. Think differently about the way we work the land and how and who should be doing it. The traditional landlord and tenant relationships must change and with any luck they will change for the better. The next few years will see the greatest change in the countryside, how it looks and what it produces since the ‘Dig for Victory’ campaign.

Thinking differently is what we must do anyway. Whatever the Agriculture Bill comes up with we need to change to make ourselves an economically resilient and environmentally sustainable sector. Presently we are simply puppets to government policy, which is always badly thought through.

If the Agriculture Bill forces us to think what the consumer really wants to buy and what our land is best suited to produce, that must be a good thing. We can definitely deliver it, the challenge will be getting a government to write coherent and workable policy and the CLA will be fighting tooth and nail on our behalves to make that happen.

Politics

In what has been another tumultuous year – and a continuing source of uncertainty, the CLA welcomed the appointment of Robert Goodwill, MP for Scarborough and Whitby, in replacing former farming minister George Eustice. Given the current political malaise, it is encouraging that another farmer would fill this role.

This year promises three new government policies on the environment, food and forestry. We expect further support in the Environment Bill and new food and forestry strategies to further enhance the important work of landowners and farmers.

The CLA will lobby to ensure that these are designed to promote the production of healthy and affordable food, restore and enhance the environment, and be robust in the face of future challenges to build a sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.

The CLA will press for the future Agriculture Bill to deliver absolute certainty for farmers that the current system of support will continue funding at current levels for at least five years.

Agriculture Bill, ELMS and Farming Support

Last year we published a detailed plan as to how a Land Management Contract (an idea that has now been adopted by Defra as an Environmental Land Management Scheme or ELMS) should be designed and delivered in England as part of a new national agricultural policy once UK farming transitions away from the current system of direct payment under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

As a replacement for the CAP, the draft Agriculture Bill incorporates the CLA's general approach to rewarding farmers and land managers for providing public goods. The detail on how this will work in practice still needs to be finalised.

This policy will only succeed if it is balanced with a clear plan for supporting profitable food production through a transition period and for the long term to ensure sufficient incentive. Our hope is that the Agriculture Bill will take stock of our advice toward its finalisation.

In summer last year, cross-party MPs and Peers celebrated rural businesses at a special reception in the House of Commons hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Rural Business and the CLA.

Rural Crime

Crime Minister Victoria Atkins and cross-party MPs showed their support for the CLA's campaign to stamp out hare coursing at an event in Westminster in October last year. We highlighted the seriousness of this rural crime to MPs, calling for sentencing guidelines specifically related to the crime.

Among those MPs lending their support to stamp out hare coursing were Shadow Minister (Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) David Drew and local Stockton MP Alex Cunningham. The CLA, in partnership with the UK National Wildlife Crime Unit, have created signs encouraging people to report this illegal activity.

Last year, Defra secretary Michael Gove announced a three-month review to strengthen the Government's approach to tackling fly-tipping in England. The CLA has welcomed this call for evidence in finding new ways to crackdown on organised crime in the waste sector.

Incidents of livestock worrying and thefts from farms are continuing to be a problem, and we are working with Police and Crime Commissioners and rural crime units across the North to highlight and address these issues.

Broadband & Connectivity

Bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas is crucial for the rural economy to prosper. The issue of connectivity involves not only fixed line broadband but mobile coverage as well, to ensure the wider benefits are obtained from the digital economy.

Our 4G For All campaign to increase the delivery speed to 4G mobile coverage to rural areas achieved strong cross-party political support across Westminster in 2018. We were delighted by Ofcom's recent announcements that there will be 500 new mobile masts in rural areas, along with greater transparency for consumers, the very first steps to rural roaming.

We will continue to work with the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Rural Business and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to make sure these good intentions are acted upon and that the people who live and work in the countryside get to reap the transformational rewards.

At the Great Yorkshire Show, the CLA North team, working with the Yorkshire Agricultural Society planned a well attended broadband drop-in surgery, hosted by CLA President Tim Breitmeyer.

Housing and Planning

The Government published a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

in Spring last year, but the CLA warned that the changes made to the criteria for Entry Level Exception Sites lack flexibility and thus, prevent a mix of affordable and market homes from being built, severely limiting the chances of solving the rural housing crisis.

