

# Wilmslow Wells for Africa

CELEBRATING

40

YEARS

1984 - 2024



# 1984

- Brenda Mottershead returns to Wilmslow after 3 years living in apartheid South Africa.
- Having witnessed the appalling living conditions of her friend and housemaid, Emily Maloka, she resolves to do something. She gathers together a group who decide that provision of fresh water is the key.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 1985

- Wilmslow Wells for Africa is formed as an 'Enterprise' under the Wilmslow Council of Churches.
- An appeal letter letter is sent out and a bank account is opened.
- After three unsuccessful drillings, water is discovered in Jericho – WWfA's first project.
- Brenda Mottershead becomes the founding Chair.

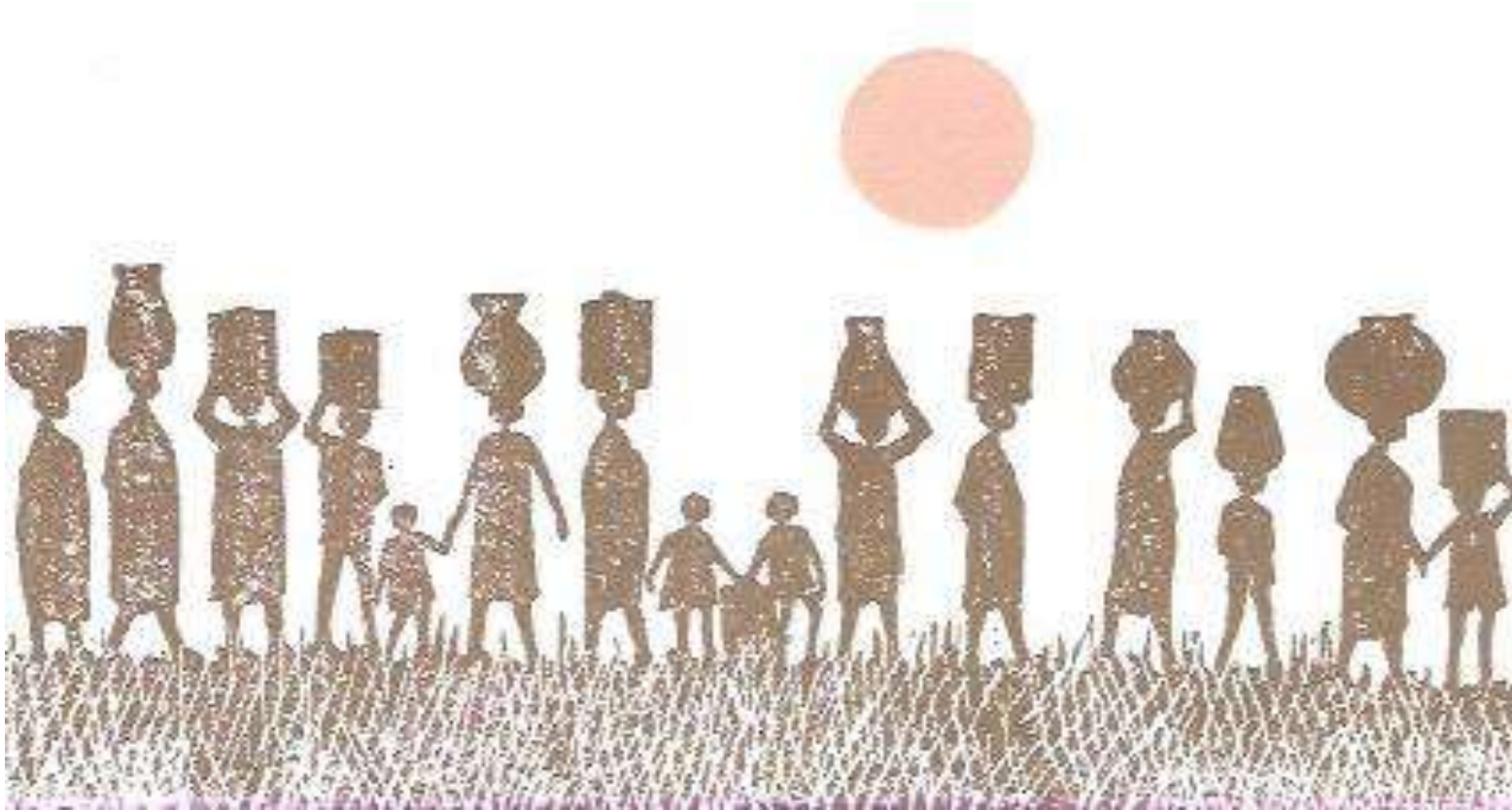


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1985

- Rosemary Stubbs designs a notelet, 'Water Carriers beneath the Hot Sun', to raise funds. It is a lino cut over which she printed the sun by hand and is subsequently developed to become the charity's logo.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 1986

