



WEST LODGE PARK
YOUR COUNTRY RETREAT



Beale Arboretum

Lockdown News ~ January 2021

The Beale Arboretum is currently in deep freeze as I write, during this latest national lockdown. You are welcome to come along to the Beale Arboretum during the lockdown and walk around, there is always something new to see and we are serving takeaway teas and coffees in the bar.

Who would have thought a year ago that we would go through such hard times?

And yet nature is teaching us as ever to be patient, and the trees thrive despite the gloomy news.



The **Sequoia Avenue** is doing well just eight years since planting – giant redwoods seem to like the conditions in Hadley Wood – this is the only wild grown Sequoia Avenue in the country from seedlings collected by Martin Gardner in Northern California.

The lake at West Lodge Park is also doing well as an ecosystem, currently topped up and frozen. The koi carp and large goldfish have multiplied during the quiet conditions of the past year. The overflowing waters provide moisture to our swamp cypresses (*Taxodium distichum*, and *Taxodium ascendens*).



In winter we are particularly grateful to have a large number of evergreen species in the arboretum including **Ilex** (hollies), **Sequoia sempervirens** (Coast redwood) and **Cupressus macrocarpa** (Monterey cypress)



The **Tilia avenue** of mature lime trees is both a blessing and a curse. It defines the arboretum and the hotel of course, and in spring when bursting into full leaf the limes are a wonderful colour. But they do demand a lot of work by us, in all seasons, with falling branches

in winter, sticky sap in summer, and flowers and leaves that need clearing up at all times.



Sciadopitys verticillata or the Japanese umbrella pine is a living fossil with no known relatives, and dating back 230 million years in the fossil records. Instead of leaves or needles, it has “cladodes” which look particularly attractive against the snow

Picea abies ‘Acrocona’ is a feature of all our arboretum tours, due to the unusual location of the cones on the end of the branches. Although spring currently feels a long way off, it will come, and then this tree produces the most wonderful pink cones.



The **NGS Garden Open Days** are on May 9th and October 24th 2021 and we are optimistic of being able to hold both this year.

Arboretum tours with myself start on 8th April and run through to the 27th October 2021, and it is such a pleasure to welcome you along to see the Beale Arboretum at very different times of the year.

Keep safe and well during these troubling times, and it would be a pleasure to welcome you to the Beale Arboretum at West Lodge Park soon.



Andrew Beale ~ Managing Director

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 020 8216 3904 - Tours are free of charge midweek and £3.50 per person at the weekend.

The Beale Arboretum
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www.westlodgepark.co.uk/arboretum/