



The Ol' Trout

THE
LOUDWATER
NEWSLETTER

No. 154

www.lraonline.org.uk

June 2015

Editorial

Welcome to the June edition of the Ol' Trout.

Last month the Ol' Trout was issued via email as well as paper copy. I had about 6 responses requesting just electronic copies, so both the electronic and paper copies will be issued to all members. If you are not on the LRA data base but would like to be please email: enquiries@lraonline.org.uk

Well we have all survived the general and local elections!

The Three Rivers District Council were also held. In May 2014 the turn out was less than 40%. In our constituency of Chorleywood North and Sarratt ward, which includes Loudwater, the turn out in May 2015 was over 70%.

Heather Kenison was re-elected as councillor for Chorleywood North and Sarratt ward.

Robert Kenison

Chairman's Words

I'd like to start by thanking Heather Kenison for all the support she has provided me as I have transitioned into the Chairman's role and I look forward to doing my best to continue all the great work she has done for Loudwater over the years. I'd also like to thank all the LRA committee members who have stepped down - Julia Hall, Bob Jolliffe and Tony Hale for all their hard work.

I am delighted to introduce the new members of our committee - Secretary Anni Sweet, Events Secretary June Gili-Ross and Planning Secretary Malcolm Hicks.

The first event to be organised by the committee, ably led by June, is the Summer Fiesta, taking place on June 28th. We look forward to seeing you there.

We are also keen to improve the way we communicate with you and, other than our website (www.lraonline.org.uk) and facebook page (www.facebook.com/LoudwaterResidents), we use email. If you haven't been receiving emails from us, it means you are not on our database so please feel free to contact Anni (secretary@lraonline.org.uk) and ask to be added to our LRA database.

We are still looking for a new co-ordinator for the Theatre Club which has unfortunately gone into abeyance. This has been a very popular and successful club and no doubt its activities will be missed by members. If you feel able to fulfil this role, please contact me.

I look forward to getting to know you all and, if you have any thoughts, comments or suggestions about Loudwater, please do not hesitate to contact me on chairman@lraonline.org.uk.

Alex Buxton

Loudwater Residents' Association

Chairman

Alex Buxton
2 Loudwater Ridge
07931697796

Treasurer

Nicholas
Vaughton
Kingswood,
Loudwater Ridge
896666

Secretary

Anni Sweet
Langleybury
Chess Close
562387

Planning Secretary

Malcolm Hicks
Tara
Trout Rise
07912188856

Membership Secretary

Sue Tippen
Dunara
Chess Lane
774016

Events Committee

June Gili-Ross
Brae Cottage
Troutrise

Environment Secretary

John Thompson
St Cyrus
Trout Rise
772125

Diary of Events

Alex Buxton

For any queries contact
LRA at ;

enquiries@lraonline.org.uk

www.lraonline.org.uk

New Committee Members

At the AGM there were new LRA Committee members elected;

Chairman – Alex Buxton



I have lived in the Watford area for most of my life and moved to Loudwater in 2014. When I'm not working, I like to teach karate and am spending an increasing amount of time with my wife and 4 month old baby. We really enjoy living in Loudwater and baby Christopher loves going for walks around the estate. Through using social media, initially with Facebook, I would like to try to make Loudwater residents more aware of the activities taking place in the area and make it easier for people to join in.

Secretary – Anni Sweet

I grew up in Berkhamsted then moved away when I went to University and eventually moved back to Tring in 2002. We moved to Loudwater in December 2013 from Old Amersham and we love it.



I am married to David and have a step-son James who is nearly 14. You might see George our cat around Loudwater, he is the big fat black one with white paws, a white tummy and a short tale (long story) but he is very friendly.

I work in London and when I'm not working, I spend my time with friends and family and I love my food and wine. Occasionally I try my hand at a bit golf, although only if it is nice weather. I joined the LRA to get to know more people in Loudwater and help to keep it as lovely as it is.

