

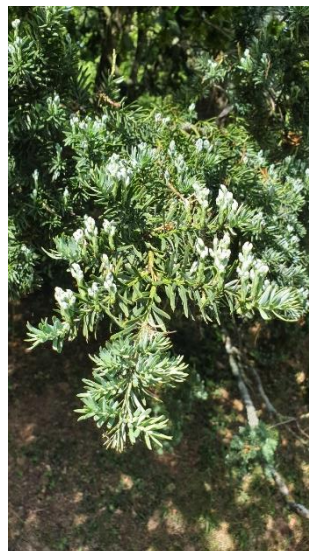


This being the summer edition, it would be impossible to get away without mentioning the hot weather we have all been experiencing lately. With temperatures outdoors exceeding the mid-30s degrees centigrade, you can imagine the effect this can have on the plants in the Arboretum. A recent survey confirmed that many of the conifers were tolerating the high temperatures and lack of rainfall but some of the deciduous trees were showing signs of stress.

We wrote in one of the previous newsletters of the need to research and plant more drought tolerant species, and this year is certainly identifying the ones already in the collection. One particular tree from Chile, *Prumnopitys andina* (Chilean Plum Yew), a magnificent specimen, is thriving and even producing cones in this weather. In its native habitat it would usually receive 300mm rain per year and endure hot, dry summers, so sounds ideal living here!

On the far right, a small tree looking resplendent in the Arboretum at present is *Cotinus coggygria* (Smoke Bush). This elderly specimen is covered in pink fluffy flowers that from a distance give the appearance that it is a ball of smoke.

Paul and Mark continue to respond to the needs of the important plant collection with the delivery of much needed water to the trees under stress. You will have seen them recently watering the Tulip trees at the front of the hotel. These trees regularly defoliate in hot weather but adding water to the rootzone will ensure they recover and leaf-up next year.

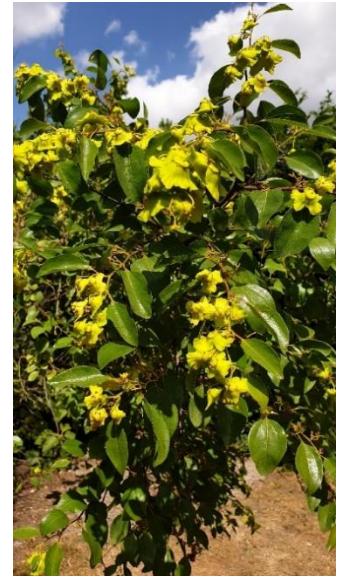


As a feature tree, *Ostrya carpinifolia* (Hop Hornbeam) has finished flowering and is now producing seed heads that resemble Hops. Another unusual tree proving very drought tolerant.



If you have time go out to the pond in front of the hotel where you will find this captivating tree. It is an *Albizia julibrissin* (Persian Silk Tree). This young specimen is fully tolerant of the hotter weather and is currently in flower. A native to eastern Asia, it has a horizontal growth habit and pink pom-pom flowers. Although widely planted in Europe it is rarely seen in the UK.

As you all know the Arboretum houses three National Collections and the one that in this weather causes the most concern is the *Taxodium* (Swamp Cypress) collection. Ordinarily from damper climes, the trees are currently standing up well to the heat and especially lack of rain. Luckily, a damper section of the Arboretum was chosen originally as this has paid off by naturally providing a good level of water to the roots.



In the very north of the Arboretum, the Biblical Wall plantings include a very unusual and uncommon plant called *Paliurus spina-christi* (Jerusalem thorn) which is native to the northern Mediterranean region and is ideally suited to hot, dry conditions. It is currently completed flowering giving way to clusters of unusual, spaceship shaped seeds.



Mark Lane CVO

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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

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