



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

**Ref: CA/ Garden open/09**

### **Derbyshire gardeners 'dig deep' for Ethiopian wells**

The beautifully historic Fanshawe Gate Hall in Holmesfield will be opening its garden on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April to support Christian Aid with their latest project - Ethiopia 'Water Action'. Dedicated owners Cynthia and John Ramsden have worked tirelessly to keep the gardens looking stunning. They are the first garden owners to receive the National Garden Scheme award and have successfully attracted thousands of visitors to Fanshawe Gate Hall, whilst raising funds for various charities along the way.

Cynthia and John have teamed up with Dronfield and District Christian Aid Committee to help hit the target of £5000 during the Lent season. The exciting twist this year is that the European Commission will contribute £3 to every £1 raised meaning £20,000 could be raised overall. With the help of giving garden lovers and people who simply enjoy the outdoors, they hope to fund the water wells to provide clean water to over 55,000 Ethiopians.

Barry Jex, Chairman of the Dronfield and District Christian Aid Committee said, "Having safe drinking water is a main priority for local communities. Keeping people healthy is one thing but keeping children in school, instead of spending hours collecting water is also very important. If we succeed in raising our target of £5000, Water Action will help give the children both better health and better opportunities for the future."

The garden opening will have something for everyone – the garden quiz for children, gardening tips and advice from Cynthia Ramsden, along with morning coffee, ploughman's lunches and afternoon teas. Cynthia said: "It should be a

promising day, I hope my preparation of the gardens will attract many generous people to help fund the Ethiopian wells project.”

**Photographs available:**



Photos 1, 2 and 3 Cynthia and John Ramsden.  
Photo 4 Cynthia Ramsden and Barry Jex.

**Notes:**

1. John and Cynthia are available for interview and the hi-resolution photographs are available on request. Contact Jade Worsley 0115 912 4350 or [jadew@integracommunications.co.uk](mailto:jadew@integracommunications.co.uk)

2. Fanshawe Gate Hall open in support of Christian Aid  
Fanshawe Gate Hall, Holmesfield (follow signs off B6054)

[www.fanshawegate.org.uk](http://www.fanshawegate.org.uk) for directions

Opening times – 11am – 5pm

Tickets available at the gate: Adults £2.50, under 16 years free

Refreshments include morning coffee, ploughman's lunches and afternoon tea

Parking is available at the Hall.

3. Christian Aid:

Dronfield Committee Chairman Barry Jex Tel: 01246 419241

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Christian Aid has secured a grant of £1.2 million from the European Commission. However, this is given on the condition that Christian Aid can raise £410,000 to match the grant.

They are asking churches and groups to raise a set amount which can be generated over three years, they will provide support including fundraising advice, promotional materials and updates from the project.

Water within 1KM of homes for 55,000 people and for 35,000 livestock over three years of fundraising.

Christian Aids partner – Water Action will ensure safe water, showers and communal latrines will also be built.

Clean water is a major issue in Ethiopia, as over 70% of all diseases caused by dirty water

4. NGS award - The couple were presented with their award in London on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February during the event to mark the official launch of the 2009 NGS Yellow Book.

Chosen from nominations around the UK, the Ramsdens were singled out for their continued dedication to fundraising over 15 years and for providing visitors of all ages with a friendly, hospitable welcome and of course the beautiful gardens.