



AGM 2023

Saturday, 23rd September, 2023 - 10:00

In person at:

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



OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Robin Evans, Chair

Robin studied Biodynamic Agriculture at Emerson College in 2008. He became Treasurer of the Coop Committee in 2007, held the position of Chair from 2011-16 returning to that role in 2019. Robin, who also served as a director of the Biodynamic Land Trust, specialises in financial and operational risk management. He lives on a farm in East Sussex where he and his partner have established the International Foundation for Equine Assisted Learning.

Elle Fox, Secretary



My family and I have been closely involved with the farms since 2010 and are all Coop shareholders. When we discovered Plaw Hatch and Tablehurst, we moved to Forest Row to be near these two precious farms. I'm a naturopath, academic editor, researcher and author with over 30 years' clinical and research experience and a big passion for helping people with gut and mood health. I volunteer at Tablehurst and help raise funds for farm projects running food education and fermentation workshops in the community.

Peter Morris, Treasurer



Peter and his family have lived in Forest Row for over 40 years. Treasurer of the Coop since 2013, Peter grew up in a small farming village in Lincolnshire, read maths at Imperial and spent his working life as an actuary for the financial services industry, and the regulation of that industry during the latter part of his career, devising and introducing consumer protection rules that apply to over £1 trillion of people's savings.

Amanda MacManus



I moved to Forest Row a couple of years ago, having lived in London for nearly sixty years! I thought the contrast in lifestyle would be a bit of a challenge - not at all; I never looked back. I am keen to support the farms' ethos and help where I can. I have experience working with charities and businesses, arranging events and fundraising activities and particularly enjoy coming up with ideas for marketing.

Andrea Ashton



I have lived near Forest Row for over 30 years. With a background in education I have a passion for holistic education, inclusivity, and community development. I believe in the strength of local, small business and avoid funding large corporations. Having spent much of my youth around mainstream agriculture, I went in search of ethical, organic food production principles. This led me to the wonders that are Plaw Hatch and Tablehurst farms. I have avidly followed how the farms have changed and grown over the years and have enjoyed many farm tours and activities. I was delighted to discover that Tablehurst Farm supports and embraces adults with learning difficulties as part of the farm community.

Chris Andrews



Hi, I'm Chris and I've lived locally for the last 5 years. We fell in love with the area in 2016 after using the farms' amazing biodynamic produce to help my recovery from acute cancer. As a member of the Coop, I'm really looking forward to understanding how the farms' ecosystems run and serving the local community. I come from a Design/Print and property background, so learning something so different is really enjoyable. I've been running my business since 2005 so hopefully I'll be able to provide some decent input going forward.

Edouard Hugo



French, 43yo, father. Moved in Forest Row in 2020. Grew up free-range on a farm. Lived in 22 different homes among 6 countries. Hardcore backpacker and hitch-hiker. Nanotech Engineer and Doctor in Astrophysics. Made my living for the last 13 years mostly as a traditional timber framer and strawbale builder. Into de-growth since the age of 18, I am a Collapsology and Deep Adaptation aficionado. Interested in complex systems and resilience. Non-anthropocentric, utilitarian and community oriented, minimalist, maverick. At the moment looking into building my tiny home on wheels to free myself from the rent spiral. Basketball freak and morning Vipassana meditator.

Jack Woodhead



Jack worked in the Hedge Fund industry in London and Sydney for 17 years and moved to Forest Row in 2019. Jack and his wife set up a Biodynamic Cooperative in the Sydney area in 2016 which continues to run today. He volunteered at both Plaw Hatch and Tablehurst Farms in 2020/2021 in the garden and with the farmers. Jack has a passion for Biodynamic Agriculture and an interest in Anthroposophy; his children attend local Steiner educational programs. Jack is keen to support the financial future and profitability of the farms in balance with their core principles, mission statement and wonderful contribution to the community.

Peter Brinch



"In 1977 -78 I had an opportunity to work on what turned out to be a biodynamic farm outside East Grinstead. I was only there for a short time (the family had to move) but it had a long-lasting effect on me. Later I did a 1-year apprenticeship at Tablehurst farm. I left farming to do other things but returned to the land, focused on horticulture, growing vegetables. I had a long-standing association with Plaw Hatch farm from 1987 til 1998 doing many different jobs on the farm. In 2001 I took on seed development work and have remained associated with the seed world pretty much ever since.