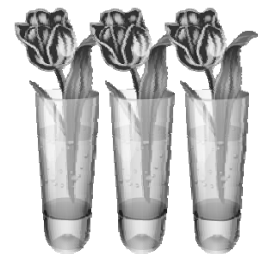


Poulshot, Seend and Bulkington Services January 2010

	Sidesman	Reader
February 7th Amery	Mrs J Arnold	Mrs K
February 14th Arnold	Mrs P Bremner-Milne	Mr B
February 21st Arnold	Mrs J James	Mrs J
February 28th	Mr B James	The Vicar

Church Flower Roster

7th Feb	Mrs Kate Amery
14th Feb	Mrs Suzie Quinn
LENT	No flowers
4 April	EASTER All Helpers please



Dates for the diary

- Mark's car wash outside the Village Hall on Sat 20 Feb
- for Help for Heroes
- Ladies Club Tuesday 16th February
- Poulshot Fete 26TH June
- Poulshot Feast 12th September

Carol Singing ...



On the Monday before Christmas when the snow was not exactly deep and crisp and even, some of you may have been lucky (or unlucky, dependant on your musical taste) to have been visited by the Poulshot Carol Singers. A hardy bunch of thirteen singers braved the elements to bring the spirit of Christmas (this year) to houses around the Green.

One of the band really did carry a guiding star and it really did seem as though the start of the festive season was with us. Many,many thanks to all those who exercised their vocal cords that night and an even bigger 'thank you' to those who contributed to our collection box. The magnificent sum of £66.51 was raised and will be added to the sum raised from the Advent Boxes and donated to the Devizes Food Bank.

Thank you

A huge 'Thank You' to all those who took away a box from Church, and during Advent filled it with their loose change. It is amazing how this all adds up, and this Advent we managed to raise the wonderful amount of £183.67. This means that the money raised from our Carol Singing around the village added to that from the Advent Boxes comes to £250. 18p. A cheque for this amount will now be forwarded to the 'Devizes Food Bank' to help with their work of helping the needy and homeless of Devizes. A big, big 'thank you' to everyone who contributed to this wonderful effort.

What? Can it really be ?

I'm still wishing people a "Happy New Year" but, by the time you read this we will be well into 2010 already. I hope you enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. In this I must thank everyone who helped to make my first Christmas in these parishes so enjoyable and (relatively !) stress-free. The carol services, and especially the crib services, seemed to be well received. It was good to see all the children come along & take part.

A New Year can often mean turning over a new leaf as well, of course. With that in mind, and, with the support of your PCCs, we have drawn up a revised schedule of services, which we hope will provide a good mixture across the broad age range and needs of our communities. The main change is that there will no longer be a communion service at every main morning service at Seend (although there will be one somewhere within the Benefice). Instead the second Sunday service will alternate between Matins (Morning Prayer), and for those who are less comfortable with the rather more established form of services, an informal and shorter length Family (or "All-Age") service.

We've also built in one or two rather more special services around the Easter period, as you might expect, with a greater emphasis on families, changing some service times a little to provide an opportunity for tea on Mothering Sunday, maybe a procession on Palm Sunday, and a picnic and egg trail on Easter Day. On Maundy Thursday this year there will be a Benefice Passover Meal, in the Village Hall at Poulshot and on Easter day there will be a Sunrise Service at 6.30 am, followed by breakfast, at Seend. There will also be an 8 am service of Holy Communion at Seend every Sunday, including 5th Sundays of the month. All these services, no matter in which village they are held, are, of course, open to everyone.

What I would like to stress is that this schedule is not "cast in concrete". It is right and proper that we should review our services from time to time and bring them more in line to meet the needs of the parishes as far as possible. We are challenged to occasionally "think outside the box", and make our services appropriate to the time and culture in which we live. Whilst having a deep respect and love of tradition, we cannot afford to be bound by it. One minister I met yesterday has bought an ice-cream van to take "church" out on the streets to his flock. Now there's an idea! I guess that would go down well as long as it was also well stocked with ice-creams too. But why not?

