EAST REGION MEMBERS’ SUMMER VISITS AND COUNTY AGMS 2017

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1  EVENT DETAILS
I would like to apply for (please tick). You are welcome to attend any branch
AGM but places will first be allocated to members of that county branch

- 26 April  Stow Maries Aerodrome (Essex)  £25
-  4 May    Hackthorn Estate (Lincolnshire)  £25
- 10 May    Somerleyton Estate (Suffolk)    £30
- 12 May    Benington Lordship (Hertfordshire)  £30
- 16 May    Althorp Estate (Northamptonshire)  £30
- 19 May    Wiveton Hall (Norfolk)  £30
- 23 May    Renishaw Estate (Nottinghamshire)  £30
- 25 May    Southill Estate (Beds & Cambs)  £30

2  YOUR DETAILS

Name

CLA Membership No.

County branch

Address

Email

Name of Guest(s)

Dietary Requirements

3  PAYMENT DETAILS (Please tick payment option)

☐ I enclose a cheque for £_______ made payable to CLA Ltd

☐ I have made an online bank transfer for £_______

Account name: CLA general account
Account number: 23185809  Sort Code: 16 00 15
Please use ‘East AGM’ as the reference

RETURN TO  CLA East, The Court, Lanwades Business Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7PN
Nb. There is no online booking system available this year. No tickets will be sent – if you supply your
email address you will be sent a reminder and other details nearer the time.
Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome was established in September 1916 as a base for B Flight, 37 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps. It is the most complete World War I Aerodrome in Europe and contains 24 of the original buildings built to house aircraft, pilots and support staff. These buildings are currently undergoing a sympathetic conservation project with the aim of conserving the buildings that are still standing and replacing those that have been lost. The site was not used in World War II, and as these buildings lay sleeping the wildlife moved in. Stow Maries Aerodrome is now home to an abundance of wildlife and, throughout the year, can boast sightings of all five species of native owl.

Russell Savory, Aerodrome and Ecology Manager, is the resident wildlife expert and has often been filmed on site for BBC Springwatch and Winterwatch with the site’s owls and water voles.

**ITINERARY**

10am  
Tea, coffee and cake served in the Officers’ Mess

10.30am  
Essex AGM in the Officers’ Mess

11.10am  
Welcome and overview from Russell Savory, Aerodrome and Ecology Manager

11.30am  
Guided walking tour of the aerodrome, discussing the history of the site, planning and access issues, educational programmes, environmental and land management matters and future site development. Opportunity to view World War I planes in action

1pm  
Lunch with wine in the Officers’ Mess

2.15pm  
Opportunity to view the Museum and Shop

**ADDRESS**

Stow Maries Aerodrome  
Hackmans Lane  
Purleigh  
Near Maldon  
Essex  
CM3 6RN

Follow directions which can be found on the Stow Maries website
The Hackthorn Estate was formed following the reformation and dissolution of the monasteries, and has remained in the Cracroft family since the early 1600’s.

The 2,300 acre estate comprises arable farming, amenity woodland, 44 let houses and a magnificent grade 1 listed Palladian Villa set in historic gardens and parkland. Our hosts, William and Maggie Cracroft-Eley, face the challenge of ensuring that the Estate remains commercially relevant and secure for the next generation. As co-owners of Flagleaf Farming, the family have introduced innovative farming practices to reduce costs and improve performance, and combat herbicide resistance by strategic use of the perennial energy crop, miscanthus, as well as building new cottages in place of old. These areas will be covered in the Estate Tour in the morning on tractors and trailers, with the opportunity to view the magnificent church and gardens after lunch.

**ITINERARY**

10am Refreshments and registration in Hackthorn Hall
10.30am Lincolnshire AGM
11.10am Welcome and overview of Estate Business from the Cracroft-Eley family
11.30am Tour of the estate on tractors and trailers. Return to Hackthorn Hall via St Michael’s Church.
1pm Lunch served in the dining room in Hackthorn Hall
2.30pm Opportunity to wander around gardens and kitchen garden at your leisure
The Somerleyton Estate has been in the Crossley family since 1863, when it was purchased by Sir Francis Crossley from the son of Samuel Morton Peto. Today Somerleyton Hall is home to Lord and Lady Somerleyton and their young family.

The estate comprises 5,000 acres with a mix of agricultural land, parkland, woodland and a two mile stretch of water known as Fritton Lake. There are 130 residential properties, 3,000 farmed acres and 100 employees.

The main hall and formal gardens have recently been restored to their former glory and are both opened to the public at various times throughout the year. The estate also features The Fritton Arms pub and restaurant with its boutique bedrooms, and The Dukes Head pub on the River Waveney – both serving food with much of the produce either raised or grown on the estate. An exclusive development of Fritton Lake Retreat cabins are also being sold as holiday homes.