- First well is completed at Jericho, in the Bophuthatswana Homeland of South Africa where Emily Maloka lived.
- First 'Auction of Talents and Services' held – these ran until 1995 raising over £30,000.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1989

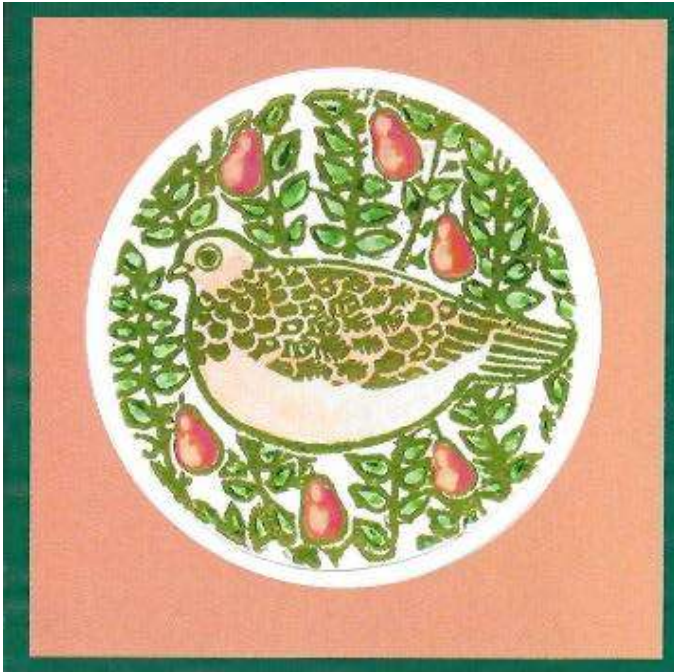
- Wilmslow Wells for Africa registered with the Charity Commission (No. 328330)
- WWfA's funds its tenth project – at the AGM, a cheque for £1,000 is presented by the Trustees to Len Apfel, WWfA's representative in Africa in the early years.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 1989

- First WWfA Christmas card is produced - they are now well established.
- Rosemary Stubbs and Beryl Jones have contributed many card designs over the years and all have been printed at no cost to WWfA by James Townsley of Printforce meaning all proceeds go directly into projects. The cards are either sold directly or through the Charity Card Shop.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1990

- The first 'Souperday' takes place at Birtles Vicarage raising £300.
- Souperdays have continued twice yearly ever since raising nearly £70,000 in total. They offer a choice of home-made soups with bread. The cake and produce stall is always popular.

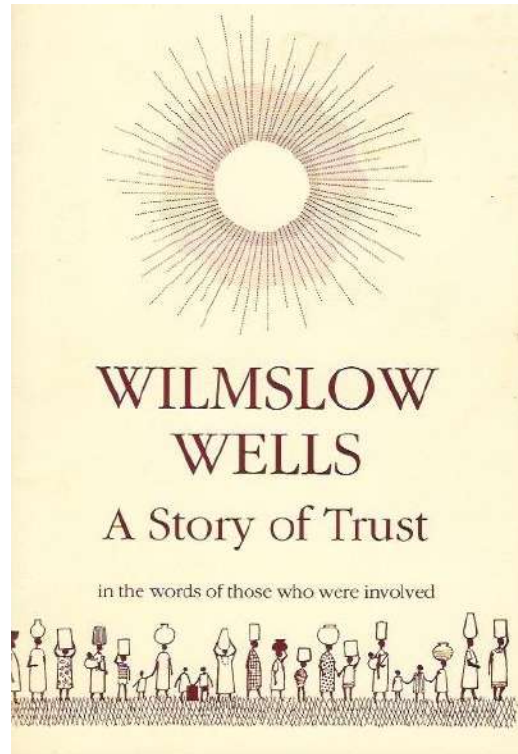


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1991

- Marion Jones becomes Chair.
- 'A Story of Trust' is published telling the story of the first six years of Wilmslow Wells.
- The book is dedicated to Len Apfel, a retired aid worker, based in South Africa where Brenda met him. WWfA's 'Man in Africa', he supervised the first 12 projects and now stood down.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 1992

