



WEST LODGE PARK TO JURASSIC PARK!

200 million year old tree planted at local hotel

West Lodge Park Hotel in Hadley Wood has taken a step back in time to the days of the dinosaur and added a 200 million old tree to its a nationally reknowned arboretum.

The Wollemi Pine is one of the worlds oldest and rarest trees which until recently was thought to be extinct. It was discovered in 1994, alive and well, by a bushwalker in Australia and is now being cultivated to safeguard its survival.

Belonging to the 200 million year old Araucariaceae family, the Wollemi Pine is a fast growing conifer that can reach heights of 40 metres.

Beales Hotels Managing Director, Andrew Beale, is one of the first people in the UK to purchase one of the trees and plans to add it to the already extensive arboretum at West Lodge Park :

“It is an honour to add such a rare tree to our collection and help conserve the Wollemi Pine for future generations. We hope that it will flourish here and be seen by guests and visitors on our Garden Open Days” said Andrew.

The arboretum at West Lodge Park was begun by Andrew Beales grandfather Edward Beale in 1963. Over 800 varieties of tree and shrub are planted in thirty five acres surrounding the hotel including national collections of hornbeam and elaeagnus.

Members of the public can tour the grounds of West Lodge Park and see the Wollemi Pine during a Garden Open Day on Sunday 22nd October, 1- 4pm. Entrance £2.50, children free, money raised will benefit various charities including MacMillan Nurses.

Wollemi Pine Facts :

The Wollemi Pine is one of the world's oldest and rarest plants dating back to the time of the dinosaurs. With less than 100 adult trees known to exist in the wild, the Wollemi Pine is now the focus of extensive research to safeguard its survival. It was discovered in 1994 by a bushwalker in a national park only 200km from Sydney, Australia.

Money raised from the sales of the Wollemi Pine will support its conservation and that of other rare and endangered plant species. For more information on the Wollemi Pine visit www.wollemipine.com

Claim to fame	One of the world's oldest and rarest trees
Scientific name	Wollemia nobilis
Family	Araucariaceae
Relatives	Kauri, Norfolk Island, Hoop, Bunya and Monkey Puzzle pines
Age	The Wollemi Pine belongs to the 200 million year old Araucariaceae family
Oldest known fossil	90 million years
Wild population	Less than 100 mature trees
Characteristics	Conifer with attractive, unusual dark green foliage, bubbly bark and sprouts multiple trunks
Growth habit	Fast growing in light, favours acid soils, and temperatures from - 5 to 45°C (23 to 113°F). Trials in the USA and Japan have indicated that it will survive temperatures as cold as -12°C (5 °F).
Size	The largest wild Wollemi Pine in the rainforest gorge is 40m tall with a main trunk of 1.2m wide