



Beale Arboretum News Spring 2026

Crab Apples



After a wet and warm winter, the **Crab Apples (Malus)** are currently looking stunning – we have around 40 varieties, and in order to pick the best one for you, it is important to visit the Beale Arboretum in both spring and autumn conditions, for you to see what the spring blossom and autumn fruits look like. However you will be rarely disappointed, and these are very hardy small trees with two great seasons. [pics left and below]



Winter Planting

We have been busy planting out dozens of trees during the winter season. Look out for enhanced collections of **Magnolia, Sequoiadendron, Cornus, Acer, Carpinus, and Juglans**. All are labelled and looking great in the spring sunshine.



Major Tree Works

Thanks to our aptly named tree surgeon Andy Gardener, we have removed a huge but ageing *Thuja orientalis* (Western Red Cedar), as well as a diseased *Picea omorika* and a reverting variegated Leyland cypress – pictured left is our Gardens team of Paul Baynes and Mark Field with the *Thuja* gap!

Wood Piles

Linked to the previous paragraph you will see an increasing number of wood piles around the arboretum. Instead of clearing all dead wood, we are leaving in situ for insects which then encourages increasing numbers of birds and bats.



Disease Resistant Elms

Our wonderful Arboretum Consultant Mark Lane CVO runs the charity Elms4London and has organised the planting of disease resistant elms in all of London's parks and open spaces. Here he is with *Ulmus lutece*, thriving in the grounds of the Beale Arboretum. Other new elms include *U. Sapporo 'Autumn Gold'*, *U. Columella*, and *U. minor 'Ademuz'*.

Arboretum Tours

I would encourage everyone to join an arboretum tour with myself to fully understand the activity in the Beale Arboretum. You can have lunch or afternoon tea in the Mary Beale restaurant and get me for free!

Tours are approximately every two weeks, and more information can be found on <https://www.westlodgepark.co.uk/shop/Arboretum-Tour-and-Lunch-or-Afternoon-Tea-Spring-p374616424>

National Garden Scheme Spring Open Day

Come along on **Sunday 17th May 2-5pm** in aid of the National Garden Scheme to visit the Beale Arboretum in all its spring glory. Tours by Mark Lane CVO, Andrew Beale and Paul Baynes.

<https://www.westlodgepark.co.uk/shop/Garden-Open-Day-Sunday-17th-May-p427737635>

New Arboretum Map

We have worked on the first new Arboretum map in 30 years, and the result is a very smart map which encapsulates the key features of the Beale Arboretum.

https://belearboretum.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/03_The_Beale_Arboretum_Map1_DIGITAL-scaled.jpg



Andrew Beale

Chairman & Managing Director

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

The Beale Arboretum

West Lodge Park- Cockfosters Road- Hadley Wood- Herts- EN4 0PY

www.westlodgepark.co.uk/arboretum/