**ITINERARY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.20am</td>
<td>Short walk through the gardens for refreshments and registration in the Winter Garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Suffolk AGM in the Loggia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.45am</td>
<td>Welcome and overview of estate and business from Lord Somerleyton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Walking tour of house and tractor and trailer tour of Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.15pm</td>
<td>Lunch in the Loggia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Tour of gardens with Somerleyton head gardener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30pm</td>
<td>Depart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADDRESS**

Somerleyton Hall
Lovingland
Suffolk
NR32 5QQ
The Lordship Estate consists of an 1100 acre arable farm with 280 acres of permanent pasture and 180 acres of hornbeam coppice. For the last five years the crops have been established using a no-till system, with the aim of increasing soil organic matter and developing a more profitable and sustainable way of farming. The meadows are grazed with a 40 head suckler herd and we are in the process of developing a system of rotational grazing. The woodlands are coppiced, after a fifty year break, to provide firewood for the estate. All the land was in HLS until November 2016 and the estate hopes to be accepted into a Mid-Tier scheme in 2017.

Two redundant farmyards have been converted to business units, each with a PV array; there is an airstrip and outlying meadows are let for horse grazing. Ex farm-workers cottages are let and the gardens at the Lordship are open for snowdrops and a chilli festival as well as being used as a location for films and photo shoots.

**ITINERARY**

10am Refreshments and registration in The Barn at Finches Farm
10.30am Welcome and overview of the farm business from members of the Bott family
11am Tractor and trailer tour to view airstrip, aircraft hangar, cattle (rotational grazing) and environmental issues – plus a stop to discuss direct drilling, cover crops and other land management matters
12.30pm Return to The Barn for a two course lunch with wine
1.30pm Hertfordshire and Middlesex AGM
2.15pm Visit Benington Lordship Gardens

**ADDRESS**

Finches Farm
Town Lane
Benington
SG2 7LA

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
Althorp House was built in 1508, by the Spencers, for the Spencers, and that is how it has remained for over 500 years. It is set in a tranquil walled, 550-acre parkland – part of the wider 13,000-acre estate. Althorp is the essence of Englishness – understated yet impressive, traditional but relevant, a historic house but also a warm and much-loved family home.

The Estate encompasses cottages, farms, woodlands and villages, which combine to give a rich mix of landscapes, habitats and activities. The management of the Estate seeks to balance commercially based activity, with good stewardship of the landscape, wildlife conservation and recognition that the countryside is increasingly used for leisure, recreation and sport. The aim is to promote a thriving rural environment, which makes a positive contribution to the local economy.

The management team is based at Althorp and covers a range of disciplines including property letting, forestry, farming, accountancy, maintenance, events, gardening, marketing, housekeeping and game-keeping.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Refreshments and registration in the Saloon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Northamptonshire AGM in the State Dining Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.10am</td>
<td>Welcome from, Nigel Shields, Estate Director, giving an overview of Estate business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Estate tour on coaches to view areas such as development, urban fringe issues, the village and the grain store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Two course lunch with wine served in the State Dining room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Guided tours of the House – and opportunity to visit shop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**ADDRESS**

Althorp Estate  
Northampton  
NN7 4HQ
Wiveton Hall was built in 1652 by a merchant when nearby Cley and Blakeney were thriving ports. It had an Edwardian heyday when the house was enlarged as was the fashion of the day.

During the last 100 years the cycles affecting East Anglian agriculture and land use have been emulated on the 250 acres at Wiveton Hall. The arable land is share farmed; the marsh and shelter belts have been managed with conservation and a family shoot in mind.

Today the main source of revenue is the popular Wiveton Hall Café in a renovated barn overlooking the coastal marshes, and holiday accommodation in refurbished farm cottages. The walled kitchen garden growing vegetables, herbs and flowers for the café is open to the public during the summer. 2016 saw an enormous increase in visitors thanks to Normal for Norfolk – an observational documentary following life at Wiveton Hall.

Between the wars, like many large houses, Wiveton Hall employed eight gardeners plus numerous other employees in the house and on the farm. For 20 years the place was managed with one all-round farm hand but now it employs up to 40 full and part time staff during the summer.

