

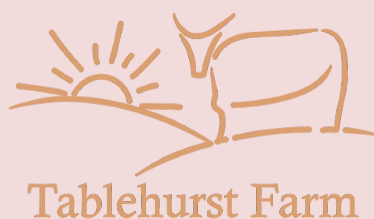
AGM

2023

Saturday, 23rd September, 2023 - 10:00

In person at:

Old Plaw Hatch Farm
Plaw Hatch Lane
Sharpthorne
East Grinstead
RH19 4JL



ATTENDING THE AGM



We are delighted to invite you to the 2023 AGM. Our members can participate by voting on resolutions, hearing presentations, and asking questions.

The Tablehurst and Plaw Hatch Community Farm Limited (The Coop) was born out of a group of dedicated individuals with a clear vision, a keen interest in sustainable farming and boundless love for our local community. The Coop is the owner of Plaw Hatch and Tablehurst, two thriving, award-winning biodynamic/organic farms in the charming village of Forest Row, East Sussex.

Plaw Hatch and Tablehurst are biodynamic farms. The philosophy underpinning Biodynamic Agriculture is that the whole Earth is a living organism and that each farm is an individual organism within it. In common with most biodynamic farms, both Tablehurst and Plaw Hatch are extensive mixed farms, with a balance of animals and crops, a system of recycling, and benign methods of pest and disease control. Biodynamic farming encompasses everything: the underlying rock strata, the soil, the people, the atmosphere, the local flora and fauna, and the cosmic forces acting upon them.

Both farms use specific biodynamic preparations added in minute quantities to soil, compost and growing plants. The farms strive to be self-sustaining, depending largely for their manures and feedstuffs on their own resources. They embody a deeply sustainable approach to farming and land management that is in harmony with Nature, supporting wildlife and a viable, renewable landscape.

We welcome anyone to attend and observe our AGM. To vote, you must be present at the meeting and be a shareholder of at least one Coop Share.

Our Rules (27) state that for AGM decisions to be valid a quorum of Members must be present. Unless amended by Extraordinary Resolution, a quorum shall be 20 Members or 2% of the membership, whichever is the greater.

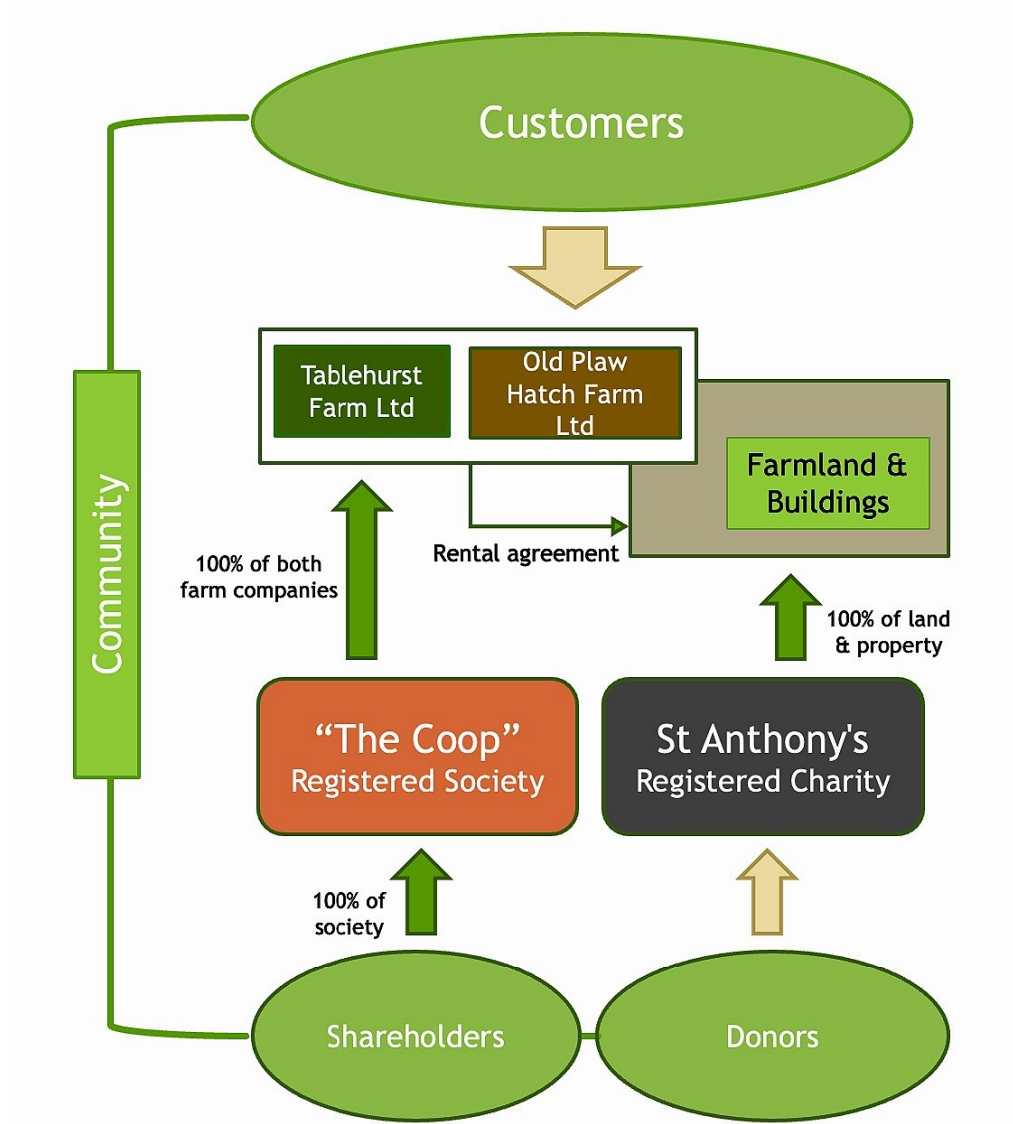
Voting on resolutions and election of members will be on a show of hands. One person, one vote; no proxies.

