New Extension Complete

With a new look restaurant, extended bar, conference room, business centre, and nine new luxury bedrooms, the £950,000 West Lodge Park extension is now complete.

Seven of the bedrooms are in Chestnut Lodge, from which every room has a view of our beautiful secluded gardens. The spacious bedrooms have a large bathroom and a walk-in shower cubicle. The other two rooms are on the first floor: also with country views and one is adapted for use by disabled guests. Four colour schemes for the decorations and soft furnishings have been selected by local designer, Jackie Palmer.

For restaurant guests, The Terrace Bar has been enlarged, with comfortable sofas and easy chairs. The Cedar Restaurant has been extended into a new room with panoramic views over the gardens, with an elegant classical mural by the artist Lisa Henley (see left). The restaurant is now an even more luxurious setting for popular Restaurant Manager Alfio Carassalini and Head Chef Peter Leggat, whose cooking recently gained two rosettes for good food.

For business guests, the new Edward Beale Room provides a conference facility for up to 35 people. With air conditioning, audio/visual aids as required and a large outside balcony, the Edward Beale Room is the ideal venue for your next team meeting. If guests need to E-Mail the results of their meeting to colleagues across the world, the Business Centre has all the equipment needed. With ISDN lines installed, a variety of software to suit all preferences, scanner and colour printer, the Centre is like an ‘office away from office’!

YES, PRIME MINISTER

Staff at West Lodge Park welcomed a very special guest to the hotel in April, The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair M.P. The Prime Minister was invited by local M.P. Stephen Twigg, to help celebrate the first anniversary of the Labour Election Victory. During the evening Mr Blair was interviewed for News at Ten in the Conservatory and signed the hotel’s visitors book for posterity.

Managing Director, Greville Bridge (centre) and Director/General Manager Andrew Beale welcomed The Prime Minister to West Lodge Park.

STOP PRESS It is with deep regret that we record the death in July of T. Edward Beale, aged 94. He only retired from the company in 1990 and had been Chairman for 56 years. We offer our sympathy to the Beale family. An appreciation of his contribution to the Company will be carried in the next issue. It is appropriate that the new conference room is named after him.
For many years at The Firs, we experienced a major security alert and search of the premises by the Special Branch in advance of the annual visit by the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, for her Finchley Conservative Party lunch. The party agent and police bodyguard became well known to John Thorpe and his team and we even arranged for Mrs Thatcher to make a presentation to John when he celebrated 30 years with the Company.

It was, therefore, fitting that West Lodge Park recently welcomed the current Prime Minister to a meeting of the local Labour Party. On this occasion security was still tight but less visible - we were sworn to secrecy in advance and so unable to tell residents and diners until after his visit was over. One surprised guest bumped into him in the corridor! Some very observant regular customers recognised the Conservatory and grounds when the interview by Michael Brunson was broadcast on News at Ten the following evening.

We hope you will be delighted with the refurbished and enlarged Terrace Bar at West Lodge Park - once you sink into one of the new sofas you will not want to move. In the Cedar Restaurant you will find new upholstered chairs at every table and in the restaurant extension a wonderful view of the Arboretum on one side and a unique mural with a lake and mountain scene on the other side. The artist, Lisa Henley, spent a full seven days creating this classical scene and it was amazing to see the blank wall being transformed day-by-day into the finished painting. Note the two figures: Bacchus, the God of Wine and the Instrumentalist to link with the regular Concert Dinner Evenings. So when you come to the restaurant, you will now be able to have a ‘lakeside’ view as well as a garden view!

Advertising is vital in spreading the word about the Beale’s Group and I am delighted to have the assistance of Conrad Advertising, a local company with wide experience in the tourism and travel industry. Look out for eye-catching advertisements both locally and nationally.

The new video conferencing facility at The Firs will enable them to provide a unique service to conference delegates in North London. If you want to see the quality of this hi-tech equipment, The Firs team will be delighted to show you.

Herts Film Link continues to be busy in the area and both Hatfield Lodge and West Lodge Park have benefited. Look out for West Lodge Park on your TV screens later this year in the new drama series Undercover Heart. Actors including Peter Vaughan have enjoyed the peaceful grounds and comfortable bedrooms at West Lodge Park whilst filming at the busy Elstree Studios. Steven Spielberg’s ‘Saving Private Ryan’, filmed last year right behind Hatfield Lodge, should be at your cinemas this autumn.