Events – June Gili-Ross

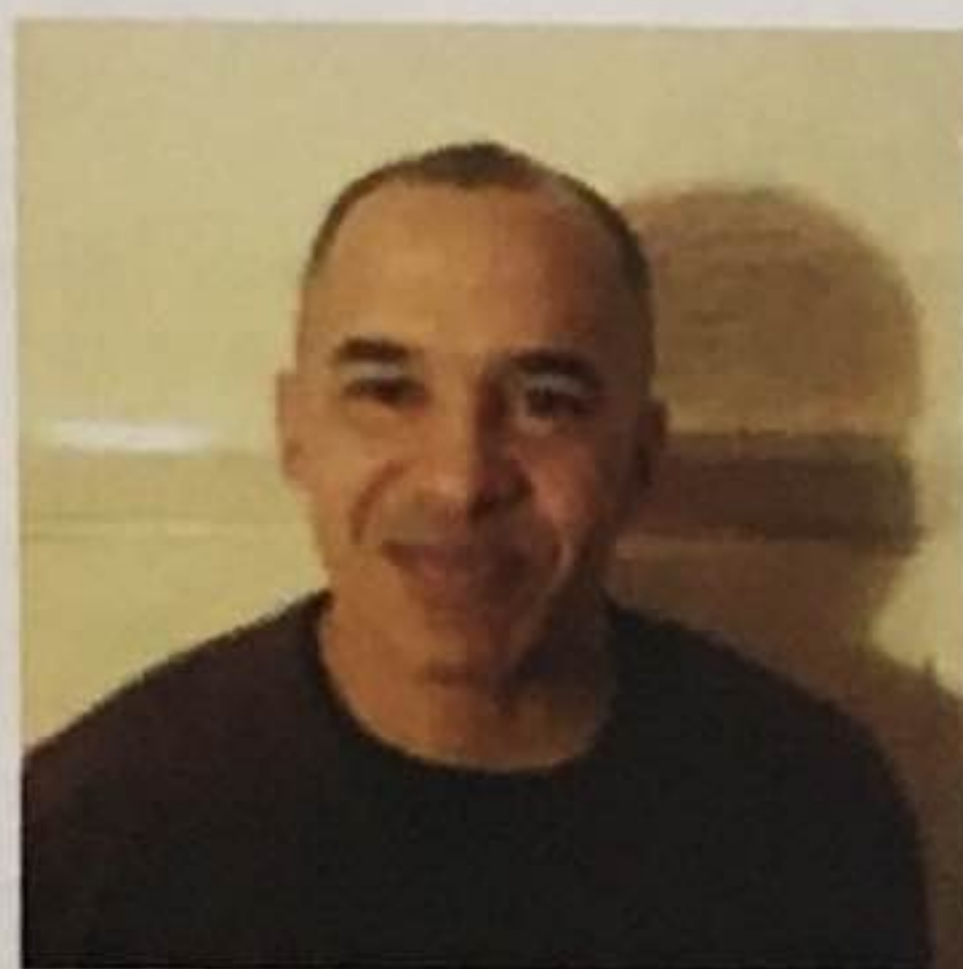


Having lived in Chorleywood for seventeen years, my husband Leslie and I have recently moved to Loudwater, where we have been made very welcome. We have three grown up sons and two grandsons. Both of us are members of Moor Park Golf Club, although Leslie is the golf player; I am merely a social member!

Since I have retired from teaching, I will enjoy helping to renovate the property we have bought, especially now I have some spare time. We have always admired this area and are happy to be living in such a beautiful spot, amongst such friendly neighbours.

I hope to be able to help organise some events for the community in the future and look forward to meeting more residents.

Planning – Malcolm Hicks



I grew up in Ipswich, until I moved to the US for university. After spending time in Colorado, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania and Illinois, I got the opportunity to come back to the UK with work in 2007. After living in Kings Langley, we moved into Loudwater in 2011. I am married with two teenage children and a couple of good-sized dogs.

When I am not working you can often find me running on the various trails and paths in our area. I'm a keen sports fan, particularly rugby, love the theatre and am always willing to try any type of cuisine.

I have been fortunate enough to live in several areas with really great community spirit and would like to do my bit to engender the same atmosphere here in Loudwater.

Robert Kenison

Charity Golf Day

Bob & Sarah Jolliffe are running the 24th MS Golf Day at Moor Park on TUESDAY 18th AUGUST. This is a most popular event to raise much needed money for the MS Centre at Harrow where Bob goes for treatment.