- **Annus horribilis! Having linked with separate national charities on two large projects which proved unsatisfactory, the future survival of Wilmslow Wells was under serious threat.**
- **The General Committee is widened to include more non-church people and the trustees develop new internal rules for their work.**
- **These still apply and are as follows:**
  - **Only engage with projects when we are assured that funds are available**
  - **Focus on smaller projects rather than being part of someone else's large one**
  - **Try to put our funds to use promptly rather than sitting on money in the bank**
  - **Widen our contact base of partner organisations to ensure a steady flow of suitable projects where we are providing all the funds**

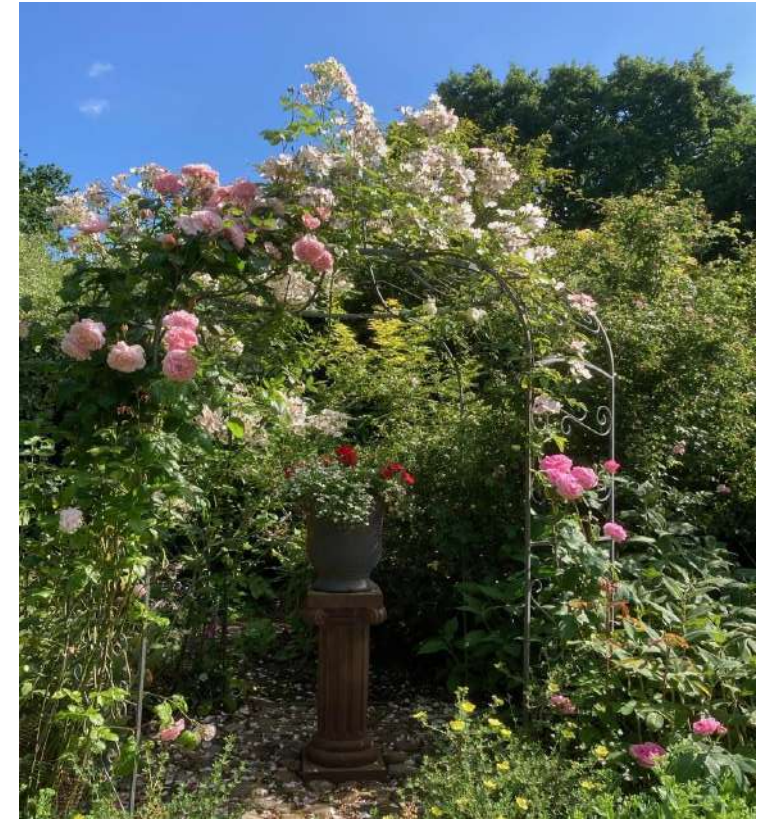


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1993

- First Gardens Day takes place in August with 14 gardens, 200 tickets sold and £500 raised.
- Gardens Day has expanded to regularly attract about 1000 visitors and raise nearly £20,000.
- First projects in Mozambique, Kenya and Uganda.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 1994

- Len Apfel dies in September
- WWfA celebrates it's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary having completed 16 projects in four countries.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1995

- Brenda Mottershead awarded the MBE in New Year's Honours.
- WWfA participates in 'Waterworks' exhibition at Styal Mill comparing 20<sup>th</sup> Century Britain, Victorian Britain and the Third world.

**WATERWORKS!**

7th February - 19th March 1995  
at Quarry Bank Mill, Styal

A Hands-On Exhibition comparing:

- 20th Century Britain
- Victorian Britain
- The Third World


Interactive displays, drama and a host of activities explore the importance of fresh water supplies across the globe and through time.


Help us raise money for badly needed water pumps for villages in Africa. Join in our Sponsored Water Carrying, Water Pumpathon and, The Bollin Duck Race!


Over 1,000 million people drink water unfit for human consumption.  
Over 25,000 people die every day from contaminated water supplies.  
70% of the world's population don't have access to a safe water supply.


Help sponsor a water pump for an African Village

For more details, or to pre-book your school visit, contact Rosemary Billsby on: 0625-527468.