So what else can we offer at this time? Well, I would like to re-introduce the mid-week get-togethers that used to happen. "**Café Church**" is to be launched - with the emphasis rather more on the "café" than church, and initially will take place on **Wednesdays: 2nd February, 10th March and 7th April - 10 am to 11.30 am** in the Vicarage initially, until we outgrow it. This will provide an opportunity for anyone to meet and chat over a cup of coffee, ending with a very short, informal and non-threatening act of worship in time for everyone to return home (or to Nosh and Natter) for lunch. Why not call in from buying your newspaper or groceries at the Post Office? You will be very welcome.

... and, of course, what about the children? Well, by the time you read this I imagine the Christingle service at Seend on 31st January will have happened and I hope that everyone will have enjoyed it, including all those who so kindly helped at the workshop the previous day putting the Christingles together. It seems to me that children are well catered for in Seend with "First Steps", the playgroup, Brownies and Rainbows - and in Bulkington with "Fun Station". However Poulshot seems to be rather out on a limb at the moment. With that in mind we're considering piloting a session of "Messy Church" around the school summer holiday time - perhaps in the first week of the holidays. "Messy Church" is aimed at children of primary school age, and their families. There will be more

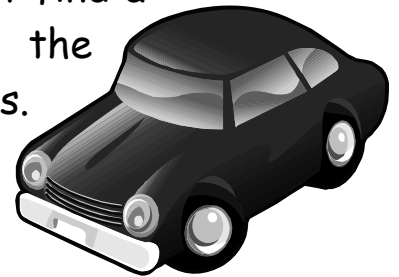
details about that, and indeed all the special one-off services in future editions of this magazine. Please also look out for details on noticeboards and in the schools' letters to parents each week - or, of course, you could always call me (827285) or one of your churchwardens for further details.

It goes without saying that none of these events that are over and above our regular worship will be possible without a great deal of goodwill and hard work on the part of those who organise and run them. And none of them will be viable without your active encouragement and support. My deepest and most sincere thanks to you all.

May this year be a good one and may God bless us all in our endeavours to bring his kingdom a little closer, here on earth.

Renée

"... and FINALLY ..." A minister parked his car in a no-parking area in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windscreen wiper: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES.



When he returned, he found a ticket from a traffic warden along with a note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Poulshot Ladies Club

The Ladies Club met for the January get together to plan the events for 2010. There were 26 members present. As it was also the AGM, Kate and Marian left the room to wash up the glasses while the members decided if they wanted them to stand again. They did!

There followed a short discussion about subscriptions. This has been set at £2 per meeting for some while. It was agreed to continue with a monthly fee rather than change to an annual subscription, as it might put off people who were only able to be there for some of the year. The monthly fee was agreed unanimously to be raised to £3, with an occasional raffle as usual. The list of events was drawn up with a good balance of intellectual and physical exercise with the emphasis on enjoyment. Details will be circulated soon.

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on our usual third Tuesday, 16th February. Members are invited to pick out a book that they have enjoyed over the years or recently and share it with other members. We will have our usual nibbles and wine to help loosen the tongues!



Wiltshire Air Operations Unit

20th Anniversary

Spring Ball

7.30pm March 27th 2010

at Dauntsey's School Memorial Hall

West Lavington

**Dancing to the. KJ Music Zone Band
and Hitline Disco**

Tickets £35 (includes a buffet)

Available from the Air Operations Unit Police Headquarters

Tel: 01380 734108

Dress Code: Formal Carriages at 12:30am

*(All proceeds to the Wiltshire Air Ambulance
Appeal)*



FOUND

By stile on footpath running east of Poulshot, half a silver
dog whistle. Ring Kate Hunloke 828333

Help for Heroes

Who are we?

Help for Heroes was founded by Bryn and Emma Parry in October 2007 out of a desire to help the wounded Servicemen and women returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. The message of the charity is simple: We are strictly non political and non critical; we simply want to help. We believe that anyone who volunteers to serve in time of war, knowing that they may risk all, is a hero. These are ordinary people doing extraordinary things and some of them are living with the consequences of their service for life. We may not be able to prevent our soldiers from being wounded, but together we can help them get better.