The day consists of coffee & bacon rolls, a shotgun round of golf with a sumptuous 3 course dinner in the evening, all for the knock-down price of £360 (teams of 4 players). The whole day is relaxed and fun and there is also an opportunity for a tee sponsor at £100, to give companies good advertising on the exclusive High Course at Moor Park. Do please contact Bob on rsjolliffe@hotmail.com or 01923 771834 FREE if you would like to bring a team or sponsor a hole - it's for such a good cause.



Moor Park Club House

Bob Jolliffe

Metropolitan Line Update.

This summer should see the closure of the Rickmansworth ticket office and work commencing to revamp the entrance hall to provide more and improved ticket machines. The work is estimated to take about one month and be completed by the end of September.

Next year TFL are planning to replace the bridge over Station Road. This will be a very large job, and rail and road closures are expected.

The Croxley Rail link is moving forward. Planned completion is 2018, with new stations at Ascot Road and Vicarage Road before stopping at Watford Junction.

David Gauke, MP, is lobbying TFL to have a direct train service from Amersham to Watford junction. The challenge is to persuade TFL that there would be sufficient demand. Under the current plan Rickmansworth and Chorleywood residents will have to travel south to Moor Park and change trains to get to Watford Junction.

Robert Kenison

LRA AGM

In a break from the usual format of the AGM, this year we welcomed two guests: Andy Lee from Connected Counties and Cllr Chris Lloyd, outgoing Chairman of TRDC. Andy came to give us an update on the provision of fibre broadband to Loudwater (see below). He also discussed what future possibilities there were for residents who are connected to a fibred box but live too far from that box to achieve maximum benefit.

Chris was in the last days of his Chairmanship (a role which many other Councils call " Mayor") and had tried to meet as many people as possible from the communities within TRDC during his year in office. He was particularly impressed by the organisation of the LRA and the affiliated clubs, of which he had no prior knowledge and considered they were unique within TRDC.

The formal proceedings were completed swiftly with the new committee members being voted in and there being presentations to those who were standing down after serving on the committee for several years. Please note contact details of the new committee on the front cover of this edition. Unusually, there were no questions from residents but the evening ended in true Loudwater style- a glass in hand and residents socialising with each other.

Heather Kenison

Broad Band

There has been some progress on fibre broadband. BT has now identified a site for the new cabinet and has agreed a wayleave with the landowner to progress this site. As cabinet 10 falls into BT's commercial operation (ie not paid for by the County Council) as yet there is no indication of timescale when this cabinet will be fibred and functioning. On some occasions the cabinets are sited but are not operational for several months. Connected Counties will continue to pursue this matter as a priority and any developments will be relayed to residents in the usual way. I have also contacted our MP, David Gauke, to make him aware of the situation and await his comments.

Heather Kenison

Wine Club visit to Waddesdon Manor

Exit through the gift shop



On a changeable Saturday in April, two dozen wine club members and guests visited Waddesdon Manor, a National Trust property near Aylesbury. Our coach left the Barn in the morning, getting us to Waddesdon in time for a tour of the gardens before lunch.

Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild (1839-1898) bought the Waddesdon Estate - originally nothing but farmland - in 1874. He wanted a country retreat built in the style of a Loire châteaux and soon engaged the French architect Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur. Waddesdon was created as a place to show superb works of art and entertain guests at Ferdinand's famous 'Saturday to Monday' house parties.

Generations of the Rothschild family have all made their mark on the landscape and the Manor, from Baron Ferdinand and Miss Alice's planting and landscaping, to the present Lord Rothschild's Millennium Avenue of trees linking the Manor with Upper Winchendon, and the planting of Diamond Jubilee Wood. We were just finishing our tour of the gardens when it started to rain; perfect timing for lunch accompanied by a glass of Prosecco.

After lunch we explored the house: Sèvres porcelain, Savonnerie carpets and paintings from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by famous Dutch, Flemish, French and British artists in abundance. A major new addition to the contemporary art collection is pair of sculptures by Joana Vasconcelos recently installed on the North Front. In the form of a giant pair of candlesticks made of glass wine bottles (from Château Lafite Rothschild), set on a steel armature and lit from within with fibre-optic strands, they symbolise the Rothschild family's connection to the world of wine. They are also a reminder of Waddesdon's tradition of hospitality and the pleasures of the table, as well as linking to the collections inside the house.