 Quarry Bank Mill  
A UNESCO World Heritage Site

 Wilmslow Wells  
Water Carrying Race

 Save the Children

 H<sub>2</sub>O WASTE-TEC



# Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 1996

- First projects in Nigeria and Malawi.
- First Barn Dance & Supper takes place – these remained popular fundraisers for several years



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1997

- Joanna Southgate becomes Chair.
- At special meeting, Sister Monica describes problems of running a training novitiate for young women under a Nigerian dictatorship. WWfA funds a water storage project for the novitiate.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1998

- Borehole and handpump project is funded at Ndola in Zambia

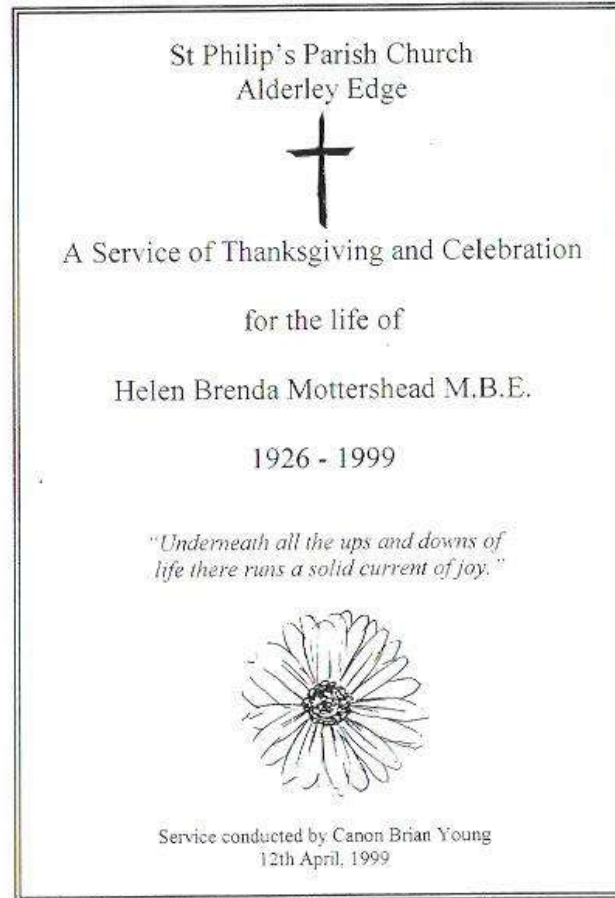


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 1999

- Brenda Mottershead dies.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 2000

- WWfA takes part in an exhibition at Tatton Park to raise awareness of our work.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2001

- Helen Battilana and Joyce McClure travel to The Gambia to attend the official opening of the Brenda Mottershead Memorial Well in Duntumalang.
- First Project in Ghana



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2002

- Rainwater harvesting and storage project at St John Parish in Kanyanya, Uganda.
- David Cash runs the London Marathon and Richard du Fresne runs the Wilmslow Half Marathon, between them raising £3,690 for WWfA



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2003

- 2 boreholes with hand pumps for community of 3,500 (one third orphans) at Kadami, Uganda.
- Martin Ashcroft and Fiona Winthaler run the London marathon raising £6,163 for WWfA.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 2004-05

- WWfA celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 68 projects completed in twelve countries.
- Wilmslow Wells website set up with Ian Moffitt as first webmaster. John Fallows took over and upgraded it in 2012 continuing in spite of moving away from Wilmslow in January 2023.
- Joanna Southgate named 'Cheshire Woman of the Year' in 2005 for her fundraising work.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2006-07

- 27 projects funded.
- Dick Stain and his team participate in the 'Three Peaks Yacht Race' raising £1,500 for WWfA.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2008

- 9 projects funded.
- Joanna Southgate steps down and Alan Parfett takes over as Chair.

PAGE 12 WILMSLOW EXPRESS, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2007

## WILMSLOW WELLS FOR AFRICA HAS BEEN A PASSION SINCE SEEING FIRST PUMP FLOW

### Stalwart Joanna steps down after 14 years at helm

by Rachel Leslie



WILMSLOW Wells for Africa chairman Joanna Southgate will be stepping down from the helm of the home-grown charity at the end of its 2007/08 season.

The former Cheshire Woman of the Year joined the organisation 14 years ago and has been running it since 1993.

She said family commitments had led to the decision which was not without regret.

"It has been my baby for so long it will be very hard to part with."

"But I'm not saying I will never come back," she said.

"The work of Wilmslow Wells is so compulsive, you just want to do more and more."

"I've been involved with all the projects and I have found it really difficult to be away for more than a few days at a time," she added.

Joanna joined Wilmslow Wells for Africa in 1993, taking over two years later when founder Brenda Mottershead became ill.

The charity was set up by Brenda in 1993 and has raised over half a million pounds with 95.5 per cent of the money raised spent directly on projects.