Welcome to Help for Heroes

Practical, Direct Support for our Wounded



"It's about the blokes, our men and women of the Armed Forces. It's about Derek, a rugby player who has lost both his legs, it's about Carl whose jaw is wired up so he has been drinking through a straw. It's about Richard who was handed a mobile phone as he lay on the stretcher so he could say goodbye to his wife. It's about Ben, it's about Steven and Andy and Mark, it's about them all. They are just blokes but they are our blokes; they are our heroes. We want to help our heroes."

From Mark Baker ...

After spending 6 months in Afghanistan during the Spring, Summer and Autumn of 2009 at Kandahar, Camp Bastion and Lashkar Gar, I wanted to do something for all those who returned home having paid a huge price for their country. Help me to do something for them in 2010.

The signature event in the Help for Heroes calendar is the Big Battlefield Bike Ride. In the last week of May 2010, 300 cyclists will gather at HMS Victory, the Flagship of Britain's greatest wounded hero, Admiral Lord Nelson. They will set off to ride 350 miles across France and at the same time raise a great deal of money to support our current wounded heroes.

Donating through this page -

[www. bmycharity.com/markfbaker](http://www.bmycharity.com/markfbaker)

is simple, quick and secure. It is the most efficient way to give - so every donation goes further - and if you are a UK taxpayer and give Gift Aid consent the charity will receive an extra 28% at no cost to you. Thank you for your support.

Mark Baker

And you may have already seen this in the Gazette ...

Inspired by his time commanding air crews in Afghanistan, RAF officer Mark Baker is to raise money for the charity Help for Heroes. Group Captain Baker, 47, returned home to Poulshot, near Devizes, in November following a six-month tour in Afghanistan. He was based at Kandahar Airfield and Camp Bastion and was in charge of all the RAF aircraft.

Help for Heroes, based in Tidworth, raises money to support wounded servicemen and women injured in Afghanistan and Iraq. He said: "Being in Afghanistan drove me to physically do something for Help for Heroes. It is a fantastic charity and it has achieved so much in a short space of time."

The Big Battlefield Bike Ride will involve 300 people cycling 350 miles from Portsmouth and along battle fields of Northern France. The ride will finish at Dunkirk on the 70th anniversary of the evacuation, accompanied by a flotilla of little ships. The aim is to raise £1 million.

To sponsor Group Captain Baker on the ride visit

[www. bmycharity.com/markfbaker](http://www.bmycharity.com/markfbaker)

What do you think about your community area?

ATWORTH, BROUGHTON GIFFORD, BULKINGTON, GREAT
HINTON, KEEVIL, MELKSHAM, MELKSHAM WITHOUT,
POULSHOT, SEEND, SEMINGTON, STEEPLE ASHTON

The Melksham Community Area Partnership
has been set up to find out what is really important to you.
Wiltshire Council are making a strategy for our area and
want to know what we think.

Come along to make your views known.

Public Consultation

You can express your view on :

<http://melksham.communityarea.org.uk/>

The Melksham Community Area Partnership is an all-inclusive
group of community representatives working together for
the benefit of the community.

Between us we have a strong voice.

For more information contact:

Miriam Zaccarelli, MCAP Partnership Officer, Melksham

Town Hall, SN12 6ES 07865 065 925

miriam@melksham.communityarea.org.uk

Housing Environment Accessibility

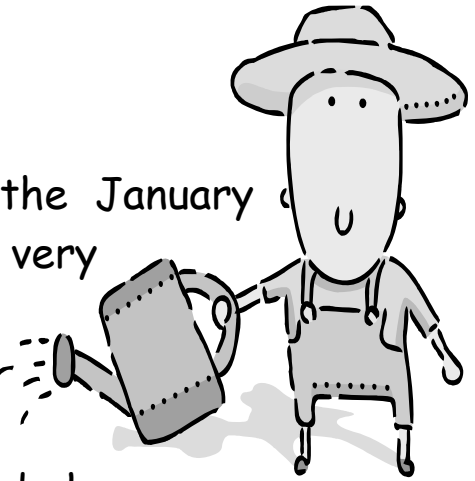
Employment Recreation Land Use

Transport Shopping Local facilities

and anything else on your mind

Gardening Club.