Then to the cellars. They were created during Waddesdon's Centenary restoration and opened in 1994 with a visit by Her Majesty the Queen. More than 10,000 bottles of wine are stored in the vaults, documenting over 150 years of the Rothschild family's ownership of two of the most famous Bordeaux vineyards: Château Lafite Rothschild and Château Mouton Rothschild.

From the acquisition of Mouton Bordeaux in 1853 to the creation of Rimapere, New Zealand in 2012, the Rothschild portfolio now spans

six countries and five continents. We tasted six wines in the atmospheric cellars. Waddesdon's wine advisor, Pete Tompkins, led the tasting - we were so impressed by his knowledge, passion and enthusiasm. We also voiced our enthusiasm (perhaps too loudly at times) for the wines tasted - a broad spectrum of styles and grape varieties, Bordeaux to New Zealand.

To finish, Pete invited us to taste more wines with artisan cheeses in the wine shop annexed to the gift shop. By this time it was getting late and so, as the other exits were now closed, we did indeed exit through the gift shop.

We can't have behaved too badly as Pete said that he'd be pleased to host a cheese and wine tasting for us at a future date.

I was a little nervous when I joined the Wine Club last year - I thought events may be formal, discussion pompous and that I would be expected to know about wine. I shouldn't have worried - I was made to feel very welcome and whilst some members do know a lot about wine, they are happy to share their experience with newcomers. For many members, it's about socialising with fellow residents and trying wines that might otherwise be outside our comfort zone (in terms of style and price - the Pomerol we tasted retailed at £42.50 a bottle).

It's been a lot more fun than I imagined.

Pat Eckersall

Adventures in Tuscany, Wine club trip

The perfect climatic conditions that pre dated the 2010 harvest of the Sangiovese grapes from the vineyards in the rolling hills of the Chianti region of Tuscany had led to the crop being hailed as one of the best ever by local wine makers. Following three years of ageing in the oak barrels supplied by the French, the eagerly awaited red wine production was ready for bottling and consumption towards the end of 2014. The wine produced in the Chianti region only qualifies for the much respected label of Chianti Classico DOCG if the wine is made from at least eighty percent Sangiovese grapes leaving the vintner with the flexibility to decide which variety of other local grapes should be added to the dominant Sangiovese. The award winning Riserva is often made exclusively from Sangiovese grapes. The results from the 2010 grape harvest did not disappoint with international acclaim being heaped upon the 2010 Chianti Classico DOCG.

News of these developments reached the Loudwater Residents Wine Club and it was decided to make the 2015 tour a trip to explore the Chianti Classico DOCG and other wines produced in this area of Tuscany. A suitable squad of eleven members was assembled and contained the perfect blend of experience and rookies in order to get a well balanced approach to the task of tasting and assessing the quality of the wines on offer. The tour was organised and led by Colin and Carol Timms who made the inspired choice of Siena as the base for our activities. They also arranged for four perfect summer days with an abundance of sunshine and blue skies. Experience was brought to the group by Henry and Marion Browne, Mike and Margaret Thorpe and Anne Pither. The new kids on the block were Robert and Heather Kenison ably supported by Pat Eckersall and Mike Oldham. Equal amounts of energy and enthusiasm were shown for the task ahead by all tourists over the four day trip. We soon discovered that it is a sin to spit your wine during tastings in Tuscany leaving us with no choice other than to adhere to this local rule. The challenging task of tasting the array of Tuscan red and white wine on offer and eating the ever delightful Italian cuisine was approached with hardened determination as each day introduced new record levels of consumption.

Having departed from the Loudwater estate in the darkness of Saturday morning to get our early flight from Luton, we arrived in Siena in good time for lunch and a healthy tasting of the Tuscan wine. Late afternoon relaxation was required to prepare ourselves for our first encounter with Chianti Classico DOCG at dinner that night in a spectacular atmospheric basement restaurant in the heart of the

old town of Siena. Surrounded by relics from a bygone era we enjoyed a six course Tuscan banquet with ample quantities of liquid refreshment. A perfect start for what was to come.

