

Press Release

Summer 2009



Amazing Autumnal Hues at Hole Park Gardens in Kent

The rich colours of autumn are seen at their absolute best at Hole Park Gardens in Rolvenden, Kent; so much so that the gardens will be opening especially on **Sunday 11, 18 and 25 October**, to ensure visitors can take full advantage of the spectacular display.

Taking a walk through Hole Park in autumn is a truly spectacular experience as the many mature trees produce breathtaking colours in Hole Park's peaceful garden, park and woodland.

The many species of oak, including Turkey, turn striking shades of gold and russet, whilst the *Acer palmatum* (Japanese Maples) provide brilliant red contrasts. A particularly remarkable feature of the garden is the *Liquidamber styraciflua* (sweet gum) which has leaves that change from shades of yellow and orange to purple and crimson before dropping, while the *Fothergilla major* shrub follows its fluffy white bottlebrush type flowers with foliage in hues of rusty red, purple and gold.

Visitors will not want to miss Hole Park's stunning collection of trees in the Acer glade, which produce a wonderful variety of colour throughout autumn. Each year

head gardener Quentin Stark delights in adding new trees to the glade and this year new additions include the vibrant Acer shirasawanum 'Aureum' and Acer palmatum var dissectum 'Seiryu'

As well as the magnificent rainbow of colours among the trees, the tropical border, which was planted in 2006, is also at its peak, as the many rare and exotic flowers such as cannas and salvias produce vibrant hot colours, prolonging the summery feel of the garden. The border has many wonderful features which enhance its exotic feel, from powerful scents to soothing sounds created by the wind as it gently rustles through the bamboos and grasses.

Owner Edward Barham said ***“Autumn colour can be very difficult to predict as so much depends on the weather, in particular the first frost and amount of rain, however, at Hole Park visitors can be assured that there will be plenty of stunning colourful displays throughout October.”***

On Sundays visitors can enjoy Clare Barham's home made cream teas, which are available in the Coach House.

Hole Park Gardens are open every Wednesday and Thursday until 31 October 2009, from 2pm to 6pm. Special open days on Sunday 11, 18 and 25 October.

Head Gardener Quentin Stark will be leading Autumn Tours on 11, 18 and 25 October. The walks start at 2.30pm prompt. Admission is £5.00 for adults and 50p for children.

Group bookings are welcome at any time between April and October please contact Hole Park to discuss your requirements 01580 241344.

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

For more press information or high res images, please contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647 or e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.com

Editor's Notes

- A family owned estate, Hole Park has been in the Barham family for the past four generations and is now owned and managed by Edward Barham. The gardens reflect the care and long-term planning that is unique to family owned estates. They were developed, laid out and planted by Colonel Barham, the great-grandfather of the present owner, in the years between the two World Wars. Much of their beauty is owed to the great variety which they offer throughout the year, from the first flowers in January to the last autumn colours in October.
- The Gardens are a contrast between classic form on the one hand and flowering shrubs in a woodland setting on the other.
- Hole Park is situated 4 miles west of Tenterden on the B2086 between Rolvenden and Cranbrook.
- Hole Park is open from 2pm to 6pm every Wednesday and Thursday until Wednesday 31 October 2008.
- Group visits with guided tours and light refreshments are a speciality at Hole Park but please telephone to book. (Group visits can be made outside normal opening hours)