Welcome to the 5th edition of the Beale’s Newsletter.

For many years at The Firs, we experienced a major security alert and search of the premises by the Special Branch in advance of the annual visit by the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, for her Finchley Conservative Party lunch. The party agent and police bodyguard became well known to John Thorpe and his team and we even arranged for Mrs Thatcher to make a presentation to John when he celebrated 30 years with the Company.

It was, therefore, fitting that West Lodge Park recently welcomed the current Prime Minister to a meeting of the local Labour Party. On this occasion security was still tight but less visible - we were sworn to secrecy in advance and so unable to tell residents and diners until after his visit was over. One surprised guest bumped into him in the corridor! Some very observant regular customers recognised the Conservatory and grounds when the interview by Michael Brunson was broadcast on News at Ten the following evening.

We hope you will be delighted with the refurbished and enlarged Terrace Bar at West Lodge Park - once you sink into one of the new sofas you will not want to move. In the Cedar Restaurant you will find new upholstered chairs at every table and in the restaurant extension a wonderful view of the Arboretum on one side and a unique mural with a lake and mountain scene on the other side. The artist, Lisa Henley, spent a full seven days creating this classical scene and it was amazing to see the blank wall being transformed day-by-day into the finished painting. Note the two figures: Bacchus, the God of Wine and the Instrumentalist to link with the regular Concert Dinner Evenings. So when you come to the restaurant, you will now be able to have a ‘lakeside’ view as well as a garden view!

Advertising is vital in spreading the word about the Beale’s Group and I am delighted to have the assistance of Conrad Advertising, a local company with wide experience in the tourism and travel industry. Look out for eye-catching advertisements both locally and nationally.

The new video conferencing facility at The Firs will enable them to provide a unique service to conference delegates in North London. If you want to see the quality of this hi-tech equipment, The Firs team will be delighted to show you.

Herts Film Link continues to be busy in the area and both Hatfield Lodge and West Lodge Park have benefited. Look out for West Lodge Park on your TV screens later this year in the new drama series Undercover Heart. Actors including Peter Vaughan have enjoyed the peaceful grounds and comfortable bedrooms at West Lodge Park whilst filming at the busy Elstree Studios. Steven Spielberg’s ‘Saving Private Ryan’, filmed last year right behind Hatfield Lodge, should be at your cinemas this autumn.

Over 15 members of Beale’s staff are currently training for NVQ qualifications. With financial course support and time allowances for college attendance from the Beale’s Group, staff at West Lodge Park, Hatfield Lodge and The Firs really are training to be the very best.

Debbie Jones, Receptionist at Hatfield Lodge is currently studying for NVQ Level II in Reception Skills. The course includes making reservations, telephone skills and dealing with customer complaints - something we are sure Debbie will rarely have to put into practice! Having joined the team at Hatfield Lodge two years ago, Debbie has progressed from work experience to experienced receptionist.

The award winning Cedar Restaurant at West Lodge Park has a highly skilled team preparing fabulous food for guests. Rod Mackenzie, Demi Chef De Partie, has been studying food preparation and has now reached NVQ Level III in Larder Skills.

Dreaming of a White Christmas?

The Festive Season may seem an age away but Christmas Party bookings are already being taken by Beale’s staff. The Firs can cater for small groups at their Party Nights between 10th and 22nd December or accommodate a large booking of up to 260 people. Create your own party menu from the excellent banqueting range or choose one of the four-course Christmas Menus. For further details contact Remo on 0181 360 6788.

Special Offer... For every Delegate Rate Conference booking for a party of 10 or more people, The Firs will give you a complimentary voucher for one of the Christmas Party Nights. (Conference booking to be made before the end of November).

Christmas Party Nights are also being held at Hatfield Lodge on 16th, 21st and 22nd December. Enjoy a three course dinner with crackers, poppers and disco for £22 per person. ‘Phone 01707 272661 for booking details.