Siena offered a gothic brick built hill town with an abundance of character and a plentiful supply of ancient buildings to meet the enquiring interests of the tour group. Siena has always existed in the shadow of the stately marble presentation that is Florence. As a thriving medieval merchant and textile town, Siena produced a colourful courtly gothic school of painting as well as a building boom in the traditional styles of this era. It all came to a crashing halt in 1348 when the Black Death plague decimated the population. This left Florence to dominate the Tuscan region thereafter but this meant that Siena did not have the funds to overhaul its Middle Ages look. The result is a fascinating experience for tourists in marked contrast to the splendour and sparkle of Florence.

On the Sunday we set off for a full exploration of the Chianti region including three wine tastings at selected vineyards of distinction. The first one of these, enticingly called "Tenuta Casanova", offered a spectacular location surrounded by vineyards and the beautiful rolling Tuscan hill sides which make this part of Italy so appealing. The tasting took place on a terrace overlooking the scenic delight and was everything one could have imagined Tuscany might offer the discerning wine taster. We met a number of Italian wine makers during the day who's presentation style was as colourful as the wines they produce. The Chianti Classico did not disappoint and we supplemented our tastings with examples of super Tuscan reds made with blended grapes from the region and also a limited number of white wines.

Our day at leisure was scheduled for Monday and gave everyone a chance to fully explore the historic offerings of Siena. The Duomo located in the centre of the old town was a truly magnificent creation built on a grand scale and hosting dramatic art works. The views from the top of the cathedral seemed to extend over the whole of Tuscany. Siena has probably the most spectacular town hall in the world. The Palazzo Pubblico is a brick palace with rooms gorgeously decorated with early 14th century art works. The Piazza del Campo is a half-moon shaped public square surrounded by bars and restaurants and big enough to stage the famous biannual Palio horse race. A day of sightseeing was supplemented in the evening by a wine tasting in an ancient Tuscan tomb deep under the buildings of the old town. Here we tasted classic wines from Tuscany including the premier Brunello di Montalcino and Montepulciano vintages under the guidance of Federico Pieri who had a clear passion for the reds.



The best was saved for the last day of our visit. Desperate for more Tuscan culture and quality white wine we headed for San Gimignano of the beautiful towers. More than seventy of these towers originally attested to the wealth of this medieval pedestrianized hill top town surrounded by a protective stone wall escarpment. You enter through the ancient gates of the fortress and cannot fail to be impressed by the wealth of 14th and 15th century art on show in the oldest buildings

within. Our wine tastings were in the vineyards adjacent to San Gimignano and included Vernaccia di San Gimignano the only white wine in Tuscany with a DOCG accreditation. The dominant grape grown in this area and used for white wine production was vernaccia which produced a dry to semi sweet elixir. On a sunny day in Tuscany the chilled whites of the region provided welcome refreshment.

Overall our experiences were as well blended as the wines we consumed. The Tuscan experience contained a perfect combination of pleasant wines, top quality cuisine, beautiful scenery and on this occasion perfect company. The Italians we met during our visit did their best to excite the imagination but the character of Siena and the beauty of the Tuscan scenery meant that that we did not need any assistance to escape into a world full of delights. I for one will be keen to return for more in the near future.

