

Alresford Rotary



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**Christmas Shoeboxes** - As has been the case for many years Alresford Rotary invites everyone to participate in the Wessex Rotary Shoebox Scheme and bring joy to disadvantaged children in Albania, Montenegro, Romania and the Philippines. One of the effects of the global pandemic was that last year fewer boxes were contributed than in previous years and those that were sent did not leave the UK until the new year. The late arrival of the boxes would have been of little concern to the recipients many of whom would have never previously received any present in their life.

In this scheme Alresford Rotary is supported by various of the local schools, Churches Together in Alresford and various other organisations including the W.I. and the Mothers Union. If you as an individual or a representative of a local group wish to become involved contact James Pinniger ([wjrp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wjrp@hotmail.co.uk) / 738788) for as many copies of the relevant scheme leaflet as are required.

The detailed "do's and don't's" specified in the scheme leaflet MUST be adhered to. The contents of all boxes collected by Alresford Rotary are carefully checked and "contraband" items removed before the boxes are delivered to the central collection depot. We do of course endeavour to ensure that a good home is found for any items removed but we would much prefer there to be none! In summary all items must be for education, health and hygiene purposes and be new or "as good as new". DO NOT include battery powered items, war related items, large items of clothing or shoes, books of a religious, racial or political nature, food, liquids, sweets, medicines, large toys or sharp items.

Boxes MUST NOT exceed 12" x 7" x 6" / 30 x 18 x 15 cm. Please specify whether your box is for a boy or a girl and his or her age (1-3, 4-7, 8-11 or 12-15). Boxes should be covered in wrapping paper and the lid should be wrapped separately from the main body of the box to facilitate inspection by Customs. The contents of each box must not be individually wrapped. A donation towards the cost of transport and administration is requested in respect of each box contributed. For many years the requested donation has been £1 but this year to offset increased costs £1.50 is requested. Boxes need to be ready by the second week of November.

**Remember Remember the Fifth of November!!** - All being well what we modestly consider to be mid Hampshire's best firework display and bonfire will return with a bang after a year's absence on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November preceded by the traditional torchlit procession down West Street from 7.00 p.m. Not to be missed!

**Please support Rotary**, a worldwide voluntary organisation of individuals (men and women) dedicated to "service before self", helping others, promoting what is good in society and aiming for peace the world over. If you like having fun and helping other people at the same time please let us know!

*James Pinniger*