

Press Release

1 August 2011



Yew Hedges at Hole Park Gardens will benefit Cancer Patients

The annual Yew Hedge Clipping has started at Hole Park Gardens in Rolvenden and this year the pharmaceutical industry will be collecting the clipping to use in the production of anti-cancer treatment drugs. The clippings from the 90 year old yew hedges will be used to produce Taxol, which treats ovarian and breast cancer.

Edward Barham who, with his wife Clare, owns and manages these popular gardens said: ***“In previous years we have composted the clippings to use around the 15 acre gardens and we are delighted that that this year our yew hedge clippings will be used to benefit cancer patients. Our yew hedges are a big feature of the gardens and it would take Head Gardener Quentin Stark and his team six weeks to clip the hedges non-stop by hand but when combined with other garden duties the annual task usually takes eight weeks to complete. The clipping commences in late July when annual growth of the hedges has stopped.”***

When the hedges were planted in the early 1920's by Edward's great grandfather, Arthur Barham, considerable fore thought had to go into preparing the ground,

including a series of underground walls, which prevent the roots from the yew spreading out and sapping all the goodness from the borders to their front.

At this time of year visitors can come and admire the impressive yew hedges in situ and explore the summer gardens including the impressive long borders which were designed by the late Christopher Lloyd of Great Dixter. The exotic border also adds a wonderful splash of colour to the gardens.

The coach house tea room is also open to visitors who can enjoy refreshments including delicious home-made cakes.

The gardens are open to visitors in the summer and autumn months until 27 October on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 6pm and also for Autumn Sundays on 9, 16 and 23 October.

For more information visit www.holepark.com or call 01580 241344.

Press enquiries to Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647.