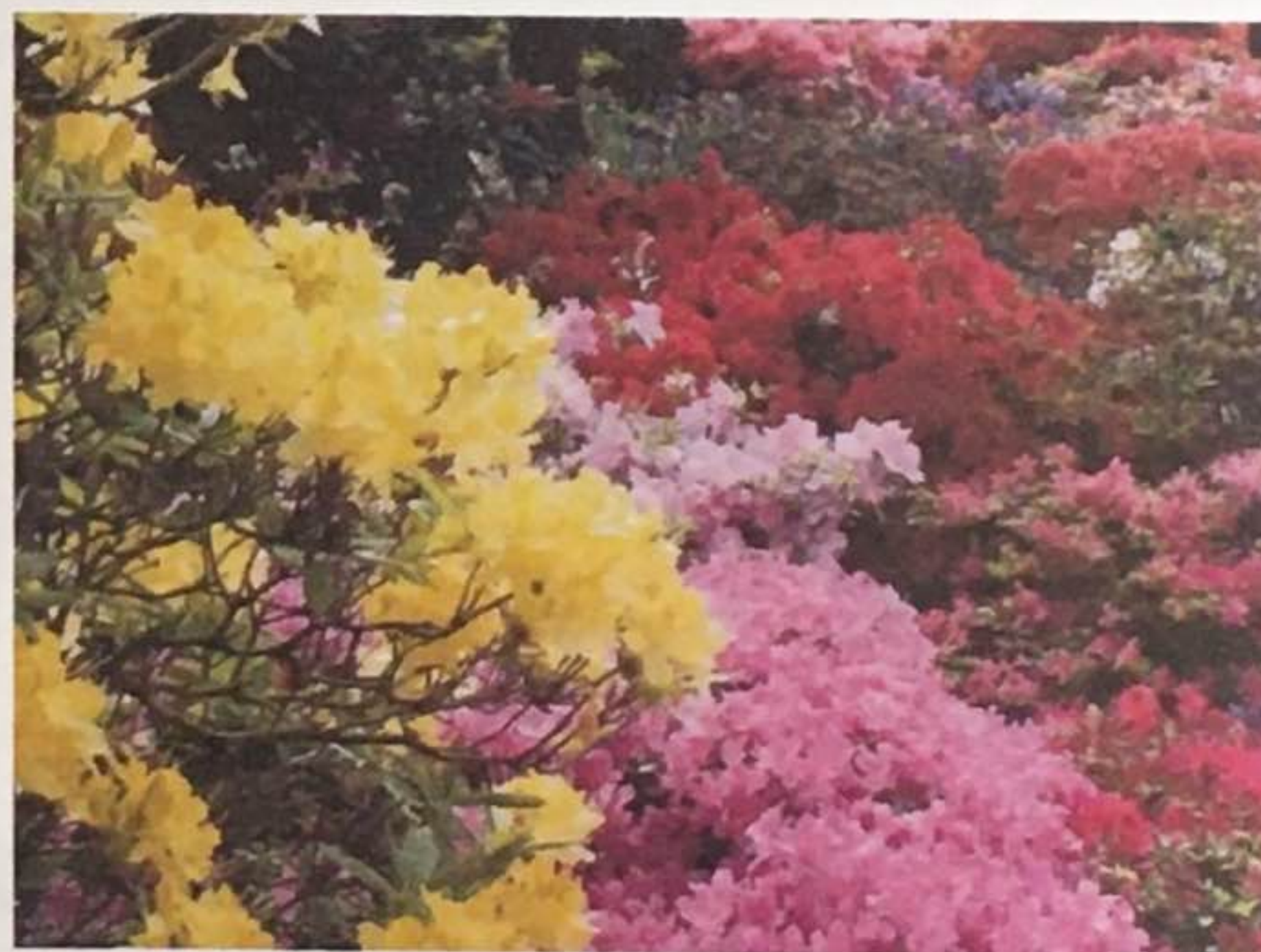
Mike Oldham

Garden Club

Following a very successful year for the Garden Club, we finished our programme in November with our ever popular Gardeners' Question Time, held at The Junction. Our team of experts, led by Jim Buttress fresh from his TV series, were on excellent form and put us straight on everything from whether to use spent mushroom compost on chalky soil to when to cut down ornamental grasses. We then finished the evening with wine and a finger buffet.

The Club's AGM took place on March 4th this year and was held at the home of our Secretary, Roger Trigg, who not only offered us hospitality for the meeting but, after the AGM business was completed, gave us a wonderful film show of the gorgeous and exotic flowers he had seen on his recent trip to Singapore. We are most grateful to Roger and his wife for their kindness.

In April, as I was going on holiday, Ulla Hauser, our Events Organiser, kindly took charge of our trip to see the gorgeous azaleas and rhododendrons at Exbury Gardens in Hampshire. There was a little rain on the way down but it cleared to let the group enjoy viewing the colourful display in the Gardens from the little steam train which tours the site. A good time was had by all.



In response to many requests from our members that we repeat the Gardeners' Lunch experience at the Savill Garden, we shall be back there in June, this time to see the roses. This looks like being a popular trip, so I would recommend early booking for places on the bus.

We have a full programme for the rest of 2015, which can be seen on the events calendar on the LRA website. If you would like to join any of our events, do let me know. New members are always welcome.

Margaret Jarrett