Since its inception more than 100 wells have been built, providing clean water to thousands of people in drought-stricken villages across Africa.

But Joanna emphasises none of this would have been possible without the support of the people of Wilmslow and the dedicated team at Wilmslow Wells for Africa.

Joanna said: "I joined to make coffee or some soups and had no idea that I would be very quickly into running it. It's been a great privilege."

Joanna said one of the greatest joys was seeing projects come to fruition and how it changes lives.

"We always ask for a report after a project is finished and we received a DVD last month of a completed project at a school in Uganda," she said.

"When I saw the excitement on the faces of those children, they were all so excited when the bore hole came good. I would have done all this work for that one school."

"We have so much over here and it's so humbling to see them excited and dancing about - it's knowing that some people will have benefited from the work."

"Trying to do a bit to help a few is so worthwhile."

"For only a few thousand pounds, it changes people's lives."

Joanna will officially step down after the annual open gardens day next June.

Her position is likely to be split into three roles focusing on publicity, project liaison and fundraising.

"Nowadays with so many people working or away we need to make it slightly easier by sharing the workload."

"But we will need new blood."

"I just pray that people who come forward will be able to go on and take it forward."

She added: "It's been a difficult decision. I love it so much, but for the next few years I've got to devote my time to the next generation. I'm not saying I won't be back."

If you would like to get involved with Wilmslow Wells for Africa, visit its website: [www.wilmslowwells.org](http://www.wilmslowwells.org)

Wilmslow Wells for Africa was set up after Brenda Mottershead returned to Wilmslow after a three year spell in Johannesburg where she witnessed appalling poverty.

Working as a volunteer in the township of Soweto, she saw that women and children faced a daily struggle to find water.

Walking miles to the nearest well, they had to climb down it and scrape the mud off the bottom then leave it to settle and siphon the mucky water that rose to the top.

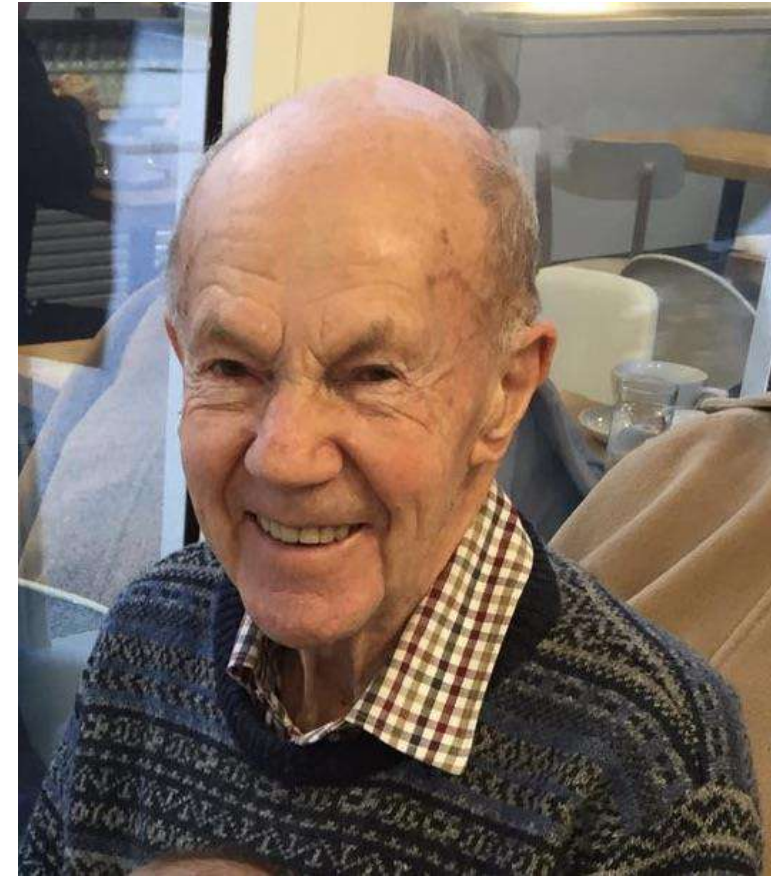
Brenda's own maid lost five of her eight children to water-related diseases and she offered one of her surviving children to Brenda to take back to England for the chance of a better life.

"She realised it was happening everywhere - this was not just Emily. When Brenda returned to Wilmslow she asked the churches if they would support a project to help raise money to build a well for Emily's village."

