

# WHITCHURCH-ON-THAMES BULLETIN

[www.whitchurchonthames.com](http://www.whitchurchonthames.com)

**JANUARY 2005**

## **Meeting of the Parish Council**

A meeting of the Parish Council was held on Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2005 at 8.00 pm in the Village Hall.

In attendance were the Chairman Matilda Oppenheimer and Councillors Harry Butterworth and Vincent Aldridge.

Also present were the Parish Clerk Janet Holmes, District Councillor Pearl Slatter and three members of the Public.

## **“Muddy Lane”**

The lane from Hardwick Road to the Primary School has for some time been known as Muddy Lane. Before resurfacing it earned this title! It is now no longer muddy and there has been some discussion in the village about renaming it. The Parish Council propose formally changing the name and will discuss this further.

## **Train Times**

Since mid December there have been major changes to the local train services and mainline train times from Reading. For further information please contact:

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or tel: 08457 48 49 50

New time table for Pangbourne enclosed. Ed

## **Planning**

### **New Applications**

There were no new planning applications

### **Decisions**

PO4/E1336 Jasmine Cottage – Amendment to existing application GRANTED  
(The Parish Council requested time to consider the amendment to the original plans and this was not granted by the SODC)

P04/e1449/CA Jasmine Cottage - Demolition of existing side entrance porch  
GRANTED

PO3/E1333 4 Bridge Cottages - Amended plans  
GRANTED

## **Finances**

The following cheques were agreed for payment:-

To the Clerk for salary, superannuation and expenses and to NSALG for membership fee.

## **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005 in the Whitchurch Village Hall at 8.00pm. An agenda and the dates of future meetings will be posted on the Parish Council notice-board opposite the Greyhound before the next meeting.

Matilda Oppenheimer  
Chairman



If you're interested in visiting the Pre-School, please telephone Helen on 0118 9844516. You can also find out more about Pre-School from our new web address [www.whitchurchpreschool.org](http://www.whitchurchpreschool.org)

Melanie Claire Clough (née Wakely)

Melanie was born on 9<sup>th</sup> September 1958, her father's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her parents had bought a piece of land in Hardwick Road just before she was born and in 1960 they moved into their newly-built home.

With her sister Susanne she attended the Abbey School, Reading from 5 to nearly 19 years. After 'O' level the Abbey required all girls to do voluntary work - Melanie worked for a time at Eastfield House. After leaving school she took a two year bi-lingual business studies course at the French Institute, Kensington.

*There were many village activities in the early days in Whitchurch to which Melanie belonged - Brownies, Junior Red Cross, Riparians, and The Adventures (run by the then Rector's wife).*

*She became an oil trader and in 1985 married Simon Clough, a ship broker, at St. Mary's. They eventually settled in Wimbledon.*

Melanie was an energetic wife and mother, constantly entertaining friends and family. She worked tirelessly with the Junior League in their support of battered wives.

Melanie was one of the organisers of the 37 strong group of friends celebrating Christmas and the New Year in Khao Lak, Thailand. She is now listed as 'missing' following the tsunami which devastated the area on December 26<sup>th</sup>. Three of the party are known to have drowned and two others are also missing.

Melanie leaves her husband Simon, her children Nathalie nearly 17, Clemmie aged 14, and Freddie 11, her sister Susanne, her brother Andrew, and their families, as well as her mother-in-law, her godmother, and many Clough relatives, and her grieving parents.

Sonia and Peter Wakely

## **WoTHABS**

We are hoping to do a bit of trimming on the **Jubilee Walk** tunnel of trees in February. If you would like to give a hand please ring me after January 31<sup>st</sup>.

We have some young trees ready for planting in the **Manor Road play area** and will be putting a notice board up there shortly to show what trees we have and where they could go. Your comments will be invited so that your views can be taken into account.

Our next meeting is scheduled for 8 p.m. **Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>** Boze Down Vineyard. You are very welcome to join us. It would be helpful if you could ring in advance.

