

EAST KNOYLE, Semley and Sedgehill RBL REPORT

December 2022

Poppy Appeal

I am happy to pass on the exciting news of a record breaking year for the East Knoyle Poppy Appeal. When the 21/22 appeal closed on the 30th September, the pre-audit total raised stood at £15,311.91, beating our previous best ever total of 2018/19 by just over £300.

This is the result of an all year round effort, not just two weeks in November. Events such as the 'Strawberry and Pimms' tea down to the trickle of old and foreign coins placed in the box at the Wren shop all play their part. A special mention should also be made of our 'summer lightning', Roy Halsall, who during the summer attended 17 events with his 'Chevvy', clocking up nearly 1,700 miles in the process to raise £4,333.60 by selling Poppy Appeal merchandise..

However, this remarkable effort is only made possible by the contribution made by the whole village whose residents continue to be so generous with their donations of time and cash. So, to you all, thank you so much for ensuring the valuable work of the RBL continues.

As one door closes, another opens - the 22/23 appeal was launched on the 27th October and once again, our appeal supremo, Ian Gurney and his intrepid band of collectors immediately swung into action to brave the wind and rain up at Willoughby Hedge service area, maintaining a presence for the whole fortnight. At the time of writing the amount raised is £8,815.91 and we look forward to continuing our efforts in 2023 despite the present straightening financial times.

The History of Westland

On the 17th November, Jeremy Graham, former Chief Engineer at Westland, presented an informative and entertaining talk on the history of the company and short background to all the aircraft it has produced over the last 105 years. With such a wealth of material available and only one and half hours scheduled for the talk, at the end the audience we certainly left wanting more and it is hoped another talk by Jeremy can be arranged in the near future.

Proceeds from admission, the bar and raffle were split between our hosts, Semley village hall, and the Poppy Appeal, with the latter benefiting by a donation of £100. Thanks are due to Semley village hall for laying on refreshments and manning the bar and providing such an agreeable and well equipped venue.

Ron Clark, Branch Secretary
(830354)