Brenda's passion stirred Joanna to join the organisation in 1993 after hearing one of her talks.



PICTURED: Joanne Southgate, top right, left, children enjoy clean water from a pump and, bottom right, the village celebrates the opening of a new well.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2009

- 8 projects funded including first project in Ethiopia.
- Shirley Baulkwill takes over the organisation of Gardens Day



GREEN OASIS  
Shirley Baulkwill  
opened up her  
garden in Wilmslow  
to the public

## Wells for Africa garden event raises £10,000

KAREN BRITTON

HUNDREDS of visitors attended the 21st Wilmslow Wells for Africa Gardens Day in aid of charity.

The day, which raised nearly £10,000 for African water projects, featured 17 private gardens in Wilmslow and Alderley Edge open to the public.

It attracted 560 people who visited gardens during the day.

The event raised more than £9,600 for the Wilmslow Wells for Africa charity, which has raised £840,000 for clean water

projects in rural Africa since it was formed around 30 years ago.

Helen Battilana, chairman, said: "We are thrilled with the response to our 21st Gardens Day.

"Our charity is grateful for the generosity of the gardeners and to everyone who supported us.

"The trustees meet next week to decide how to spend the money raised. We have several potential projects in Uganda and Kenya to consider."

Visit [wilmslowwells.org](http://wilmslowwells.org).



# Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2010

- Helen Battilana becomes Chair
- 20 projects funded including water harvesting project for Kira farm, Uganda.