Good wishes for 2005. Our **Action Plan** for the year can be found on the WoTHabs page of the village website.

**Gill Goodwin 9842934**

## **WHITCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

It is with regret that I have to resign my position as Chair of the Village Hall Management Committee, but with family and other village commitments, I have to reduce the number of things I do.

The VHC needs fresh blood and more members to take the Hall forwards. The Chair position involves running the committee meetings, of which there are only 3 a year. We need somebody urgently to take this role, so if you are interested in helping with this central part of village life please ring me.

**Kate Thatcher 984 4656**

## **THE ALLOTMENT SOCIETY**

At this time of year there is not much happening at the Allotments. However it will not be long before the days start to lengthen in earnest and we can look forward to another season. I am always happy (given a little notice) to show the Allotments around to any prospective diggers ....

## Whitchurch Art and Craft Exhibition

### **Art and Craft Exhibition 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Nov 2004**

This year's Exhibition was a great success in many ways and received very welcome compliments from all the visitors to the Village Hall over the weekend.

There were a record number of entries (164) from residents of Whitchurch and Goring Heath parishes, and the scope and expertise of the entries was as impressive as always. They represented a wonderful range of skills in fine and applied arts and photography.

The three local schools – Whitchurch Pre-School Group, Whitchurch Primary and the Oratory Preparatory – all put on enthusiastic and eye-catching displays of art and craft work, which added colour and interest to the ambience of the Hall.

The Whitchurch Cup for Craft was awarded to Sarah Dixon for her charming Shaker-style Christmas hanging. The Orford Cup for Art was again won by Gill Goodwin for her striking monoprint entitled 'The Big Umbrella'. Anne Jones (a first-time exhibitor) was awarded the CPL Cup for Photography for her beautiful study of a water lily. For the best first time entry, John and Heather Chaffer were jointly awarded the Butterworth Cup for their Edwardian pond yacht, which they had rescued from a local jumble sale in a sorry state and painstakingly restored. Frances Dixon gained the Chairman's Cup for her original and well-captured study of 'Two Birds'.

There were thirteen exhibits this (the third) year of the Joyce Voysey Prize. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm for this 'open' class increasing! The theme was 'Birds' and the range of media and exhibitors' ages was wide. Lorna Woolhouse won the award for her tableau of delightful and accurate miniatures representing 'Birds from Around the World'. By the way, next year's theme is to be 'Water' – this subject was chosen **before** Boxing Day and now may elicit some quite different interpretations than we might previously have envisaged.

The entries by the younger residents of the villages never fail to entertain and impress with their imagination and talent. The overall awards for best entries were won by Jennifer Huxtable (under 7 yrs), Ally Baty (7-10 yrs), Elsa King (11-14yrs) and Dot

King (15-18yrs). The Junior Photography class was won by Lorna Woolhouse – this class particularly has proved popular and attracts a high standard of work.

A new introduction this year was the Popular Vote, which gave visitors a chance to make their own selection of a favourite exhibit. The idea was well received and there were 170 votes cast. It was a close-run vote but Peter Woolhouse was the winner with his unique flintwork panel depicting the Uffington White Horse. For the full details of all the winners and runners-up, do visit the website ([www.wotarts.co.uk](http://www.wotarts.co.uk)).

The prize-giving ceremony was introduced by Ann Tuckwell, Chairman of the Society, and the cups and prizes were presented by Tony Voysey, the Society's President. Each of the major adult awards was accompanied by a gift – these were donated by the Society with the exception of the Joyce Voysey Prize pottery tankard which was most generously donated by Flint House Ltd. (Adrian and Sarah Dixon).

In addition to the main Exhibition this year, we were delighted to have been able to show off over 20 prize-winning exhibits from past years' shows in the Archive Corner. Jim Reed's powerful portrait was from the very first Exhibition in 1972! It was a most entertaining and varied display which was enjoyed by all and it generated much lively nostalgic discussion. It was great to see Geoff Weir's Meccano clock (still ticking!) and Peter Woolhouse's coracle (still with tail!) again.

