

HADLEY WOOD NEWS

BRINGING THE LOCAL NEWS TO YOUR DOORSTEP

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ISSUE

- *Parliament matters. David Burrowes MP*
- *Operation Payback. P.McCannah. Councillor*
- *Hadley Wood Primary School. The Long March*
- *Trees. Take a walk on the wild side.*
- *North London Waste. Where to put it.*
- *Burglars. In Hadley Wood again.*
- *Art. Opportunity knocks.*
- *Dogs. Unleashed and unclean.*

DESIGNED & PRINTED BY KALL KARR MARKET TELEPHONE: 020 8411 4432

JULY 2007 ISSUE

West Lodge Park's Arboretum

If you live in Hadley Wood you must like trees. We are surrounded shaded and framed by them. Notwithstanding the destructive efforts of some tree surgeons they line our streets hang over our garden walls and screen us from traffic and bad architecture. Not far from where we all live is the Arboretum of West Lodge Park hotel. This was started in 1963 by the current owner Andrew Beale's

grandfather Edward Beale. He was assisted in this project by Derek Honour tree adviser to the GLC and Frank Knight a former director of Wisley. There are over 800 species of tree planted in the 35 acres surrounding the house. Many will be well known to you and easily recognisable. Going to the hotel along the drive you pass between rows of Limes planted in 1910. These are the trees which fringe many of the suburban roads of London

including Hadley Wood. In Summer they become the habitat of a type of aphid which drops its sticky excretions euphemistically called honeydew onto the cars underneath. Once into the actual arboretum you meet some very unusual trees. The Judas tree is a native of Southern Europe possibly named after Judea, the region of Israel and Palestine where they grow, or maybe the tree from which Judas Iscariot hanged himself after betraying Christ. Nearby is a Giant Sequoia named after Wellington and planted in 1850. It towers over the other trees and is our frontispiece this month (photographed by John Leatherdale). This is a member of a species which live to incredibly old ages. One recorded example is 3500 yrs old. Non resinous bark containing fire resistant tannic acid makes them very resistant to heat and thus able to survive forest fires.

The arboretum houses the National Collection of Hornbeams (*Carpinus*). A Hornbeam looks a bit like a Beech. (but its not). The wood from these trees is extremely hard. Ironwood is its other name. Before iron became easily available and affordable Hornbeam wood was used in the weight bearing parts of all sorts of equipment including cart axles and spokes. One of the largest local collections of Hornbeams is in Epping Forest. Ever seen an Indian Bean tree? Nor me.



These were imported from the USA, and have nothing whatsoever to do with India except that the bean pods look like Indian beans. Huge leaves. You could clean the car with them. The oldest tree in the Arboretum planted in about 1760 is the Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*). These have small red fruits very like Strawberries to look at. Its name Unedo is derived from the Latin 'I eat one' because once you have eaten one you certainly will not want to try another.



Also at the arboretum is an offspring of the famous Wollemi Pine (*Wollemi nobilis*) one of the oldest known tree species in the world, thought to be extinct but discovered by accident in an almost impenetrable gorge near the Blue Mountains north of Sydney Australia. David Nobel a parks ranger abseiled into a deep gorge and found a tree there which he did not recognise. He brought out a leaf and the rest is history. So it goes on. The Acer glade. The Ashes. The Pines and Swamp Cypresses. A great walk. Recommended. Nice place to take guests. Take a stroll there one sunny morning and finish off with coffee and biscuits in the bar or on the terrace. It might be worth bringing a tree book with you because although the trees are all labelled, most are in Latin and the English name does not always spring to mind. You can then go again in Autumn and impress a different set of friends with your comprehensive knowledge of Latin names species and genres. Or is it genera.

ROD ARMSTRONG