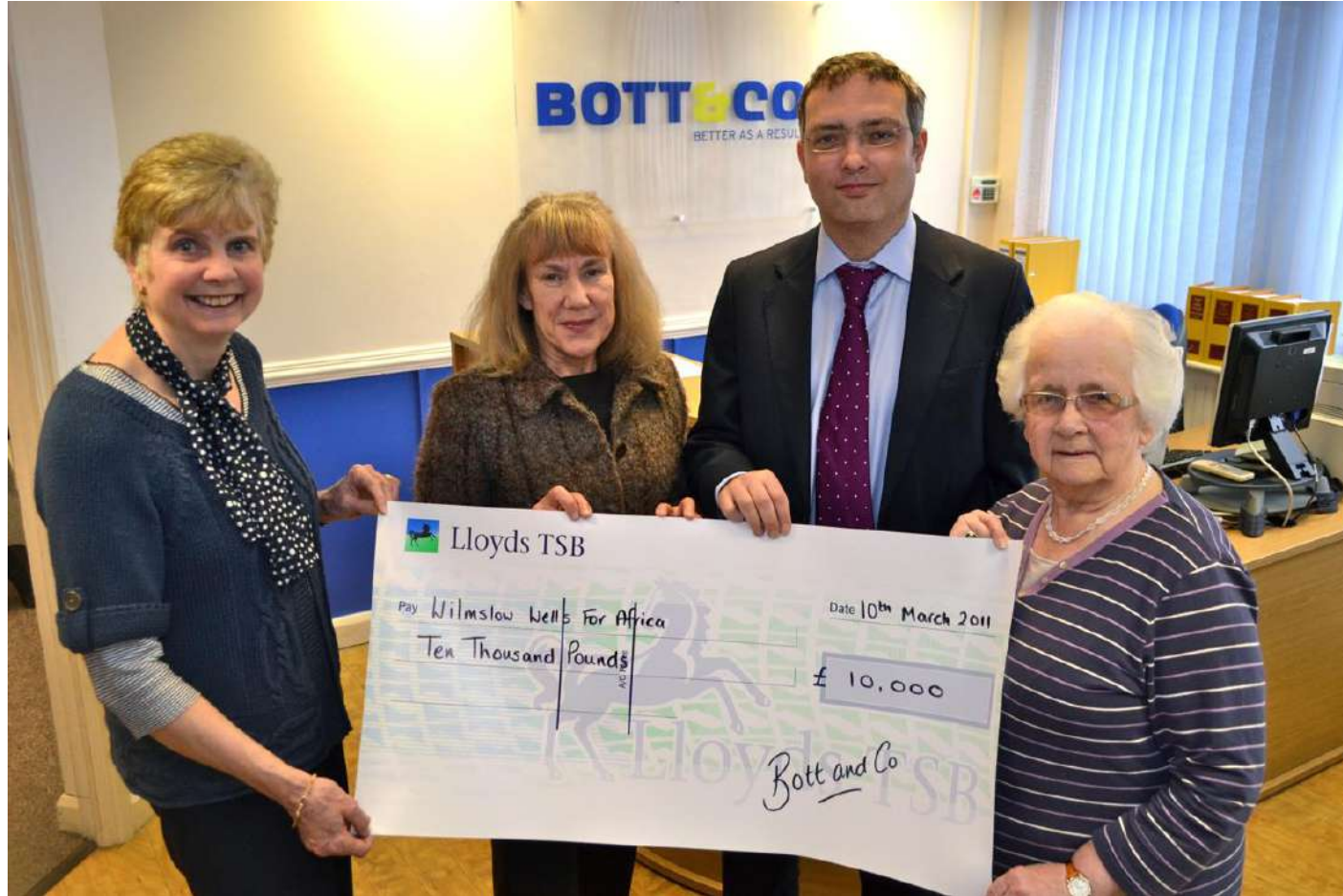


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2011

- Local business Bott and Co donate £10,000 to mark their first ten years in the town.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 2012

- 12 projects funded.
- Marion Jones dies - founder member of WWfA, former Chair and tireless supporter.

THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2012 WILMSLOW EXPRESS wilmslowexpress.co.uk

**NEWS**

## Hundreds pay tribute to charity stalwart Marion

PIA LITTLEWOOD

HUNDREDS of people gathered this week to pay tribute to a fundraising pioneer whose charity has raised more than £750,000.

Great-grandmother Marion Jones, 87, of Strawberry Lane, Wilmslow, was the only remaining founder member and longest-serving volunteer of the Wilmslow Wells for Africa charity (WWfA).

She dedicated much of her life to the cause and was devoted until the end. Hundreds of mourners attended her service of remembrance and thanksgiving at St Anne's Church, in Wilmslow, on Monday (October 29). She died at home on October 14 following a short illness.

Marion, a former chairman of WWfA, which she helped set

up 29 years ago, was described as an 'amazing woman' who supported the organisation despite ill health.

Joanna Southgate, president of WWfA, said: "She was amaz-

ing. She was one of those people who did an enormous amount. "She was a lovely lady who was deeply involved in Wilmslow Wells right from the beginning in 1983.

"When I was chairman of WWfA she was extremely supportive - she was marvellous, and we will all miss her dreadfully."

Marion, a former teacher, was a trustee of the charity, and rarely missed meetings and organising committees over almost three decades. She was married to the late Laurence Jones and was a much-loved mother to her two daughters, Alison and Hilary, grandmother and great grandmother.

Her son-in-law, David Holt, said: "She was very passionate about Wilmslow Wells. She talked about it very often. It was very much her thing. We think

it is a fantastic charity she has been involved in." Even after she stepped down she continued to support the charity's fund-raising events with enthusiasm. In recent years, she would sit welcoming people at the doorway during one of the charity's Souperdays or Garden's Day, and acted as cashier at the refreshments counter.

Helen Battilana, the current chairman of WWfA, said: "Her wise counsel, founded on her broad experience since the inception of the charity, will be truly missed, and we pay tribute to Marion's dedication and commitment to Wilmslow Wells for Africa through so many years." Since its formation Wilmslow Wells has raised more than £750,000 to provide clean water wells and other water systems to drought-hit villages in 15 African countries.



**AMAZING** Marion Jones

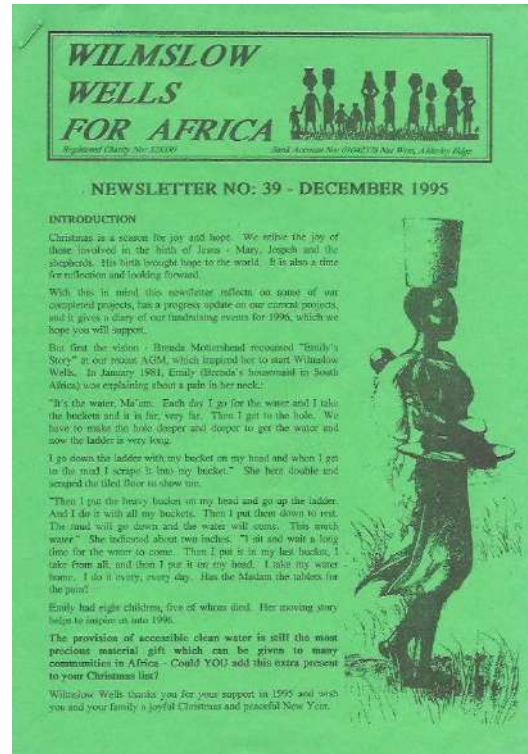


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2013

- 8 projects funded.
- First newsletter in colour is produced. WWfA newsletters were produced from the charity's beginning as the importance of sharing information from Africa about projects was recognized.
- To date, there have been 96 newsletters – and recently two each year.



# Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 2014

- WWfA celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary – 12 projects funded this year and 186 in total (16 countries).
- Moira Rutherford makes a wall-hanging based on our 'Water Bearers' motif and donated it to WWfA. It is displayed at our events and has since been reproduced on notelets for sale.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2015

- 21 projects funded and local celebrations in July as first £1 million raised.
- Jenny Gibbs becomes Chair.
- Alex Jabore walks the 874 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds.
- Singalong at St John's includes delicious cake stall and our wonderful catering team.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2016

- 9 projects funded including first project in Burkino Faso and the Acimi and Te Ogelo deep well projects in northern Uganda.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2017

- 17 projects funded.
- First Bridge Drive takes place at Morley Green Club. Run by Jenny and Jim Morris, they remain popular and always include a delicious tea prepared by members of the General Committee!



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2018

- 20 projects funded including a borehole for Nsoke Community School, Zambia and 8 shallow wells with Teso Development Trust in Uganda in memory of David Mosley.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2019

- 28 projects funded including including the Alice Gathoni Special Boarding School in Kenya for children with cerebral palsy.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40

# 2020

- 20 projects funded - Covid emergency means water/hand washing projects come to the fore.
- 'Virtual Gardens Day' and on-line presentations raise over £25,000 in donations.
- Afternoon teas delivered to people's homes instead of Souperdays and the Bridge Drive.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2021

- 25 projects funded including 'Joyce's Well' near Ouagadoudou in Burkino Faso named for supporter Joyce McClure who died in 2016.
- 'Hough Garden at Home' event takes place to raise funds.
- David Cash becomes Chair.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2022

- 17 projects funded and £1.5 million reached (over 500,000 beneficiaries).
- Dave Tonks completes 'Three Peaks Challenge' raising £2,100 for Chazuka Project in Malawi.
- Dave Tonks visits Uganda on a self-funded trip to see first hand a number of the projects we have funded there and meet the people carrying out the work 'on the ground'.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2023

- 23 projects funded. Cyclone Freddy devastates many parts of Malawi. Following an emergency appeal from Aid Africa, WWfA is able to swiftly transfer funds to repair damaged boreholes.
- Liz Maddock delivers the breads she has made for the Autumn Souperday for the final time after doing it for 25 years!

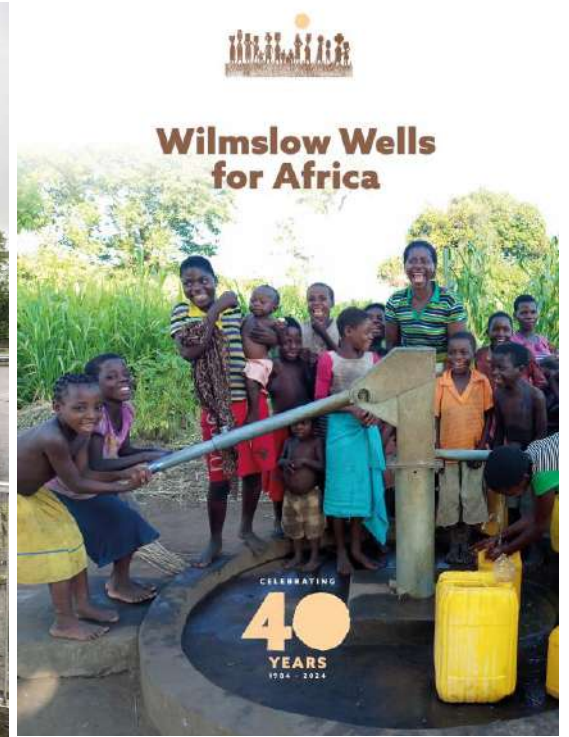


## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# 2024

- WWfA celebrates its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Over 350 projects - South Sudan becomes 20th country.
- Roger Goddard steps down as Treasurer after 25 years and Nick Longson replaces him.
- 'Wilmslow Wells Challenge' raises over £19,000.
- Publication of 'Celebrating Forty Years'.



## Wilmslow Wells at 40



# Thank you for your support



## Wilmslow Wells at 40