



**Agricultural Law Association**

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**ALA Somerset & Dorset**

**Evening meeting: Visit to Frogmary Green Farm**

**24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 5.00pm**

**Frogmary Green Farm, West Street, South Petherton, Somerset TA13 5DJ**





## Evening meeting: Tour of Frogmary Green Farm – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015

You are invited to join the **ALA Somerset & Dorset Group** Committee and their committee member firms on a farm visit and short lecture on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### The History of Frogmary Green Farm:

Before 1990, Frogmary Green Farm was just green fields but by 1996 Nick and Claire Bragg had three adjoining buildings (grading shed and two coldstores – all for potatoes) and a mobile home. In 2004 they built the farmhouse, a larger potato grading shed, additional coldstore, machinery shed, workshop, weighbridge and started work on the wildlife pond. A further coldstore and an office block were completed in 2006.

Nick and Claire gradually built up the farm business, with the aid of loyal staff producing potatoes on contracts to packing companies who supply two of the main supermarket chains as well as maize and grass leys as fodder for local dairy farmers.

In 2008, they planted the arboretum - approximately 230 trees around the wildlife pond and the farm now boasts around 1,600 new trees in addition to four kilometres of new hedgerows.

In 2009 Nick and Claire hatched plans to launch into chicken production by investing in buildings; two state-of-the-art chicken houses, creating the very best environment for the chickens to be produced to RSPCA Freedom Food standards.

2010 saw the installation of a wood chip boiler which heats the chicken houses and workshop. At the beginning of 2012 the third chicken house was built, adjoining the earlier two, with the addition of a viewing gallery – which is the first in the country! At the end of 2013 and early into 2014 the whole boiler shed and 300kw boiler was moved down to the lower yard, where it was re-erected and the 300kw was re-installed alongside a new 540kw boiler. All three chicken houses, flats (accommodation for staff), workshop, meeting rooms and the cookery school are now heated on woodchip.

In January 2014, the potato coldstores were converted into the Cookery School and Meeting Rooms. This now provides a perfect venue to continue our host's passion for education – moving on from how and where food is grown to being able to go one step further and cook!

Construction work commenced in February 2015 (and is due to be ongoing until late autumn this year) on a 3MW bio digester, which will be fed a diet of grass, whole crop, maize, fodder beet, stock feed potatoes and chicken litter which will produce & supply gas directly to the grid for around 15,000 homes per year.

### Itinerary:

5.00pm	Arrival and registration at the farm's bar
5.30am	Farm Tour with <b>Nick and Claire Bragg</b>
6.30am	Lecture on 'Farm gate price trends and the worldwide market', by <b>Richard Pinney</b> of Mogers Drewett, Sherborne
7.00pm	Dinner and drinks at the bar
8.00pm	Depart

### Cost and Payment:

As a contribution to costs, there is a nominal charge of £15.00 per person (£12.50+VAT). Please send cheques made payable to 'Agricultural Law Association' to: **Philip Hodgkin**, Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, York House, Blackbrook Business Park, Taunton, TA1 2PX; tel: (07595)106758; email: [philip.hodgkin@savills-smithsgore.co.uk](mailto:philip.hodgkin@savills-smithsgore.co.uk).

**The Somerset & Dorset regional organisers are:**

**Beth King-Smith**, Clarke Willmott LLP, Blackbrook Gate, Blackbrook Park Avenue, Taunton, TA1 2PG; tel: (0845)209-1526; email: [beth.king-smith@clarkewillmott.com](mailto:beth.king-smith@clarkewillmott.com)

**Kate Bailey**, Albert Goodman LLP, Mary Street House, Mary Street, Taunton, TA1 3NW; tel: (01823)286096; email: [kate.bailey@albertgoodman.co.uk](mailto:kate.bailey@albertgoodman.co.uk)

**Philip Hodgkin**, Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, York House, Blackbrook Business Park, Taunton, TA1 2PX; tel: (07595)106758; email: [philip.hodgkin@savills-smithsgore.co.uk](mailto:philip.hodgkin@savills-smithsgore.co.uk).

Any of them will be pleased to provide more information about becoming involved with ALA.

**More information about the ALA:**

The ALA was founded in 1975 to provide a forum for professionals serving agriculture (lawyers, surveyors, accountants, bankers, farm business consultants and others) to support each other in their specialism. For more information, visit [www.ala.org.uk](http://www.ala.org.uk)

The regional groups cater for practitioners at a local level:

- by providing a source of continuing professional development for those in rural businesses
- by encouraging the development of working relationships by inter-professional networking

***ALA is grateful to Nick and Claire Bragg for hosting this visit  
and  
Richard Pinney of Mogers Drewett for kindly speaking at this event***