



Christmas shoeboxes

Notwithstanding living in “unprecedented times” this year many things don't change and the needs of disadvantaged children in countries such as Albania, Montenegro, Moldova and Romania remain unaltered.

For many years Churches Together in Alresford has been one local supporter of Alresford Rotary's contribution to the Rotary Wessex shoebox scheme which provides gift wrapped shoeboxes of small items for education, health and hygiene purposes for children up to 15 years of age, many of whom may never previously have received any present in their lives. Please make a difference to a child's life!

Normally Churches Together in Alresford holds a “packing party” in early November but rather than trying to predict what social distancing measures may be mandatory or advised at that time it has been decided that no “packing party” will take place this year. Churches Together in Alresford asks everyone who reads this article to make up at least one shoebox of gifts to benefit those whose circumstances are significantly worse than our own.

A copy of the scheme “rules” can be downloaded from <http://alresfordrotary.co.uk/> or is obtainable upon request from James Pinniger (wjrp@hotmail.co.uk 01962 738788). These rules must be followed!!

- **Boxes must not exceed 13” x 8” x 6”** (33cm x 20 cm x 15 cm) and the lid and the rest of the box must be wrapped separately so the contents can easily be checked and inspected by international customs (no hinged lids)
- **Boxes must not contain**
Battery powered items, war related items, large items of clothing or shoes, anything religious, political or racial, food, liquids, sweets, medicines, large toys or sharp items.
- **Please specify** whether your box is for a boy or a girl and the age category (0-3, 4-7, 8-11 or 12-15)
- **Please use an elastic band to secure the box and tape to the top of each box a £1 coin** to contribute towards the transportation and administration costs
- **Once your box(es) are ready** please contact James Pinniger by 1st November 2020 to arrange collection or delivery

Kevin at The Toy Box in Broad Street Alresford has kindly offered to help you fill up your boxes with suitable items.

Thank you for your support and for reading this – last year Alresford contributed 270 boxes out of a total of 26,000 collected by Rotary Wessex. Some years previously Alresford has contributed more than 500. Can you think of a good reason for not helping to brighten up at least one child's life?

Christians against Poverty (CAP)

With ongoing restrictions and uncertainty and ever changing guidance, CAP is looking to re-format the money management advice it provides in the local area moving away from the present from face to face meetings to “virtual” contact, and support being provided by phone, Zoom etc.

Because of the “unprecedented times” of the last six months the spending and budgeting habits of many of us have changed – some for the better, some for the worse. Anyone who feels money management advice could be of benefit to them is invited to contact

ctia.cap.alresford@gmail.com