West Lodge Park is offering an inclusive tariff for your Christmas Party. Choose either a Christmas Lunch and Afternoon Party for £56 per person or a Christmas Dinner and Evening Party including overnight accommodation from £130 per person. Both offers include three course lunch/dinner, glasses of mulled and house wine, crackers and live music. Full details from our Conference and Banqueting Office on 0181 440 8311. As an added incentive West Lodge Park will send you, the party organiser, a half price voucher for a Premier Lunch or Dinner for two in the new Orangery Restaurant to help revive you after the Festive Season!
THE FUTURE OF BUSINESS COMMUNICATION

Business meetings at The Firs Conference Centre can now be attended by people across the world without leaving their office, with the help of leading edge technology. A new Video Conferencing system allows guests to have face to face communication with colleagues thousands of miles away. High quality ISDN lines have been installed to provide perfect pictures from Bournemouth to Bali.

"International companies are increasingly using this new technology to save vast amounts of money on travel and expenses. Video phones have previously been seen as a thing of the future, but the future has arrived and we are very keen to provide our guests with all the latest equipment," said John Thorpe, General Manager of The Firs.

The Beale’s Group are on the internet and the web site address is www.bealeshotels.co.uk.

Winning Team at Hatfield Lodge

Tom Smith, Assistant Manager at Hatfield Lodge completed his third London Marathon this year in a personal best time of 3 hours, 54 minutes and 16 seconds. The 'Marathon Man' dyed his hair blue to stand out in the crowd of thousands and raised £700 for the charity SCOPE.

Another member of staff studying NVQ food preparation is Janet Watt, Commis Chef at The Firs. Janet's Level III subject is advanced pastry, which is helping her to produce mouth watering sweets and savouries for guests.

Janet has also been the inspiration behind some of the Caribbean dishes served at The Firs, a firm favourite with party bookings. One recent letter, from a couple married at The Firs, thanked Janet for her West Indian dishes and asked for the recipe!

The Firs Annual Wedding Exhibition will be held on Sunday 10th January 1999 from 12 noon to 5.00pm. There will be three fashion shows and stands from local companies offering a variety of wedding services. A date to remember for all brides-to-be.

Bonjour, Guten Tag, Welcome to West Lodge Park. In our next newsletter we will feature our bilingual members of staff. With over ten languages between them, including Greek, Polish and Russian, we can ensure a warm and friendly welcome to all of our guests.

Keep up the good work

The Beale’s Group are proud to receive many letters of thanks from guests who have celebrated weddings, anniversaries and weekend stays at West Lodge Park, Hatfield Lodge and The Firs. Here are a just few examples of recent letters:

To Sally Wilkinson, Sales Manager, West Lodge Park

"It (the Prime Minister's visit) was excellently arranged, very relaxed and made great TV pictures!" Special Assistant to the PM, 10 Downing Street.

To John Thorpe, General Manager, The Firs

"Everything was wonderful. The food was superb and everyone enjoyed their meal, including the children! We would certainly use The Firs again and definitely recommend the venue to others!"

To Tony King, Manager, Hatfield Lodge

"Everyone I spoke to at the party had nothing but praise for your staff who in addition to working hard to make the evening go well also displayed a great deal of humour and tolerance to some of the antics of my guests!"
Special Events at West Lodge Park
For further information on all the events listed below Tel: 0181 440 8311

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER - CONCERT DINNER EVENING
This season opens with a recital for oboe and piano by the brilliant young oboist Richard Harper, who won a place in the televised woodwind finals of the BBC Young Musician of the Year Competition 1996, and was awarded the Walter Todds bursary for the most promising young player. His accompanist is the experienced concert pianist Nigel Clayton, who has given over 40 recitals in the Wigmore Hall and on the South Bank. Their programme includes sonatas for oboe and piano by Handel, Nielsen, Saint-Saens, Gershwin and Gordon Jacob, and the Barcarolle Op.60 for piano by Chopin.
Reception 7.00pm. Four course dinner and concert £42 per person (please pay on booking, plus £1.00 per couple for annual membership of the West Lodge Park Musical Society). Table wines extra. Dress - dinner jacket. For an extra treat, you can stay overnight in one of our superior bedrooms at the special rate of £110 for two for accommodation and breakfast.