Last, but by no means least, the commemorative display of 17 watercolours by Jack Orford was also very successful. Limitations of space meant that we were only able to display a small proportion of paintings offered to us but we endeavoured to show a representative range of his style and subject matter, which was most interesting to study. It was so pleasing that we were able to welcome Jack's family on Saturday afternoon, who travelled down from Birmingham especially to see the display. His son, Jim Orford, wrote a most interesting biographical piece for us, and this has been reprinted here in the Bulletin for those who did not get the chance to read it.

I should like to finish with a huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the Exhibition – to my sub-committee friends Jill Bradon, Sarah Dixon and Chris Martin, without whom it just wouldn't happen; to the excellent judges; to the many residents who worked so hard setting up and dismantling the exhibition; to everyone who so kindly loaned the items for the Archive Corner and for the Jack Orford display; to the Whitchurch Society committee for their continuing support and funding; and finally and most importantly, to all the exhibitors themselves.

Sally Woolhouse  
Chair of the Art & Craft Sub-Committee

## **Jack Orford 1913 - 2004**

Many people in Whitchurch and vicinity will remember Jack Orford. He lived in the village with his first wife Margaret, my Mother, from 1960 until Margaret died in 1993 and for another two years after that when he moved to Wallingford and then to Didcot with his second wife Joy. Sadly he suffered with Alzheimer's disease in his last few years. He died in April 2004 aged 90.

Jack was born in South London, went to school in Croydon, and moved as a teenager with his parents and his two brothers to Caterham in Surrey on the North Downs, now just inside the Greater London area. It was there that he acquired his love of the English countryside which was always with him and which featured so prominently in his paintings later in life. His career was as a Local Government Officer, first with Croydon Council, then with the London County Council, and latterly as Chief Officer for 'Organisation and Methods' or O&M as it was known in those days, for Reading, Berkshire and Oxfordshire Councils combined. His career was interrupted early on by service as a soldier in World War II. He became a Captain and served in France, Belgium and India.

Considering his extraordinary talents, Jack Orford was a surprisingly unassuming, modest man. It would be hard to imagine anyone more practical. He believed in teaching himself to do something by reading up about it and then practicing patiently and methodically until he had mastered the skill. That was how he learned to drive, before there were tests, how he learned to make a new garden including planting and pruning fruit trees - the garden he made at his Dormey house in Hardwick Road, Whitchurch, was just one of several he constructed in his time - and the way he learned to paint and to make all his own picture frames.

It was as an artist that most people locally will remember Jack. He taught himself water colour painting as an adult, probably starting in his late 30s or early 40s, but there are several Orford family holiday albums going back a decade or two earlier that show how accomplished he was with pen and ink, and he later tried oils as well, with his usual success. But it was as a water colourist that he achieved most. He was a prominent member of the Caterham Art Group and later of the Reading Guild of Artists, serving as their Chair and then Vice-President for most of the 1970s. Two years running he had pictures chosen for exhibition at the Royal Institute of Water Colourists in London. He regularly exhibited in Henley where for some years he was part owner of a

gallery. An important part of his life as an artist was passing on what he had learned to others. He held classes here in the village as well as in Henley, and organised a number of painting holidays on the continent.

It gave him great satisfaction to be able to capture in paint the English countryside that he loved so much, including the Thames Valley and the Chilterns near his home - Rowland Hilder was a hero - as well as scenes in France, Spain and Italy that caught his artist's eye. One room in his home was given over as a studio. It brimmed with sketches, pictures in the making with one or more washes completed, frames being made, paper being stretched in readiness, half used tubes of paint. It gave him enormous pleasure to be commissioned to paint a picture or to see the tell-tale red dot on one of his pictures in an exhibition that meant he had made a sale. He would be very proud, as his family is, to see some of his paintings collected here that are now to be found in homes in this part of England that inspired him so.

Jim Orford, Jack's son, November 2004.

## ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRAVEL ABROAD THIS YEAR?

### **New E111 Forms for 2005**

Age Concern have advised me that any E111 forms issued before summer 2004 are no longer valid and will need to be replaced. A new application form can be obtained from the Post Office for this year, and this form will then be replaced by a European Health Insurance Card for future years. Further information will be available at Post Offices.

### **Free Passports for those over 75**

From 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004 free ten-year passports became available for everyone born on or before 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1929. Last year free passports were issued to veterans of the Second World War to enable them to visit old battlefields and to visit people they last saw in the war. This year the scheme is being extended to all those who were aged at least ten when the war broke out. These passports can be obtained in the normal way, using application forms available from Passport Offices and Post Offices. (If you use the Post Office, there will be a £6 charge for the check-and-send service). If you are eligible and bought a passport between 19<sup>th</sup> May and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2004, you can apply for a refund on the Passport Adviceline, telephone number 0870 521 0410 – or use their website, [www.passport.gov.uk](http://www.passport.gov.uk)

If you have any queries on these and other topics, please phone the Age Concern Information and Advice Service on their helpline: 01235 849 400

Alison Michael, Age Concern Local Link.

## **WOODCOTE LIBRARY**

### January

We start the New Year on Tuesday 4th January after the Christmas break. As we expect that many people will have invested in a DVD player this Christmas we are having a three for two offer on DVD hire for the month of January. This includes our new Top Titles category, you get the lowest priced DVD free for the week. If you would like to return books or tapes when we are closed there is a letter box in the door at the back of the library. They should be well-wrapped, and to avoid fines must be deposited before the stamped return date. If you would like a PIN number so that you can order books and tapes on the web, please ask at the desk. Books can also be renewed this way, but videos, tapes and DVDs are charged by the week and will be charged accordingly on return. Two more reasons to pay us a visit in the New Year are a fresh "Feast on Fiction" collection of paperbacks, which are always popular, and the exhibition of quilts and collage by Jan Clegg which begins this month. It will be a colourful and varied collection - come in and have a look!

### February

To mark the release of Bambi this month we are promoting Disney films on DVD and video. We shall have a display of Saxon archaeology from Oxfordshire in the long-empty display cabinet - do come and have a look. Incidentally, if anyone would like to use the display cabinet from March onwards we'd be delighted to arrange a time. It could be a special collection, a hobby or things made by children at pre-school classes. This also applies to our wall display area at the other end of the library. February is the month when many people start thinking about holidays and our computers are available to consult web sites for good deals on accommodation and travel. Meanwhile new books arrive every week for fireside reads during the shortest month including the latest bestsellers. Come and see what is in.

### **LOST?**

We have found a dark coloured fleecy jacket in our cloakroom and in spite of enquires can't find the owner. If you think you might have left it at Rosemary, Hardwick Road, please ring us on 9842954 Ann and Bob Edmondson.

## **LANGTREE SCHOOL NEWS**

### **CHRISTMAS IN WORDS & MUSIC**

A large and enthusiastic audience attended the Langtree School Concert, “Christmas in Words and Music”, held in the School Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Retiring Headteacher, Sam Peates, had chosen many of the spoken items which were beautifully performed by students.

### **LANGTREE Y7 BOYS TRIUMPH IN AREA FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL**

Langtree’s Y7 five-a-side football team took part in the Vale of the White Horse Tournament on 8<sup>th</sup> December and returned with the winner’s trophy.

The team which represented Langtree was: Matt Ploszinski (Captain), Tamas Barrett, Sam Quelch, Charlie Habasinski, Rob Whittaker, Chris Cresswell, Thomas Heslop

### **PRESENTATION EVENING**

**Thursday November 11th**

Langtree’s Presentation Evening held in the School Hall was a particular cause for both celebration and nostalgia. Paralympic gold medallist Graham Edmunds, a former Langtree student was guest of honour. It was also the last such evening for Headteacher, Sam Peates who is taking early retirement at the end of term after 30 years at the school. Graham Edmunds was joined on the platform by his mother, Pauline Walker, Rick Holroyd who will become Langtree’s Headteacher in January and Chair of Governors, Anthony Booth.

