



**East Grinstead & District Lions Club**  
**(International Association of Lions Clubs)**  
District 105 SE England

**WE SERVE**

# *News Release*

Contact PRO

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## **Shoebox appeal success.**

BRIGHTLY wrapped parcels containing a variety of gifts are off to Gomel in Belarus after the people of East Grinstead responded to an appeal by the town's Lions Club.

The area was one of the radiation hot spots following the 1986 explosion at Chernobyl, and the drive to fill shoeboxes with small comforts was to help people still suffering from the effects of fallout.

Lion Jim Miller said that as the appeal was "rather last minute", not as many schools had taken part as in previous years. "The problem was we were a bit late off the mark but next year we will make an earlier start," he said.

He was grateful to the Meads Primary School for their contributions and to the East Grinstead Courier for acting as a collecting point.

"The Meads always support us and we wouldn't be able to do it without the help of the Courier," Mr Miller said. "Ever since we started the appeals, the Courier has been our source for collecting and delivering." Before the boxes go to the warehouse at Uckfield to join others from all over the south east, East Grinstead Lions will check to make sure they are all full and suitable.

"Once we found a toothbrush which had obviously been used and sometimes there are broken toys or clothes which are too old," Mr Miller said.

Helping him pack up the boxes on Monday was Don James, a Lions member for 35 of the 36 years it has been formed in East Grinstead and president at the time of the first May Fair.

*With acknowledgements to the 'East Grinstead Courier'.*