

The Mayor of Tunbridge Wells Christmas Toy Appeal

The Toy Appeal helps local families living in the Borough of Tunbridge Wells whose circumstances (whether temporary or permanent) limit their ability to buy gifts for their children at Christmas. The children are referred to the Appeal by health visitors, social workers, family support workers and other charitable organisations. Each child receives about 3 presents each and the feedback from parents and carers last year was incredibly positive.

Last year 267 children were referred to the Appeal and we are expecting numbers to increase this year. The way it works is that between **Saturday 15 November and Saturday 13 December** there will be large decorated boxes displayed in many collection points in and around the town, including Paddock Wood, Cranbrook and other various locations within and around Tunbridge Wells and some venues will feature Christmas trees with tags that offer ideas for suitable gifts within a specific age range. We then hope that people will donate new or unused toys and deposit them at these collection points, where they are collected and distributed by volunteers working in rooms donated by **The Big Yellow Self Storage**.

The Mayor's Toy Appeal was started by Cllr Arthur Sayer with **St George's Community Children's Project** in 1989 and continues to thrive under the organisation of Pam Bridges and her small army of volunteers, with great support from the Mayor's Office and St George's.

The poster featuring the collection points is on our noticeboard