

PRESS RELEASE  
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## Excitement grows as The Country Trust organise farm visits to Essex for children from Tower Hamlets.

Children from Woolmore Primary School in Tower Hamlets, east London will get their first ever trip to a working farm on **Thursday 26 November 2015**. They will be visiting Tiptree Farm in Essex, where fruit for the famous Wilkins & Sons Tiptree jam is grown. The visit has been organised by leading national education charity, The Country Trust, with support from Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation, specifically to develop a programme of farm visits for schools from Tower Hamlets.

Year 3 children will learn where food comes from and how it is grown and produced, linking with their national curriculum studies. Gillian Drinkwater, Senior Teacher at Woolmore Primary School says *"We know how important it is to give children the opportunity to learn in different contexts and, in particular, different landscapes. Our farm visit will teach children about the natural environment as well as enable them to identify and name different types of food grown at the farm. From a social point of view it also provides an opportunity to meet different people and experience farm life"*.

This is the first time The Country Trust has worked with Wilkins & Sons to host a farm visit. Sharon Roberts, Country Trust Farm Visit Co-ordinator for Essex and Kent has been working hard to ensure the visit is a huge success. Sharon says *"The farm is amazing! They have 75 different varieties of fruit and the visit will tie in with the children's topic of learning where food comes from. The tour of the farm will take place on a purpose built 40 seat tractor trailer with Anton Thurgood, Commercial Manager and Andrey Ivanov, Farm Manager, explaining all about the different fruit grown and the farming methods used. It will be a great experience for the children who have never been to a working farm before and for some, it will be their first time in the countryside"*.

During the course of the day the children will also have time to explore the purpose built maze (in the shape of a strawberry) and after lunch will spend time learning about the history of the farm in the on-site farm museum. Each child will each receive sample jams to take home and eat with their family. Anton Thurgood, Commercial Manager at Tiptree Farm says *"We are really excited to be working with The Country Trust and showing off the farm to the children. We are immensely proud of the fruit we grow, and we have more varieties than ever before, so the children will have an amazing time learning about what we do"*.

Richard Foley Chief Executive, Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation which has generously provided a grant to support a number of farm visits, commented *"This will be the first of many visits and we are looking forward to hearing about the positive difference they make to the lives of inner-city children, who would not normally have the opportunity to visit the countryside"*.

If you would like to know more about the work of The Country Trust or become a supporter, go to [www.countrytrust.org.uk](http://www.countrytrust.org.uk)

-Ends-

## Editors' notes

Photo and interview opportunities will take place at:

**Date:** Thursday 26 November **Time:** tbc

Wilkin and Sons Ltd,  
Factory Hill  
Tiptree,  
Essex  
CO5 0RF

Please go to the office reception

For more information, please contact Sharon Roberts on [sroberts@countrytrust.org.uk](mailto:sroberts@countrytrust.org.uk) or call 01277 413966/07950 795096

## About The Country Trust

- The Country Trust is a national educational charity (registered with the Charity Commission, no. 1122103) that has been organising and conducting educational day and residential visits to the countryside for nearly 40 years.
- The Country Trust enable approximately 25,000 children each year, in some of the country's most disadvantaged urban areas, to experience high quality educational excursions to farms, estates, woodlands, nature reserves and rural businesses.
- The Country Trust makes no charge for its services and depends on the help of generous supporters and a network of host farmers, staff and volunteers.
- With the help of people living and working in the countryside, children enjoy learning through experiencing activities in the great outdoors. The form of expeditions is a flexible, but carefully planned programme that is safe, educational and fun. Topics link into many different aspects of the curriculum, such as science, geography, history, mathematics and literacy. Children also improve their listening skills, and ability to cooperate with others in a team.
- To visit a farm and see lambs born; build a den in a forest; see cows milked or walk through a field of golden wheat has a profound and lasting effect on children who may have never left the city before. They realise that the world is bigger and quite different from where they live and this helps to increase their knowledge and understanding.
- The more exposure urban children can get to the world outside the cities the more likely they are to care about what happens to the environment and the rural economy that supports and conserves it. With this in mind, the Trust's excursions are designed to present a balanced view of the countryside in all its guises.

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## About Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation

- Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation is an independent education charity operating in the City of London and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- Established for nearly 120 years, the charity is an amalgamation of three much older trusts that were founded by Sir Samuel Starling (1675); Anthony Death (1679); Alderman James Hickson (1686) to provide funds for education or trade training for young people from the City of London and East End.