First of all our apologies for cancelling the January meeting at almost the last minute. It was very icy around the Pavilion and the car park so it was felt safer for everyone to forgo our meeting. The speaker was, I suspect, quite relieved, as were some of the members! I do hope we managed to get the message to everyone in time. At our previous meeting in December, which seems a long time ago now, Milly Carmichael, our speaker talked about the uses and history of holly, ivy and mistletoe and superstitions connected to them. From her extensive list I gleaned the fact that holly is an ivory coloured wood that takes a stain well, and was planted outside houses as a good lightning conductor (not sure about that!) It is apparently very bad luck to cut down a holly tree. Ivy does not harm sound brickwork (but in my garden got under roof tiles into the garage and broke the guttering), is a good dye plant and its late nectar and berries are good for wildlife, especially bees. Also if you put some in your socks for 2 weeks it will cure verrucas. Mistletoe mainly grows on trees with soft bark, like apple, was a fertility symbol and should be harvested with a golden sickle. Recent research though has shown it could have useful medicinal properties. Milly also talked to us about having a 'green' Christmas and her statistics about the huge volume of waste, particularly paper in various forms, were chastening and gave real food for thought. Next month Chris Smith of Pennard Plants who was unable to come last year will be talking about behind the scenes at the flower shows and the competition will be for the best photo of a single flower.



Sue

The Wednesday Group - 13th January 2010

MORAL versus LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY

The topic for discussion was, effectively, the dichotomy we are faced with all too often, of how something that we know to be morally wrong, can be justified within the legal framework.

Two particular examples quoted were firstly something we have been bombarded with recently, MPs claiming that they were only following the expenses' rules, while public opinion clearly felt that they were morally wrong to take advantage of a system that was patently flawed; it certainly seemed that they were allowed by their own authorities to get away with it, perhaps on the grounds of what are perceived by some to be inadequate salaries. But is it reasonable to "play the system", and by vilifying MPs, are we being self-righteous and somewhat hypocritical? The careful presentation of expenses is not unknown in many other spheres of work.

A second example was historic. Hitler's generals said that they were only obeying orders, and they almost certainly were. But did this qualify as a justification for the atrocities of the Holocaust and many other incidents of what might in any other situation be seen as murder? But if the alternative was probably to be shot, or worse, what would we have all done? From the same time, the area bombing of cities, by both sides, inevitably resulted in heavy civilian

casualties, a policy that is still seriously criticised today, but are civilians exempt from what might be termed the "Rules of War"?

Today we live in a "Whistle-blowing" age, and quite clearly it seems that often the whistle is blown for reasons of politics, class or simply envy, but should we always report apparent wrong-doing?

The other aspect of the question that might cause us concern is "What do we do about those we perceive as morally guilty?" The Jews are still seeking revenge (justice?) from ninety year olds, sixty years after the event, and the appalling crimes committed may justify this, and we've lost track of what is happening to MPs, except that some seem to have cheerfully paid back what they "fiddled", and others are "retiring".

The group considered the elements that contribute to acts that some might see as not moral, such as fear, anger, revenge and ignorance, and the social background of those who carry out these acts.

There was general agreement that the basis of 'The Law' should be the moral standards accepted by the majority, but there seems to be no doubt that moral standards differ between countries, and sometimes between sections of societies and, if that is so, who arbitrates, and can moral and legal responsibility co-exist?

We could not come up with a simple answer but there was agreement that our laws should, indeed must, reflect the

generally accepted moral code that guides the behaviour of the majority, and that those laws must be enforceable and act as an effective deterrent, whilst not forgetting the pressures created by our increasingly multi-cultured society.

One day we will have an easy topic to think about and it won't be nearly so interesting!

John Quinn



Rowde Primary School

Swimming Pool Roof Funds Christmas Bonus

Just before Christmas The Western Daily Press ran the 'Cash for Schools' competition that entailed collecting vouchers from the newspaper. Rowde School was nominated as one of the 12 finalists and won £8000! This has been a tremendous boost for our swimming pool roof fund. We would like to thank *everyone* who supported us by collecting the vouchers to make this possible.

RSA Recipe Book

In December we launched our special recipe book, which includes a wide range of recipes donated by parents, Mr Ball, Mel the Lollipop Lady, Mrs Taylor the School Cook, Peter Vaughan from The Bistro in Devizes, The George and Dragon. It has been beautifully illustrated with pictures from the children.