A key win for the CLA in the NPPF was getting backing from Government by including flexibility to allow the building of new homes within existing farms to help farmers retire and free up farmhouses to get the next generation into the industry.

The Sustainable Villages – making rural communities fit for the future report, published by the CLA in November last year, found that more than 2,000 villages are missing out on new affordable homes because they are classified as unsuitable for growth by the local planning process.

The report argued that planning criteria must be updated to reflect how people access services in the 21st century and encourages local authorities to be more proactive in identifying the housing needs of small rural communities.

The CLA continues to lobby to ensure that housing, vital to the rural economy, is available to the people that need it most in our countryside.

Northern Farming Conference

Last year's Northern Farming Conference, which the CLA was heavily involved in organising, at Hexham Auction Mart cemented its position as the North's leading ‘muddy boots’ farming conference. It attracted an audience of some 200 farmers and land managers as well as impressive speakers, including former CLA Policy director, Emeritus Professor Allan Buckwell, Head of Agriculture at HSBC Neil Wilson, and farmer Neil Heseltine from Malham.

This year's event, in its tenth year, is due to take place on Wednesday 6 November. Early confirmed speakers include Secretary of State (Defra) Michael Gove and CLA Deputy President Mark Bridgeman, who farms on the Northumberland coast near Alnwick.

Rural Business Conference

The CLA's third annual Rural Business Conference took place at the end of November in Westminster. The event was themed ‘Inspiring Investors’ and showcased how integral landowners are, not just to the economy, but also to the places where they live and work. The conference coincided with at the CLA calling on government to commit to a new Enterprising Countryside Charter.

Our Enterprising Countryside Charter comprises five policies essential to rural business growth post-Brexit and includes strands on better rural connectivity,

new rural enterprise frameworks, improving consistency in the planning system, an update on criteria to determine ‘sustainable village’, and extending the remit of the Minister with responsibility for rural business across both Defra and BEIS.

CLA President Tim Breitmeyer told the 500 industry leaders that government can create a more positive environment for rural businesses giving them the confidence to make the new investments needed to secure a strong future rural economy. The conference also heard from Secretary of State Michael Gove, and a range of industry leaders from across farming.

We can all look forward to the CLA's fourth Rural Business Conference with a working title of Markets of the Future which will explore opportunities of changing and new markets, and how to maximize the use of existing assets. The conference will take place at the QE11 Centre in Westminster on Thursday 28 November.

AGM

Last year's AGM was held in the spectacular setting of Bywell Hall on the River Tyne. Many members attended and Lord Allendale and Wenty's team there was extremely welcoming and generous, going to a great deal of trouble to accommodate the needs of such a large group.

This year's AGM takes place at Chatton Village Hall, and we will also share in an inspiring tour of Doddington North Moor near Wooler, which is currently the biggest tree planting scheme in England for the last 30 years.

Membership

I would like to thank Dorothy and her team at the regional office as well as my fellow committee members for all their hard work in providing an excellent advisory service, along with representing the CLA across the region. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Mark Scandle, the CLA's North East Territory Manager, membership numbers in the North East remain strong at well over 1,000 and we continue to recruit new members.

Retention is more of a challenge during these testing economic times and, once again, I would ask you all to talk about the CLA and the great work we carry out to your friends and colleagues and encourage them to join. The CLA North enews bulletin is a good way of keeping up to date with the latest news, events and information, so please do let the regional office have your email address if you haven't done so already.

William Browne-Swinburne

Booking form for North East AGM

Members are encouraged to book and pay online - visit My CLA on the cla.org.uk website and click on ‘Events’

Member's Name: Membership No:

Guest's Name:

Address: Tel:

Email:

| | Price | Number | |
|----------------------|----------------------|--------|---|
| AGM meeting only | Free | | |
| AGM, lunch and tour. | £30.00 +VAT (£36.00) | | Enclosed cheque for £..... Payable to the CLA |

(Please advise of any special dietary requirements.)

Please return to us no later than **31 May** and send with cheque to: CLA North, Aske Stables, Aske, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL10 5HG.