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<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Registration and refreshments in the Wiveton Hall Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11am</td>
<td>Norfolk AGM in the West Wing of Wiveton Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.45am</td>
<td>Welcome and overview from owner, Desmond MacCarthy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 noon</td>
<td>Walking tours of the house, kitchen garden and grounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to discuss tourism, Wiveton's soft fruit enterprise,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>environmental issues, planning permission and the conversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>of old listed buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1pm</td>
<td>Two course lunch with wine in the Wiveton Hall Café</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.15pm</td>
<td>Opportunity to visit the shop, walk on the marshes or depart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADDRESS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wiveton Hall</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wiveton,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holt, Norfolk</td>
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<tr>
<td>NR25 7TE</td>
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</tbody>
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**IN ASSOCIATION WITH**

- Birketts
- Wilson Wraight
Renishaw Hall is a house of special character. It is a much-loved family house with a long and surprising history. In some ways it is typical of so many country houses, growing as it does from a 17th Century house with large additions in the late Georgian period. But Renishaw could never be called typical. The survival of the house as a family home, through the uncertain years of the 1960s and 70s when so many landed families sold the old mansion house and dispersed their collections, owes much to the character, determination and style of Alexandra’s parents, Sir Reresby and Lady Sitwell, who took over the property in 1965. Sir Reresby (7th BT) died in 2009, but his spirit and reputation as a host survives. The house and estate are now run by Alexandra and her husband, Rick Hayward, and they have already made their own improvements to the comfort and elegance of the house.

HHA & Christie’s Garden of the Year 2015.

**ITINERARY**

- **10am** Refreshments and registration in Renishaw Hall
- **10.30am** Nottinghamshire AGM in the Dining Room
- **11.15am** Welcome and overview of estate business from Tim Shuldham and Struan McDougall, Fisher German
- **11.30am** Walking and coach tours to view the vineyard, willow coppice, restored open cast coal mine and biomass boilers
- **1pm** Two course lunch with wine in The Café at Renishaw Hall
- **2.30pm** Guided house and garden tours

**ADDRESS**

Renishaw Hall
Renishaw
Derbyshire
S21 3WB

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

[Images of sponsors logos]
The Southill Estate is owned by a number of Trusts, the principle beneficiary being Mr Charles Whitbread, who is a descendant of Samuel Whitbread I, who purchased the Estate in 1795 from Lord Torrington. The house was remodelled by Henry Holland between 1796 and 1808 and is Grade 1 listed. A major refurbishment of the house was carried out between 1987 and 1993.

The Estate covers approximately 11,000 acres, which includes 3,200 acres being farmed in-hand and approximately 5,300 acres being tenanted under the Agricultural Holdings Act and Farm Business Tenancies. There are 1,000 acres of woodlands (270 acres let to the Forestry Commission) and 1,500 acres of miscellaneous land that includes 260 cottages, 200 commercial units, parkland, playing fields and village greens.

The Estate is divided into various departments that include the in-hand farm, building, woods, game, office, garage and gardens. The main source of income is rental from residential, agricultural and commercial property plus the in-hand farm. There are a number of alternative enterprises operating as part of the Estate business including the development of land and redundant buildings, mineral extraction, PV, fishing, livery, a builders merchant, grazing, stalking, and farm shop.

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10am</td>
<td>Refreshments and registration in Marquee adjacent to Cricket Club pavilion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.30am</td>
<td>Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire AGM in Marquee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.15am</td>
<td>Overview and welcome from Charles Whitbread</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Coach tour of Estate to view parkland, farmland and habitat management and woodland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.15pm</td>
<td>Two course lunch with wine served in the Marquee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30pm</td>
<td>Depart or wander around garden at leisure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ADDRESS**

Southill Park
Southill
Biggleswade
Bedfordshire
SG18 9LJ

Directions: On arrival at Southill Park, follow directions to the Cricket Club and park as indicated.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

[Images of Savills and Hewitsons]
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  - www.terravesta.com

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- Mills & Reeve
  - www.mills-reeve.com

- Wilson Wraith
  - www.wilsonwraith.co.uk
1. Opening remarks by Branch President
2. Apologies for absence
3. To confirm the minutes of the 2016 AGM
4. To receive and adopt the Annual Report
5. Elections
6. To discuss matters raised by members

Nominations for election to committees and matters for AGMs should be sent in writing to the regional office or to east@cla.org.uk two weeks prior to the date of each annual meeting.

All members are welcome to attend any branch visit subject to space – in some circumstances – preference will be given to members of that county branch. You may only vote at your own county AGM.

You are welcome to bring non-CLA members as your guests, subject to space.

All bookings must be paid for in advance to secure your place.
CLA East looks after the following counties:

Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Essex
Hertfordshire
Lincolnshire
Middlesex
Norfolk
Northamptonshire
Nottinghamshire
Suffolk

CLA East
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E: east@cla.org.uk

Front cover picture by Russell Savory taken at Stow Maries Aerodrome