These sold like hot cakes at our Christmas Fayre - but don't despair we still have some left so it's not too late to buy them. They are available at £3.50 each from the School Office, Rowde Village Shop, The George and Dragon and The Raven (Poulshot).

SAT Results

The School achieved outstanding SAT results last academic year. 97% gained Level 4 or above in English and Science and 87% achieved Level 4 in Maths. Both results were well above the County and National averages and are the third best results achieved in the past 15 years. Well done everyone.

The Three Rs

The children of our school are also taught about the wider issues in today's world - the environment being one of them. We have recently implemented two schemes that help their awareness of the three R's - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

Firstly, we have installed some new composters in the school grounds. These allow us to dispose food waste in an environmentally way and reduce the waste going into the landfill. It also means that we can produce compost for the school garden and vegetable plots.

Secondly, we have launched a recycling scheme in conjunction with Recipro8™. This allows the school to accrue points, which can be spent on educational materials, sports equipment, conservation materials and experiences.

We are collecting old Mobile Phones, Ink Cartridges and Toners, PDA's, MP3's, MP4's, IPOD's and Satellite Navigation Units. So if you have any of these that are collecting dust at home or at work, then please don't throw them away but bring them into the School Office where they can go towards a good cause.

Spring clean...

We are running our fourth **Bag2School** collection in March. So now is a good time to sort through your wardrobes and drawers and donate good quality second clothing to help our Swimming Pool Roof Fund. Please bring in your bags to the School on **Monday 22nd March before 11:00.** *(Further details are available on our advert.)*



Bag2School, your "win win win" partner in clothing!
Bag2School, julle "win win win" partner in kleding!

It's time for a Spring Clean of your wardrobes and drawers. Following the success of previous campaigns, The Rowde School Association (RSA), have arranged our fourth Bag2School collection to raise funds for the proposed School Swimming Pool Roof. Bag2School is a company that specialises in selling good quality second-hand clothing to wholesalers in Europe, Africa and Asia. The wholesalers then have a chance to earn a living by selling the items locally.

So how does it work?

Special bags are available from the School Office from 1st March or you can use black plastic bin bags. You then need to fill each bag with good quality (no-bric-a-brac): Clothes ▪ Bedding ▪ Curtains ▪ Soft Toys ▪ Shoes ▪ Belts ▪ Handbags
And take the full bags to the School Hall on: Monday 22nd March by 11:00 The bags will then be collected from the School and weighed. The School will receive money in relation to the total weight donated. For example, a 10kg bag will raise £2.00 for the school. Money raised will go towards our *Swimming Pool Roof Fund*. This new facility will allow the children to swim all year round, not just the summer months. So please help us to make **Bag2School4** as successful as possible!



SEEND BULKINGTON AND POULSHOT BENEFICE
THE WEDNESDAY GROUP

10 February 2010

Multicultural society: Embrace; Tolerate or Abhor?

Venue is The Old Farmhouse,

Mill Lane, Poulshot

7-30 - 9pm

A discussion group on issues of concern and challenge for all.

All are very welcome.

For further details, please ring Rupert Janes

on 01380 828639

Do please get in touch if there is a subject
YOU WOULD REALLY LIKE TO BE DISCUSSED.

All offers willingly considered!



Strictly Fun Dancing

Friday 19th March

19.30 for 20.00 - -in the Village Hall

-free entry - licensed bar - music for all ages!!



100 Club December Draw

1st Prize	£100	Sue Henshaw /	2nd	£40	Nick Hunloke
3rd	£30	Suzanne Williams (Shirley Taplin)			
4th	£25	David Hargreaves /	5th	15	Hilary Kidd

The results of the January 100 Club Draw are:-

1st Prize	Tim Gravina	£25
2nd Prize	Jean Perrett	£15
3rd Prize	Angela Bullen	£10

Seend Bulkington and Poulshot Benefice Wednesday Group 2010

Normal time: 1930 - 2100hrs. 2nd Wednesday of the month. Aug and Dec are holidays.

