



TEBAY area villagers enjoyed a double celebration when their annual over-60s Christmas dinner coincided with poppy appeal presentations.





Guests (above and right) at the annual Christmas dinner for Tebay parishioners, put on by the local Royal British Legion branch in the village sports and social club.





Receiving their awards (left to right) are Gillian Trotter, 20 years service badge; Di Case, who made scissors cases and key fobs along with Pat Wolstenholme (far right), raising £155 for Tebay Royal British Legion; Graham Cave, Poppy Appeal organiser for Tebay; and Pat, who also received a badge for 20 years service.

The festive party was held at Tebay Sports and Social Club and also coincided with the hand-over of a donation from the sale of hand-crafted beaded poppy key fobs and embroidered scissors holders.

The 35th anniversary event run by Tebay branch of the Royal British Legion saw the presentation of awards to Poppy Appeal volunteers, including a 35-year bar to add to a long service medal, and two 20-year badges.

Tebay Royal British Legion has this year celebrated its highest ever Poppy Appeal income £14,929.19.

The branch has collected £149,600 since 1980.

A total of 56 guests sat down to a traditional Christmas meal of vegetable soup; turkey and all the trimmings; Christmas pudding; mince pies; and tea or coffee.

It was prepared and served by members of Tebay Legion branch, plus helpers, a tradition which has continued since 1980.

The meal is usually funded by Branch and village events and donations, particularly funds generated in conjunction with the Club's Sunday bingo. Vegetables were provided by David Trotter.

This year, £250 was donated from Tebay Fell Race income. There was also money raised by the sales of hand-crafted key fobs and scissors holders.

The sales income was donated by Mrs. Pat Wolstenholme to Graham Cave, Branch Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser.

This year, thanks to 27 volunteers and the support of Westmorland Ltd., a record £14,929.19 was raised for the Poppy Appeal, which was £2,500 above the previous best.

The awards in recognition of contributions to the Poppy Appeal over the years went to Mr. W. John Smith (35-year bar to 30-year long service medal); Mrs. Gilly Trotter and Mrs. Pat Wolstenholme (20-year badges); and Miss Debra Gibson and Mrs. Thelma Richardson (five-year certificates of appreciation).

Mrs. Richardson, of Kirkby Stephen, is County Chairman of Westmorland RBL Women's Section and has been involved in the Poppy Appeal for many years, having helped Tebay for the last five.

