



WEST LODGE PARK
YOUR COUNTRY RETREAT

Beale Arboretum News - Autumn 2013

Incredible as it may seem, the **Beale Arboretum is now 50 years old**. Founded in 1963 by Edward Beale with the help of Frank Knight and Derek Honour, the arboretum has grown in maturity and in reputation over the five decades with the help of a team of dedicated gardeners and now boasts two Plant Heritage national collections (*Carpinus betulus* cv and *Taxodium*) as well as over 800 species of trees from around the world.



To celebrate our first half century we are planting a **Sequoiadendron giganteum (Giant Redwood) avenue** up the top field with 50 trees. This will look very fine when we reach our centenary as the redwoods grow at about a foot a year and will ultimately reach over 130' high. Pictured here are (L-R) Andrew Beale, Managing Director, Paul Baynes, Head Gardener, and Grant Cook, Estates Manager with some of the Sequoias being planted out.

Our **National Gardens Scheme Autumn Open Day** in the Beale Arboretum was held on the 20th October. 95 people braved the torrential rain, raising almost £400 for the different charities of the NGS. The 2014 NGS open day dates have now been set as Sunday 18th May 2-5pm and Sunday 26th October 1-4pm – the forecast says that both days will be blessed with blue skies and a light breeze !



(Before)



(After)

The **St Judes Storm** on 28th October proved to be disastrous for our much loved specimen *Taxodium distichum*, well over 100 years old, and formerly with a beautiful rocket shape. It is pictured here before and after the storm.



A final decision on what to do is yet to be taken. However we do have several other specimens of *T. distichum* in the arboretum (*pic right*), as well as a fine national collection of *Taxodium*.



New signage and labelling around the Beale Arboretum is a constant task, as we try to ensure that our visitors have a maximum amount of information to hand.



The Beale Arboretum team (Paul Baynes, Paul Akers, Grant Cook and Andrew Beale) paid a visit to **Winkworth Arboretum** in search of inspiration and new ideas. The arboretum at Winkworth has beautiful autumnal colour, spread over a steep Surrey hillside to show off the trees to maximum effect. Despite pouring wet conditions, we were impressed with the natural planting with many mature and exotic trees.

New trees being planted out this autumn season (in addition to the 50 sequoias !) include :

- Sorbus caloneura
- Sorbus wardii
- Acer circinatum
- Ilex crenata fastigiata
- Larix kaempferi Jacobsen
- Cercis siliquastrum White Swan
- Cercis siliquastrum Ruby Falls

The Arboretum gallery at <http://www.bealeshotels.co.uk/gallery/wlp/arboretum/> has benefitted from the addition of dozens of high quality new images by one of our regular visitors Peter Vangeen.

If you are interested in **planting a commemorative tree** in the grounds this autumn, perhaps to celebrate the life of a loved one, or for a special occasion, please contact Grant Cook, Estates Manager on grantcook@bealeshotels.co.uk or 07973 538254



If you are interested in putting together a group for a **guided tour** of the Beale Arboretum, please contact Jane Gray - headoffice@bealeshotels.co.uk or 0208 216 3904 - Tours are free of charge midweek and £2.50 per person at the weekend.

If you are interested in **volunteering** for work in the Beale Arboretum, in exchange for a range of benefits at West Lodge Park Hotel, please contact Grant Cook, Estates Manager on grantcook@bealeshotels.co.uk or 07973 538254.

Andrew Beale - Managing Director
The Beale Arboretum
West Lodge Park
Cockfosters Road
Hadley Wood
Herts EN4 0PY

<http://www.bealeshotels.co.uk/westlodgemark/gardens/>