Serial	Date	Subject	Venue	Remarks and Lead Speaker
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
2	10 Feb	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
3	10 Mar	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
4	14 Apr	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
5	12 May	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
6	9 Jun	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
7	14 Jul	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
8	Aug	No meeting	NA	
9	8 Sep	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
10	13 Oct	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
11	10 Nov	tbc	Poulshot Village Hall	
12	Dec	No meeting.	NA	

WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR - NEWS FROM JONATHON SEED

This is the first of regular articles for your Parish Magazine. The aim is to keep you informed of where I am involved on your behalf in the workings of Wiltshire Council and also to expand on particular aspects of the workings of the Council. I will also cover my involvement in local village issues. I am always happy to receive suggestions and feedback so please do contact me at any time.

The New Year has come quickly and brought with it an icy grip on the Country and County. Wiltshire seems to be coping as well as any County in these difficult climatic times. If the lengthy cold snaps are repeated on a regular basis then clearly the County will have to revisit the investment needed to cope with the arctic conditions. For the moment we seem to be coping.

Since being elected last summer I have become deeply involved in the rural affairs of the County and in particular the Division of Summerham and Seend. I attend as many of the seven Parish Council meetings as I can but there are inevitable clashes with other evening meetings. I have been elected as Chairman of the Melksham Area Board and your Parish is making a significant contribution to both the Area

Board and the Community Area partnership. Most parishes have also received community grants from the Area Board.

I have been appointed as Chairman of the Urchfont Manor Adult Learning Centre Board of Management and have recently taken on as Chairman of the northern half of the County's Operational Flood Working Group. This Flood Group works closely with Agencies and local Flood Groups to minimise the effects of flooding in the County. This will also give me an opportunity to help with the particular flooding issues in Keevil, Bulkington and Poulshot as well as in other local areas.

I am a member of the Management and Resources Overview and Scrutiny Select Committee which examines many detailed aspects of the Councils work. I am also a Member of the Licensing Policy Committee and the Western Area Planning Committee. Residents have told me that there is concern at the handling of planning matters by Wiltshire Council. I am always happy to discuss individual applications with residents or Parish Councils. I only have three weeks from the registration of an application to call it in for a Committee decision so I need early involvement to be effective in my help.

If you need to contact me please telephone 01380 850 696 or e-mail jonathon.seed@wiltshire.gov.uk.

BOXING DAY REPORT (Great Bulkington Railway) 2009.

December 26th dawned with bright sunshine, dry and a good weather forecast which, in the event, (apart from one shower) was mostly true. We were scheduled to start running the trains at 1300hrs and by eleven o'clock in the morning the 'Early Birds' were arriving



and asking for a ride! Happily my train crews arrived on time and the first fully loaded train departed bang on 1 o'clock. By 2:30 there were over 70 people in the garden and two passenger trains in operation. My wife Thelma and her friend Angela Read were heavily engaged in cooking and distributing the 200 sausages on sticks that Tim Taylor from the village Well Inn had kindly donated for the event. At the



same time we gave away a couple of large tins of 'Quality Street' toffees to our guests and the children. The two trains did 86 trips around

the 1000 foot long track- this works out at just over 16 miles and nearly a train departure every 2 minutes! Each train

carried an average of 6 or 7 passengers so we carried well over 500 adults and children. I would like to praise the train crews who worked solidly for over three hours without a break - 17 year old Driver Lee Thorp in particular (from West Lavington) and his Guard Ben Dobson

(from Bulkington). Both these youngsters have done many hours of training on the railway and are qualified drivers and guards. Thanks to the generosity of our riders and guests we were able to send £581 to our very deserving '*Help For Heroes Fund*'.



Nev Boulton, Station Master GBR

GOING BACK TO LAST YEAR.....

As this is the first magazine of 2010, it is the first opportunity Paulette and I have had to pass on our thanks to all who made the Christmas Bazaar such a good evening. The low temperature didn't stop people from venturing out, and even Father Christmas gave up some of his time to come and see us in Poulshot. (He is very busy in the weeks before Christmas, you know.)

Mulled wine and mince pies comforted folk as they wandered around the stalls spending their money and many made their way home clutching either home made cakes, food hampers or bottles from the Tombola!

In case you haven't heard on the village grapevine, the Bazaar made the grand sum of £355 - so once again thank you to everyone.