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER - CONCERT DINNER EVENING
The celebrated Vanbrugh Quartet is one of the world's leading string quartets, annually giving around 100 concerts in Europe, the Americas and the Far East, together with radio and television broadcasts. They are currently recording the complete cycle of Beethoven string quartets. The Times commented "The Vanburgh can boast not only technical security and a marvellous unanimity of interest, but also a remarkable insight into the music they play." Their concert at West Lodge Park will consist of string quartets by Smetana (No.1 in E minor, "from My Life"), Janacek (No.1 "The Kreutzer Sonata") and Beethoven (Op.74 "The Harp").
Please see September Concert Dinner for booking details.

SUNDAY 25TH OCTOBER - GARDEN OPEN DAY
From 12 noon to 4.00pm the beautiful gardens and arboretum of West Lodge Park are open to the public in aid of the National Gardens Scheme for charity, with free conducted tours by experts. At this time of year the trees make a magnificent display in their autumnal colours of russet and gold, particularly the red oaks, scarlet oaks and maples. Light refreshments are available in the gardens, or lunch and afternoon tea may be taken in the hotel.
Admission - Adults £2 (in aid of charity). Children free.

FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER - BURGUNDY FOOD & WINE EVENING
Join us at 7.30pm for a tasting of fine wines from the Burgundy region of France, followed by a Gourmet five course dinner created by our award winning Head Chef, Peter Legatt. Each course will be accompanied by a glass of superior Burgundy wine, with background music by our Pianist. The following classical Burgundy dishes should whet your appetite:

Jambon persillé
Truite à la bourguignonne
Caille (quail) aux raisins et châtaignes (chestnuts)
Fromages de Bourgogne
Croustade de Pommes avec marc de Bourgogne
Café et petits fours
Price £39.50 per person, payable on booking, including wine tasting, five course dinner and table wines. Dress - lounge suit. Special overnight rates available (please see September Concert Dinner Evening).

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER - CONCERT DINNER EVENING
Described by Gramophone as "a dazzling husband and wife team", Anthony Goldstone and Caroline Clekmow have recently specialised in piano duos recordings, presenting the complete duets of Mozart for his bicentenary and recording seven CDs of the complete works of Schubert for piano duet, of which the Musical Times wrote "The Goldstone/Clemmow performance invited one superlative after another". Their programme for West Lodge Park includes Mozart's Sonata in D, K381, Schubert's Fantasia in F minor D 940, Rimsky-Korsakov's Capriccioso Espagnol and pieces by Edgar, Grieg and Tchaikovsky for piano duet.
Please see September Concert Dinner Evening for booking details.

West Lodge Park
One mile from junction 24 of the M25, West Lodge Park is a four star country house hotel set in 35 acres of grounds.
Cockfosters Road, Hadley Wood, Hertfordshire EN4 0PY
Tel: 0181 440 8311
Fax: 0181 449 3698

Hatfield Lodge Hotel
300 yards from the A1M and opposite the Galleria Shopping Centre.
Comet Way, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9NG
Tel: 01707 272661
Fax: 01707 256262

The Firs
Close to Enfield, A10, North Circular Road and M25. Air-conditioned rooms to take 4 to 260 for conferences, exhibitions, product launches.
890 Green Lanes, Winchmore Hill, London N21 2RR
Tel: 0181 360 6788
Fax: 0181 364 2446

Special Offers
Mouth Watering Offer
Dine in the award winning Cedar Restaurant at West Lodge Park any day of the week and then come back for Friday Evening Dinner before 30th September and we will give you an unbeatable 50% discount on the Friday Dinner (Offer not valid for Special Events evenings).

Treat yourself to a Weekend at West Lodge Park - We are offering a £10 reduction per person, per night on our Country House Breaks until 31st March 1999. Contact West Lodge Park on 0181 440 8311 quoting "Beale's Newsletter" to make your reservation now.

COMPETITION
Win a dinner for two in the refurbished and extended Cedar Restaurant at West Lodge Park.

1) What new technology has been installed at The Firs for conference delegates?

2) Which member of staff from Hatfield Lodge is studying for NVQ Level III?

3) Name the artist involved with The Cedar Restaurant.

Answers in writing please, including your name and address to the Sales Office, West Lodge Park, Cockfosters Road, Hadley Wood, Herts EN4 0PY by Friday 27th November 1998.

Congratulations to our last issue competition winner - Carol Minos who wins an overnight stay for two in the new Chestnut Lodge at West Lodge Park.