Headteacher, Sam Peates, congratulated all the students on their excellent results which had placed Langtree in the top 150 secondary schools in “The Times” league tables. He also thanked them for their outstanding contribution to school life and said that he would remember them with particular affection as the last year group to complete their time at Langtree before his retirement. He also praised the help given to the students by their teachers.

Anthony Booth paid tribute to the support given to students by their parents pointing out that many of the parents in the audience had once been students of Sam Peates at Langtree. Rick Holroyd added his congratulations to the students and paid tribute to the education provided at Langtree which prepared them for lifelong learning.

### **TALENTED ARTISTS ON BLUE PETER**

Talented Langtree School artists, Laura Pratley and Laura Hawkins, both studying GCSE Art in Y11, were short-listed recently in the Unilever International Schools Art Project Competition. The theme for their entries was “Connecting and Communicating”. Their compositions were selected from entries throughout the UK, only 25 being short-listed.

Laura Hawkins composition was entitled “CommCello” while Laura Pratley’s was on the theme, “See no evil, Speak no evil, Hear no evil”. The two works of art were exhibited at the Tate Liverpool for ten days.

Although they did not finish as outright winners of the competition, the two Lauras were selected to exhibit their work on Blue Peter and both returned proudly wearing their Blue Peter badges. Their day to remember at Television Centre included meeting representatives from Unilever as well as Blue Peter presenters Connie and Matt as well as assorted dogs and cats. They were invited by the presenters to talk about their work and they also met artist, Raymond Briggs, famous for “The Snowman”, who commented that their work was rather “too modern” for his taste.

### **CHILDREN IN NEED**

Langtree School students and staff raised over £300 for Children in Need with some fun events at school last Friday. Teachers Mike Markham and Amy Mitchell showed what good sports they are by agreeing to dress up once their students had raised £30. In fact both dressed-up, Mr Markham in drag and Mrs Mitchell as a flapper and each of them raised nearly £50. A number of other teachers went even further by agreeing to be soaked with wet sponges in aid of charity and this event raised £30. Other events included sponsored football and a cake sale.

### **The War Requiem comes to Pangbourne**

On Saturday & Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> at 8pm in the stunning, and most appropriate, Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel, the **Pangbourne Choral Society** will be presenting a semi-staged performance of Britten’s *War Requiem* to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year of the ending of WW II.

The *War Requiem* was commissioned to celebrate the consecration of St Michael's Cathedral in Coventry in May 1962. Britten was a lifelong pacifist and the *War Requiem* is about the brutality and futility of war, along with the senseless suffering and monstrous death and destruction that it brings. As well as the normal Requiem text the War Requiem includes many of the World War I poems. The fact that it will be 'semi-staged' will give some extra interest to the event

The Pangbourne Choral Society will be joined by the Pangbourne College Choir, the Philomel orchestra and international soloists Elizabeth Collier, Young-Hoon Heo & Julian Hubbard all under the baton of Darren Everhart & artistic direction of Kim Begley, who writes:

'Having performed this piece many times I have long nurtured the idea of staging Britten's *War Requiem*. The almost operatic nature of the music together with Wilfred Owen's haunting poetry conjure up strong visual and dramatic imagery.

Traditional presentations of concert oratorio works still have their place however modern media and film techniques have developed our expectations of entertainment and performance.

The Falklands Memorial Chapel at Pangbourne is an exciting space which will suit our ideas for the *War Requiem*. The 130 strong Pangbourne Choral Society under the baton of Darren Everhart will be acting as well as singing in the manner of a Greek chorus. Evening dress will be replaced by costume. Masks will be used by some and the music partially memorised.

Students from Pangbourne College will swell the choirs ranks and the Art and Drama departments have made the subject matter of the work an integral part of their curriculum.

