



Beale Arboretum News Winter 2026

I am so regularly reminded that it is only us gardeners who appreciate all this rain we are having but the benefits to the Arboretum are immense. Having the chance to restore naturally the ground water levels will sustain good growth for the up-and-coming season. So hoorah!

Accessions Policy

For a few years now, national press has brought up the subject of drought resistance and many of us have been asked what plants we should be planting for the future to sustain a robust, healthy plant stock. The Beale Arboretum is no different and so it is now the intention to research and subsequently plant trees and shrubs that have a greater tolerance of the more extreme conditions we are all experiencing. It has always been key that we understand fully our plants, the soils they grow in, and their growth habits but now we need to be understanding of the climactic tolerances too. Luckily, many plants have inbuilt tolerances which we can learn and accommodate too.

Feature Plant

Christmas is now a distant memory but not quite so in the Arboretum where the **holly bushes** continue to provide cover and colour well into the spring. The Arboretum's **fine collection of Ilex** brings interest for the visitors and exemplifies the differences available for planting in any garden.

Here are three that are looking good now.



Arboretum Plan

For a long time now there has been an intention to **update and reimagine the main Arboretum Plan** in the hotel Reception. The old plan has stood us in good stead but sadly a number of the trees featured are no longer extant, so Andrew brought together a group to work on correcting its contents and modernising its look. This is now very close to completion and will soon be hanging on the wall for all to see.

The gardens team of Paul and Mark have been busy planting out a large number of new trees in the arboretum, these include:

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| Sciadopitys verticillata x 2 | Tilia kiusiana |
| Picea breweriana | Gymnocladus dioica |
| Sequoia gig. Beautiful Jop | Quercus volcanica 'Kasnak' |
| Liquidambar styraciflua 'Thea' | Tetracentron sinense |
| Hebes | Chamaecyparis obtuse 'Nana Gracilis' |
| Carpinus betulus 'Horizontalis' | Chonanthus refusus |
| Styrax shiraianus | Juglans ailantifolia |
| Aesculus x 4 | Acer sempervirens |
| Pinus Armandii Franch | Lithocarpus pachyphyllus |
| Disanthus cercidifolium AGM | Carpinus betulus 'Rockhampton Red' |
| Juglans cinerea 'Bitter Nut' | Magnolia stellata 'Waterlilly' |
| Hammamelis intermedia 'Arnold Promise' | Magnolia 'Daphne' |
| Cornus kousa 'Wolf Eyes' AGM | Acer davidii 'Viper' |
| Magnolia denudata | Sequoiadendron giganteum 'Greenpeace' |
| Magnolia 'Vulcan' | Sequoiadendron giganteum 'Cannibal' |
| Chionanthus Virginicus | Sequoiadendron giganteum 'Healthy Mammoth 1' |
| Acer palmatum 'Trompenburg' | Sequoiadendron giganteum 'Healthy Mammoth 3' |
| Acer palmatum 'Orange Dream' | Tetrapanax papyrifera AGM x 3 |
| Poliiothyrsis sinensis x 2 | Magnolia delavayi |

New Arboretum Feature

As part of the Arboretum's continuing evolution, it is planned to **refurbish the shrubbery currently called the Privet Bed**. There is a fine stand of **Scots Pine** with a formal hedge behind which lends itself well to the planting of a collection of **dwarf-growing conifers** in front. A wide and interesting selection of types available according to growth habit and colour which will contrast suitably with the increasing Magnolia collection across footpath. Once established, these will be underplanted with seasonal bulbs for additional colour.

On that subject, **spring and summer flowering bulbs**, predominantly fragrant white ones, have been planted recently around the main house to add extra interest for the hotel's guests. These include **Nerine, Acidanthera and Polyanthes**.

NGS Garden Open Day

As is our tradition, we will be fully involved with the **National Garden Scheme** again this year where we provide group guided tours throughout the afternoons. As ever we look forward to meeting a wide range of enthusiasts and showing them the fine collection of trees that has been built up over many years.

DATES: Sunday 17th May NGS Spring Garden Open Day 2-5pm
Sunday 25th October NGS Autumn Garden Open Day 1-4pm

as well as numerous arboretum tours with Andrew Beale [Chairman and Managing Director] starting in March and finishing in November – check out dates in our 2026 Special Events brochure.

Mark Lane CVO

Consultant to Beale Arboretum

If you are interested in putting together a group for a **guided tour** of the Beale Arboretum, please contact Jane Gray- janegrays@bealeshotels.co.uk or 020 8216 3904.

The Beale Arboretum

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www.westlodgepark.co.uk/arboretum/