

**Please Note New Website**

We are currently changing our website address, though the content will remain virtually the same. In this transitional period, both the old website ([www.shoebox.rotary1280.org](http://www.shoebox.rotary1280.org)) and the new will get the same results.

The new website is [www.rotaryshoebox.org](http://www.rotaryshoebox.org)

Similarly when returning filled shoeboxes we are changing from:

[shoebox@rotary1280.org](mailto:shoebox@rotary1280.org) to: [all@rotaryshoebox.org](mailto:all@rotaryshoebox.org)

Again, for a time both will run together.

**Price of the Boxes**

From July 2009 these are the price bands, with minimum order unchanged at 25 boxes.

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 25 to 99 boxes £2 per box.      | 100 to 199 boxes £1.50 per box. |
| 200 to 299 boxes £1.20 per box. | 300 to 499 boxes £1.00 per box. |
| 500 to 999 boxes £0.90 per box. | 1,000 plus boxes £0.85 per box. |

**Donations Welcome**

While many Rotary Clubs use the Shoebox Scheme, there are others who support us in principle but who do not actively fill boxes.

If yours is such a Club, then please consider making a donation to help towards the cost of delivering the box gifts to Eastern Europe.

We do have individual schools that fill boxes and are not connected to a particular Rotary Club. Perhaps you could consider sponsoring their boxes to be delivered.

Please make your cheque payable to: 'Rotary Shoebox Scheme' and send to: RIBI Shoebox, PO Box 87, Lymm, WA13 9WU, marking it as a donation.

**Not a Rotary Club? No Problem**

Any organisation or School, not in touch with a local Rotary or Inner Wheel Club can get details of the scheme from:

Rtn Nigel Danby (Gill) phone: 0161 763 3131 daytime preferred  
or 01706 643241 evening e-mail: [nigeldanbyO2@o2.co.uk](mailto:nigeldanbyO2@o2.co.uk)

**Contacts:** For any enquiries about the scheme contact:

**North:** Rtn Ken Smith (Sylvia)  
phone: 0161 437 5529 [Cheshire]

**South:** Rtn Colin Kidby (Audrey)  
phone: 01908 216598 [Bucks]

e-mail: [colin.kidby@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.kidby@talktalk.net)

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# THE ROTARY SHOEBOX SCHEME

## NEWSLETTER



An RIBI Project

**September 2009****Distribution of boxes since February 2009**

| Date  | Destination        | Boxes | Distributors  |
|-------|--------------------|-------|---|
| March | Baia Mare, Romania | 7620  | Hope and Homes for Children   |
| March | Cluj, Romania      | 4410  | Cluj Samos Rotary, Cluj Prison Fellowship, Fundata Ajutorul Familiei and Excelsior Foundation |
| March | Tinaud, Romania    | 1460  | Spurgeons   |
| June  | Croatia            | 634   | Refugee Relief  |
| June  | Kiev, Ukraine      | 3459  | Pasha Ozeruga   |
| June  | Odessa, Ukraine    | 3388  | Tatyana Kolomiets   |

**Fifteen years on**

It was at Christmas 1994 that Rotary Clubs in District 1280 decided to send shoebox gifts to children in the northeast Romanian city of Iasi, where they had earlier built a Kindergarten.

In this first delivery 3,000 boxes were taken to the children of the city and were distributed with the help of Spurgeons Child Care.

Fifteen years on and throughout RIBI we still collect your shoebox gifts and still deliver to that area, though things have improved in the city and thanks to 'Hope and Homes for Children', many of the terrible orphanages have been closed down. In outlying villages however, there is still a lot of poverty despite the country joining the EU. Much of these conditions were seen by the BBC team who went out last year to see our boxes being distributed. You can still see a video report of their visit on the internet or via our website. This is well worth viewing and shows the conditions they encountered in the villages in December last year.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7789109.stm>

Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland – International Project

## A report from Croatia

One of our friends who distributed your Shoebox gifts in Croatia is Bob Parfitt of 'Refugee Relief'.

In his June 2009 newsletter Bob reports the following:

*In Croatia the camps are now slowly and finally closing at long last. The refugees and displaced persons have endured 15 years in these Camps. The Pisaravino Refugee Camp 35km south of Zagreb is due to be demolished this year after handling thousands of Refugees.*

*On our latest visit we went to Paunovac and Slobostina childrens homes. They were all pleased to see us and very grateful for the help given. The children in Paunovac asked their carers the week before we arrived, 'When are the English coming?' Then we came and hugged and laughed with everyone, leaving them very happy.*

## From Bulgaria

Christine Dagwell, from Hull, who regularly takes your shoebox gifts to Bulgaria reports on the distribution

*I delivered boxes as follows when I visited last December:*

*We delivered to an orphanage and a home for the elderly disabled in Provadia. to a home for handicapped children in Brestovista, an orphanage in Popovo , an orphanage in Provadia and a large orphanage in Varna.*

Christine Dagwell

May 2009

## Thanks from Spurgeons

*Hello from Elim Kindergarten in Hotar in Association Bihor Spurgeon .Thank you for the gifts that you send to children and families in this area. They were given to children in Kindergarten, poor children, young people with difficult problems and this summer will go to children from gypsy communities. Thank you for the joy that you bring the children.*

Ramona Drimbea

Tinaud, Romania

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009



Children at Tinaud



Ukraine children

## World News

### Australia

The leader of a Group Study Exchange Team from Tasmania, Terry Lobban who visited in 2000 was very impressed with the Rotary Shoebox Scheme. He later asked from home by e-mail if he could use some of our items to set up a similar scheme in his District being D9830. We agreed to this and he set up the scheme in time to deliver boxes to Islands affected by the Tsunami, including Fiji and the Solomon Islands.

His web site now contains much of our information along with an acknowledgement that the scheme started here.

### Japan

A lady living in Japan wanted to get involved with the Rotary Shoebox Scheme.

She contacted us and said that she worked for the local government in a small city in Japan and had collected 30 shoeboxes of gifts that she wanted to send to Romania. She had looked at our website and had identified what sort of toys to include. Now she wanted a contact in Romania so that she could send her boxes.

We gave her the contact details for our friend Liviu Statache.

In due course she sent off her boxes to Liviu and via the Rotary 2000 Club, these were distributed to children in the area.

## RIBI President Visit.

At the end of July the **President of RIBI**, David Fowler, visited the Warehouse and saw boxes being palletised ready from loading. He was impressed with the organisation and has recommended it to all his District Governors He and his wife Daphne even got involved sorting boxes.

## Driver Gareth Hughes

Gareth has helped with driving on a number of trips in the last few years. In the Transport Drivers Newspaper 'The Juggler', an article about Gareths journey reported the following:

TDG driver Gareth, a Tesco Fuels driver was given time off by TDG to fulfil his commitment to his third\* mercy mission to Romania. He drives an articulated lorry filled with goodies for the Rotary Shoebox Appeal. The trip took a total of 12 days, eight of them driving. 'The shoeboxes are received with great joy' said Gareth. 'The first time I went there were children of three or four knocking on car windows begging for food or money. It is very rewarding to do these trips you see people who are so poor it is pitiful but we had a great trip'.

\*Gareth has since done another trip for us in March along with our long serving driver Lewis Wilson, when they delivered over 13,000 boxes to north-west Romania as recorded on the front page.