'This is the first time this moving and powerful work has been staged – an exciting first for all.'

Tickets – (£10, U-18s £2) from Premier Pets, Pangbourne or PCS Tickets, 13 Shooters Hill, Pangbourne, RG8 7DZ. [pcs@musician.org](mailto:pcs@musician.org)  
[www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk](http://www.pangbournechoralsociety.fsnet.co.uk)

## DIAL-A-RIDE

Oxfordshire County Council has introduced a new Dial-A-Ride transport service for people with mobility problems living in South Oxfordshire. This demand-responsive, door-to-door service will operate initially for 12 months as a pilot scheme. This minibus service will operate 5 days a week. The district is being split into four different zones, each of which will receive a once a week service. The fifth day will be open for more flexible journeys throughout the district. Journeys will only be available

to people who qualify on grounds of disability or other mobility impairment. It will help them to access key local services like pharmacies, shops and leisure facilities. The service is being run by Walters Limousines, on behalf of Oxfordshire County Council. For information , please contact Walters on 01869 327048

## **Goring Heath Parish Charity**

So, it's all over for another year.

The Mini Market, held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November, attracted a satisfying number of people, all of whom seemed pleased with the variety of stalls and quality of the goods on sale. I must say there were some really lovely items.

The Mini Market Raffle produced winners from a wide area of the local countryside.

The Christmas Tree - donated, as always, by Rogers of Pennyroyal – was won by a little girl called Samantha, who lives in Basildon

A large bag of bulbs – donated by Woodcote Garden Centre – won by Mrs Ann Wilson, Whitchurch Hill

Necklace – donated by Mrs Livsey – won by Mr Godard, Woodcote

Thai meal for two – donated by The King Charles Head – won by Mrs Tarsnane, Whitchurch Hill

Poinsettia – won by Mrs Marshall, Whitchurch

Bottle of Famous Grouse Whisky – won by Penny Johnson, Whitchurch Hill

Bottle of Gin – donated by Mrs Tarsnane- won by Alison Howell, Crays Pond.

The Friends of St John's Hamper Raffle – won by Nik Elsome, Whitchurch.

A heart felt “thank you” to all those who come to help on the day & to all those who donated raffle prizes, we really wouldn't manage without you.

A couple of important dates for your diary.

On Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> 05, the Inner State Theatre Company brings Andy Andrew's comic adaptation of Bram Stoker's famous novel “Dracula” to Goring Heath Parish Hall, (suitable for adults & teens over 15yrs). Tickets are available now at £6.00 for Adults & £4.00 for Concessions & if you want to make sure of your seat, do phone me on 0118 9842056.

The other date of special note, is Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> when the Spring Gardening Show is due to be held, again in Goring Heath Parish Hall.

The titles for the Photographic section are as follows:-

1. Reflections.
2. National Treasure.
3. Domestic Bliss.

So good luck & I hope you all find plenty of inspiration to take an even greater selection of interesting & varied photos.

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year for 2005.

TE.



## **Mother Goose brings up 40 pantos for WADS**

Mother Goose was the first ever Woodcote Amateur Dramatic Society pantomime back in 1966 and it will once again be played out at Woodcote village hall 40 years of pantos later! Jim Sperink's award-winning script brings new life to an old favourite.

Follow the adventures of Mother Goose, her family and friends as they try to outwit the evil Jabberwock who can't wait to get his hands on those famous golden eggs. Songs, laughter and good old-fashioned fun for the whole family as we transport you from Nurseryland to the moon and back again. What could be more egg-citing...

Performances are on 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> January and 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> February, with matinees on the Saturdays (no concessions on Saturday evenings). Tickets are available from 3<sup>rd</sup> January on 01491 680494.

## **PANGBOURNE & DISTRICT TENNIS CLUB**

Matches have begun again after the Christmas break; the Mixed team buoyed up by having come top in the previous Summer League. Congratulations to all concerned.

