



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April**

**Ref: CA/ Garden open/10**

### **Garden opening sows seeds of hope for West Africa**

Fanshawe Gate Hall garden in Holmesfield will open to the public on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April to raise funds for the supply of seed, farmer training and crop research in small communities of Burkina Faso, West Africa. This Christian Aid-supported project will bring food security to over 88,000 people in the fourth poorest country of the world.

Garden owners Cynthia and John Ramsden have teamed up with the Dronfield and District Christian Aid Committee to help hit the target of £5,000 during the Lent season. With the European Commission contributing £3 to every £1 raised, the total given to the project could reach as much as £20,000. This sum will go via Office de Development des Eglises Evangeliques (ODE), the evangelical churches network, to replicate the success they already have in other West African villages.

Barry Jex, Chairman of the Dronfield and District Christian Aid Committee said, "More than 80% of the population of Burkina Faso rely on farming and fishing to feed the family but the changing climate has made this much harder. ODE is now setting up communal areas where families can grow vegetables to sell or for their own needs. The ODE also gives technical advice on irrigation systems and crop storage."

United with the people of Burkina Faso, Fanshawe Gate open garden volunteers will serve refreshments, run a garden quiz for children and be on hand to answer questions. A number of these volunteers feature in Cynthia Ramsden's latest book,

**'Garden Tales'** which is now available for sale on Amazon.com and also raises funds for much-loved UK charities.

Cynthia says: "Despite the long cold winter, our garden is now bursting with spring colour. I hope the promise of a wonderful day out in Derbyshire will attract many generous people to help fund the farming projects of Burkina Faso."

## **ENDS**

### **Media contact:**

**Louise Third, Integra Communications 0115 912 4350 / 07773 288342**

### **Photographs available:**



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

### **Notes:**

John and Cynthia are available for interview and the hi-resolution photographs are available on request.

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.

### **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.