# WESSEX ROTARY CIO SHOEBOX NEWSLETTER

## 20th November 2026.

The collection of Shoeboxes delivered to the Collection Depot of Friday 6th and 7th Nov was a great success, Total of 18,937 Shoeboxes.

Many thanks for all the Depot helpers making it a quick, 1 day operation for all the Mainland Clubs delivering. (Friday for the Channel Island deliveries shipped in)

Especial thank you for my wife, Christine on reception & Sue and Graham Lewis's family of 8 helping and for Ferndown Club providing 2 persons for each hour of the day and safely directing delivery vehicles in around the yard, also for the many others helping on my last Depot Collection Day ! a great effort by many, enjoying a very busy operations day. (trying at times but all smiling helping with District's largest project)

I am pleased to report we have successfully delivered on 1 lorry to Romania 5,082 shoeboxes, with Moldova 5,064 shoeboxes arrived this week.

We completed the delivery to Montenegro with 5,444 also arrived safely this week.

The transporting of shoeboxes to Ukraine this year being rather tricky owning to the border crossings from Poland into Ukraine being unsafe but with the support of Meachers Ltd our shipping transport agent in UK and the Host Rotary Club in Poland having a good relationship the customs and working with Humanitarian Aid companies we have now agreed a route (the safest way) to link up with the December Humanitarian Aid Convoy leaving Poland on 7th December.

Therefore, we will load the last lorry leaving Poole on 2nd December with 3,347 shoeboxes for transporting into Poland for Ukraine Host Rotary Club.

The Humanitarian Aid Convoy will be delivering to our Host Rotary Club Multinational in Kharkiv who will deliver the shoeboxes in smaller vans up to the front-line villages that require many other supplies. (smaller vans less chance of being target bombed)

Please look on our website the video of last years delivery so hoping for a return video this year. Delivery photos of other Clubs to follow during the next 2 months.

Many thanks for all your Clubs continued support during my leadership years.

Chris Hardiman.PHF