Club afternoons continue on Sundays, 2-4pm. Come down and meet some of the members, and see if you would like to join. Junior tennis coaching will begin again at the end of April, more of that in the next issue. Courts are open to members of the public at £4 per hour. Please leave your fee at no 36 Thames Avenue.

If you would like more information about tennis in the Pangbourne/Whitchurch area, please contact Brian on 9845650. For those of you new to Pangbourne, the courts are in the Recreation ground at the end of Thames Avenue.

Lesley Crimp

## **WHITCHURCH HILL CAMERA CLUB**

Our meeting on the 19th January takes a look at “Reading - Then and Now”. Well known local expert, Brian Eighteen, shows how Reading has changed over the years from Victorian times up to the present day.

The next meeting (26th January) will take us on a faraway journey in the company of our Chairman, Alan Copeland LRPS APAGB who will recall a visit down under in a presentation entitled “16 Days in New Zealand.”

February meetings start on Wednesday, 2nd February when two of our Club members, Peter and Jean Bean, will recall their recent journey along “The South American Coast - From Panama to Chile.”

One week later sees our annual Enprint Competition which, once again, is kindly sponsored by Jessops.

The third meeting this month takes place on the 16th February when Peter Brandham from Kew Gardens turns his attention to steam locomotives in India with a presentation called “Train Come - No Speak.”

The month ends on the 23rd with a fascinating evening in the company of local wedding photographer, John Palmer ARPS ABIPP, who looks back over a career in photography which has centred around “Portraits, Poems, Paintings and a Couple of Pints.”

We meet every Wednesday evening at the Village Hall, Whitchurch-on-Thames starting at 8pm.

All aspects of photography are covered including digital cameras and imaging and we also have a special Digital Group which meets on Friday, 21st January and 18th February. Membership of this group is free to existing Camera Club members.

Further information and a copy of our full Programme are available on our website: [www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.whitchurchhillcameraclub.co.uk) or from Alan Copeland on (01491) 681471. Copies are also available at Pangbourne Library.

## **THE GRAND NAMING OF A LANE DEBATE!!**

It was hardly a debate in the November issue; both Sally and Eric seemed to be against the graphic name of Muddy Lane!!

Names don't always have to reflect a road or path as it is now, but often give a flavour of what it once was: Swanston Field for example, the only bulls that live there now are us!

Therefore, I propose that the name of Muddy Lane is kept. It gives me the picture of happy children in pale blue sweatshirts trudging and running happily in their wellies to and from school. Yes, it was hard to push a buggy through the mire and keep small children from falling in the worst of it, but for many in the village it was and is a beautiful path through the nettles and other wild flowers that I'm sure that Sally and Eric can name better than me. But please can we keep the name of the lane Muddy?

Jean Bull

## **A HAPPY ENDING**

Just after Christmas, with the new timetable not yet fully absorbed, we were going to London. It took quite a while to get our tickets and the train appeared. We rushed to catch it and left a parcel on the windowsill of the box office. It had a very nice box of chocolates in it, meant for the friends we were going to see, and a pair of almost new gloves.

The next day I went to the station asking whether by some miracle someone has handed it in. Yes, they did, and here you are.

Conclusion: for all the evils of the present day, there are some kind and honest people around in the catchment area of Pangbourne station. Many thanks to him, her or them.

Yours sincerely,  
Andrew Seager

**THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN** will be published in MARCH 2005.

Please send your contributions **preferably by e-mail to**

**[sarah@pongo.freemove.co.uk](mailto:sarah@pongo.freemove.co.uk) or on disc.**

Formats can be Word (.doc) or text (.txt or .rtf) or PagePlus (.ppp), or Acrobat(pdf).

Other formats by arrangement

Alternatively you can send hard copy to the Editor:

Sarah Butterworth, The Little House, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading,  
Berkshire RG8 7EX (0118 984 2922)

**no later than Wednesday 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2005.**

Views of individual contributors are the views of those contributors,  
and are not necessarily the views of the Parish Council, or the editor.