

Brenda calls it a day after 61 years

A DEDICATED poppy seller who has given more than 60 years to the Poppy Appeal has given up her collection tin.

Brenda Moore (78) first started collecting for the appeal as a teenager and continued to do her bit when she moved to Gosberton after her marriage to husband Norman in 1949.

But for the first time in 55 years Brenda will not be taking poppies around Gosberton after retiring due to problems with her hands.

She has a condition which has caused her fingers to twist and Brenda has just the use of her thumb and first finger on her left hand.

Brenda, of High Street, said: "The people have always been generous and gave so willingly.

"I would like to thank the people who have given.

"I am sad to retire and I have enjoyed it.

"I always did my best and I don't regret a step I ever took on my round.

"I have always thought that the Poppy Appeal is a good cause because the lads who went to war should never be forgotten."

Growing up during the Second World War Brenda, like many people of her generation, saw young men go off to fight and some never returned.

She began to help the Poppy Appeal, which funds the Royal British Legion's welfare work, as a 17-year-old in Quadring.

Brenda said: "I knew several people who lost someone during the war.

"It is the thought of the British soldiers who have been injured in the various conflicts over the years that has kept me going."

After getting married in 1949, Brenda joined the Gosberton collection and has walked or cycled the round since then.

Over the years her route has included parts of High Street, Salem Street, Rutland Gardens and Wellberry Drive.

Determined Brenda has been



▲ POPPY seller Brenda Moore is hanging up her collection tin after more than 60 years' service due to a problem with her hands. (2739a95)

known to call at a house more than once to ensure that she catches the homeowner.

She said: "I'm very persistent. If you are doing a job, you've got to do it well. I've put my heart and soul into this.

"I used to take the children around with me when they were young. They enjoyed it.

"I enjoyed talking to people. One lady always saves her coppers."

Her dedication to the appeal saw Brenda and Norman forgo presents for their golden wedding anniversary and asked for donations instead. They raised £330 for the appeal.

Brenda's hard work over the years has been rewarded by the national legion with a host of badges marking her years of service.