

PRESS RELEASE

Autumn 2008

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 in Kent; so much so that the gardens open especially on Sundays in October to share the spectacular display.

The mature trees of Hole Park provide wonderful warm autumn colour in beautiful garden, woodland and park settings. Various species of oaks found in the gardens – Holm, Turkey, English and Luckham – turn shades of gold and russet, with *Acer Japonicas* (Japanese Maples) providing brilliant red contrasts. *Liquidamber styraciflua* (sweet gum) has leaves which run through 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. The purple is picked up in low growing heathers around the gardens while the woodland dell comes alive with the rich colours of the azaleas whose early summer

floral show is all but matched by the autumn foliage finale; rivalling that of the *cornus* (dogwood) family.

But it's not all leaves. The new tropical border, planted in 2006, should be at its peak as flowers such as cannas and salvias in hot, heady colours prolong the summery feel a little longer. Scents and sounds, the latter created by whispering bamboos, give an exotic lift to this exciting part of the gardens.

“Autumn colour can be very difficult to predict,” said owner Edward Barham, “as so much depends on the weather, in particular the first frost and how much rain, but at Hole Park you can be assured that there will be colour to be seen throughout October and well into November.”

To share this firework finale of colour with visitors, Hole Park Gardens opens on the following Sundays 5, 12, 19 and October, as well as being open on Wednesdays and Thursdays until the end of the season.

Head Gardener Quentin Stark will be leading special Autumn Tours on 5, 12 and 19 October. The walks start at 2.30pm prompt). Admission is £5.00 for adults and 50p for children.

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, and also to 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)