Join our AGM and find out how our model farms grow food in a planet-friendly way, what we, the Farm Coop, do and why – and how you can get involved in, and experience first-hand this exciting initiative. Member engagement is crucial if we are to effectively continue to support our farms in preserving the future and we look forward to you joining us.

COOP STRUCTURE & PURPOSE

The ownership and management structure of the Coop and the farms is designed to ensure that the farms are safe for biodynamic and community farming in perpetuity:

- The buildings and most of the land used by the farms are owned by St Anthony's Trust.
- The two farm businesses are owned by The Tablehurst and Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd. (The Coop) on behalf of over 800 shareholder members, mainly from the local community. The Coop Committee, elected annually at the September AGM from the shareholder base, sets the broad overall direction of the farm businesses and supports farm projects.
- Each farm is a limited company in its own right and the direction and day-to-day management of the farms is undertaken by the farms' own boards of directors and management teams.



FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & INVESTMENT

On a year-to-year basis, Tablehurst and Plaw Hatch farms have to be financially self-sustaining, including making provisions to replace machinery and maintain their land, yards and buildings. Any capital investment by St Anthony's Trust, such as a new building, can only be financed through the rents that the Trust receives from the farms, through legacies, and through donations from the community.

This presents a considerable challenge for the farmers and their management groups, because the yields per hectare are lower than conventional agriculture, particularly in terms of cereal crops, while the labour required is greater. This is offset to some extent by the price premium that biodynamic food commands, although both farms seek to keep their prices to a minimum viable level, in recognition of their community ownership.



The Coop, alongside the farms and St Anthony's Trust, looks at additional ways of raising capital aiming to support the farms in developing their infrastructure and new farm enterprises and business lines. We are always delighted to hear from anyone with particular expertise in these areas, or who would like to discuss the possibility of investing in the farms.

Community involvement has been the heart of the Coop since it began in 1996. It started in a very practical way when over 500 members of the local community came together and contributed to the provision of working capital to the farms by taking out £100 shares.

Nearly thirty years on, buying Coop shares is still an excellent way to become involved! You can become a Coop member by buying one or more £100 shares; this not only offers you the opportunity to attend the AGM as a voting member, you can also apply to become a member of the Coop Board of Directors, and have even more influence in preserving the future of our local sustainable farming.

Most people treat these shares as a gift to the farms. Many Coop members express the view that the shares they buy represent the best money they have ever spent: your contribution not only symbolises your support for local community small scale farming, but it also ensures the availability of biodynamic produce for all community members and safeguards a healthier, more resilient future for all. Whilst there are no dividends and the shares cannot be sold, becoming a Coop shareholder, besides voting on Coop matters and the opportunity to join the Coop Committee, helps you develop a unique insight into biodynamics through the various farm activities organised throughout the year.

Buy Coop shares and/or make a donation by bank transfer:

You must fill in the Share Application (see next page) and email it to:

The Secretary, contact@tablehurstandplawhatch.co.uk

or post it to:

The Secretary, Tablehurst and Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd., London Road, FOREST ROW, RH18 5DP

If you'd like to discuss a donation, legacy or have other fundraising ideas, please get in touch with The Secretary.

Make a Difference Today - Preserve the future Join the Tablehurst & Plaw Hatch Community by becoming a shareholder

Support our Award-Winning Farms

The Tablehurst & Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd. (The Coop) was born out of a group of dedicated individuals with a clear vision, a keen interest in sustainable farming and boundless love for our local community. We are a Registered Society, fostering an inclusive, sustainable, regenerative community that supports our farmers and land. The Coop Committee is made of volunteer shareholders. We meet regularly to support our farms, and our yearly AGM happens in September, at either Plaw Hatch or Tablehurst. **More info:** www.tablehurstandplawhatch.co.uk/the-coop-committee

Shares in the Coop are £100 each and you can purchase as many shares as you wish, and your money goes into supporting our precious farms. Shares cannot be sold, there are no dividends (any surplus benefits the farms), and each Coop member has one vote regardless of the number of shares purchased. Shareholders can apply to join the Coop Committee, may vote on Coop matters at the AGM, and participate in farm activities and community engagement throughout the year. You can fill in and return the application form below, or you can buy shares on our website. Get in touch for more information: **The Coop Secretary** contact@tablehurstandplawhatch.co.uk

Share Application Form

I would like to apply to become a member of Tablehurst & Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd. Registered Society No. 28403R.

Please fill in the following information in a clear and legible manner:

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I wish to purchase _____ share/s @ £100 each and have made a bank transfer/enclose a cheque for £_____ (or you can give your completed application form and pay cash at one of our farm shops).

Or, I will make ten online monthly payments of £_____ starting on _____ [date].

I wish the name/s to appear as follows on the share certificate/s:

Online payments: Tablehurst & Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd., HSBC, S/c: 40-20-09, A/c: 41311050, using your name as reference.

Cheques payable to: Tablehurst & Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd. Return cheque together with this form, duly completed, to:

The Secretary, Tablehurst & Plaw Hatch Community Farm Ltd, London Rd, Forest Row RH18 5DP.

