



## WRITERS' TOUR of southern ENGLAND

celebrating **Houses and Gardens** with **literary** (or American) associations

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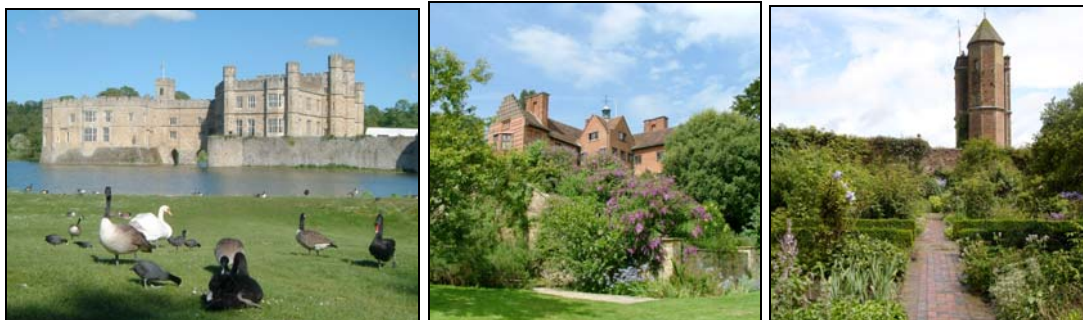
MAY 5 - 9, 2009

Day 1: Meet at London Airport. To **Cliveden** - the home of the 'fabulous Astors', where Profumo met Keeler. 19th century House by Barry (who designed the Palace of Westminster), stunning position on the only cliff by the Thames, and beautiful Italianate garden. Short river trip to see the house from the water. Thence drive to Chichester. Local sites in City - **Cathedral, Pallant House Art Gallery, St Mary's Hospital**. Dinner in hotel.



CLIVEDEN; LADY ASTOR BY SARGENT; CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

Day 2: **Leeds Castle**, Kent. 900 years of history, the castle being at various times a Royal Residence, a near-ruin, and the home of Lady Baillie who in the early 20th Century restored it with American money. **Chartwell**, Churchill's home, preserved with all the great man's artefacts and paintings, with a lovely garden and marvellous views of the Kent countryside.



LEEDS CASTLE; CHARTWELL; SISSINGHURST

Thence to **Sissinghurst Castle** and Garden. The Tudor house and tower were restored in the early 20th Century by Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West, who created the garden from a chicken farm. Dinner at the Goodwood Club, owned by the Earl of March, eldest son of the Duke of Richmond, whose seat Goodwood House is visible from the Course.



CHARLESTON; MONK'S HOUSE; LAMB HOUSE

**Day 3: Charleston Farmhouse**, the country retreat of the Bloomsbury Group. Lovingly restored and maintained. Where the Bells, Clive and Vanessa, lived with their two boys, where Duncan Grant painted, and Lytton Strachey and the Woolfs visited. **Monk's House**, Virginia Woolf's house nearby. Lunch at the 500 year old *Mermaid Inn*. Visit to nearby **Lamb House**, in picturesque Rye, the 18th century home of Henry James from 1898-1916, and home also to the writers E. F. Benson and Rumer Godden. Charming walled garden and display of James's personal possessions. Afterwards to **Bateman's**, the home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902 to 1936. **Firle Place**, the home of the Gage family - General Gage was the British Commander-in-Chief at the time of Bunker Hill. Dinner at country pub.



BATEMAN'S; JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSE AT CHAWTON

**Day 4:** Jane Austen's 17th century house at **Chawton**, near Alton, Hampshire. She spent the last eight years of her life, and wrote some of her best work, here - it is now preserved in her memory. No trip to this part of England should miss **Winchester Cathedral** (the longest nave in England) and historic **Winchester College**, founded by William of Wykham before America was discovered. Afterwards visit the medieval almshouse of the **Hospital of St Cross**, where men of letters have lived in simple comfort for centuries. To Brighton, popularised by Prinky (the Prince Regent, later George IV) and his astounding, and extravagant, **Brighton Pavilion**, a feast of Indian and Chinese frippery. Then to **Petworth**, built by the Duke of Somerset in the 17th century, now the seat of Lord Egremont, and forever associated with 'Capability' Brown, Turner and Grinling Gibbons. Dinner in Chichester.



ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON; PETWORTH; ST. CROSS

Day 5: Airport.

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The tour will be guided by a noted horticultural expert, and historian. Fly to and from London Heathrow, travel by small comfortable mini-bus.

**\$2500 per person excluding flights.**

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THE BLOOMSBURY GROUP MEET [Vanessa Bell]



THE DINING ROOM AT CHARLESTON, AS IT WAS AND IS